



Annual Violations Report

Violations of Palestinian Prisoners'
Rights in Israeli Occupation Prisons



2021



Annual Violations Report

Violations of Palestinian Prisoners'
Rights in Israeli Occupation Prisons

2021



Addameer Prisoner Support and Human
Rights Association

**Addameer Prisoner Support and Human
Rights Association**

Ramallah – Occupied Palestine

© 2022

📍 Rammallah, Al-Masyon, Rafiden Sq. Edward
Said St., Sebat

☎ +972-2960446

📠 +972-2960447

✉ 17338 Jerusalem

📱 @addameerarabic

🐦 @addameer

📷 addameer_pal

📺 addameer association

🌐 www.addameer.org/ar

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
2021: The year in highlights	7
Statistical Analysis	9
Chapter I: Torture and Ill-Treatment	17
Chapter II: Condition of Detention	32
Chapter III: Administrative Detention	44
Chapter IV: Guarantees of a Fair Trial	54
Chapter V: Students and Professors	66
Chapter VI: Collective Punishment	75
Chapter VII: The Unity Uprising	84
Chapter VIII: The Freedom Tunnel	95
Chapter IX: Women Prisoners	103
Chapter X: Child Prisoners	112
Annexes	119
Annex 1: A Prisoner Profile	119
Annex 2: A Sworn Affidavit	123
Annex 3: Facts and Figures	126

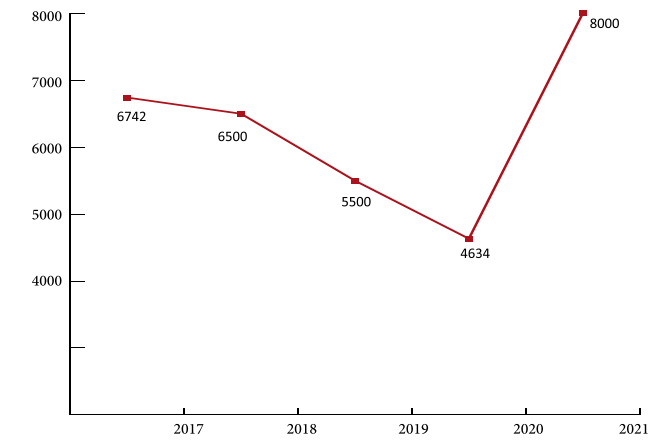
Introduction

Israeli occupation authorities continued its former various policies into 2021, which entailed mass arrests and the use of various methods of torture and inhuman treatment against Palestinians. These policies fall within a comprehensive frame of operations, executed and monitored by the various branches of the Israel occupation regime that cooperate to provide legal cover to the occupation's crimes and the deliberate rights violations of Palestinian prisoners. Moreover, the continuation and spread of COVID-19 in the occupation's prisons and detention centers did little to deter the Israeli occupation from arresting Palestinians and incarcerating them in filthy prison cells that lack the minimum standards of adequate living, without being provided with sufficient amounts of hand sanitizers and appropriate and good food; causing the infection of more than 200 Palestinian detainees with the coronavirus.

The widespread spread of COVID-19 created a new avenue for more rights violations of Palestinian prisoners, as Israel Prison Service banned lawyer visitations to interrogation centers and prisons on the pretext of the spread of COVID-19 or the placement of the infected detainees in quarantine. The majority of court sessions were conducted via videoconferencing, which repeatedly denied detainees access to courtrooms and often deprived them of understanding the proceedings. Such violations were not limited only to what was mentioned, but also included the failure to provide detainees in many cases with new clothes. In more than one case detainees were deprived of showering for more than 10 days. These various practices coincided with Israel's continuous disregard and medical neglect of the Palestinian prisoners' health conditions, leading to numerous deaths including the recent death of Sami Al-Amour in the last quarter of 2021.

In 2021, the Israeli occupation forces arrested more than 8,000 Palestinians, including more than 1,300 children, 184 women, seven members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, and 10 journalists, in addition to issuing 1,595 administrative detention orders, including orders against children and women. Furthermore, the Israeli occupation continued its practices of arbitrary arrests against the Palestinian people, as the number of Palestinians incarcerated in Israeli occupation prisons was around 4,600 by the end of 2021, including 34 women prisoners, one of whom is a minor, 160 boys, and nearly 500 administrative detainees, including six PLC members, a woman, and four children.

Throughout the year, Israeli occupation authorities continued its various policies, including prosecuting Palestinians military courts that lack the minimum guarantees of a fair trial, and subjecting prisoners to cruel interrogation techniques and inhuman treatment. Moreover, Israeli occupation authorities continued to target and arrest Palestinian university students and criminalize student union activism. In July 2021, Israeli occupation forces intercepted two buses of Birzeit University students on their return to Ramallah following a visit to the family of Montaser Al-Shalabi – who was arrested earlier by the IOF – for moral support and



Number of Palestinians arrested in the past five years

arrested everyone inside, including the bus drivers.¹ Moreover, Israeli occupation authorities continued to crack down on Palestinian human rights and civil institutions and workers, designating seven organizations as 'unlawful', namely Addameer for Prisoner Care and Human Rights, Al-Haq, Bisan Center for Research and Development, the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees, the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, the Defense for Children International-Palestine and the Union of Health Work Committees. Earlier, an Israeli army unit stormed the headquarters of the Union of Health Work Committees in Ramallah, closing them down for six months by a military order.

Actions amounting to collective punishment of the Palestinian people were also documented this year, with Israeli army repeated raids to Palestinian villages and cities that entailed storming homes, vandalizing property and furniture, arresting dozens as part of mass arrest campaigns, and using families to pressure persons during interrogation. Moreover, Israel's continued policy to demolish homes of prisoners associated with military actions has led to the displacement of tens of Palestinian families. Following the escape of six security prisoners from Gilboa prison in September 2021, the occupation authorities stepped up its use of collective punishment, abusing the families of the six prisoners, and the residents of the Jenin area in particular, in parallel with its abuse of prisoners by introducing additional fines and restrictions to their daily routines.

Financial sanctions represent another form of the occupation's collective punishment, as Israel Prison Service imposes hefty fines against the prisoners, causing a heavy financial burden on their families. Throughout 2021, Addameer alone documented fines amounting to 299,400 shekels, compared to 265,300 shekels against 90 prisoners in 2020.

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association publishes this annual report to document the various human rights violations against Palestinian prisoners, starting from the moment of their arrest, throughout the interrogation stage, as well during transfer to

¹ Some of the students were released that evening, while others were sent to IPS facilities and put on trial. See the chapter on university students in this report.

and inside Israeli prisons. This annual report aims to shed light on prisoners' lives and the nature of their suffering during incarceration as part of Addameer's comprehensive efforts to document the conditions inside Israeli prisons. Moreover, it highlights the extent of Israeli violations of international conventions and agreements, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 1984. Furthermore, this report is an integral part of Addameer's efforts to document and expose the Israeli occupation's practices, not only pertaining to the rights of Palestinians, but also entailing the entirety of the Israeli parliament's "Knesset" policies, measures, laws, and bills targeting the prisoners in particular and the Palestinian people in general. Additionally, this report is an integral part of Addameer's continuous efforts to seek justice and the release of all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons. Until this goal is obtained, Addameer will persevere in its efforts, in cooperation with local and international rights organizations, to expose the occupation's crimes both at the national and international levels, as well to protect and guarantee the rights of Palestinian prisoners' in accordance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL).

This report follows a fact-based descriptive, analytical methodology based on the data collected through Addameer's efforts in monitoring, documentation, and legal followup. 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 2021, Addameer conducted 123 visits, during which lawyers met with 233 prisoners in Israeli interrogation and detention centers. Furthermore, Addameer documented 133 cases of the occupation's violations against Palestinians through field visits, phone calls and in-office meetings, during which Addameer collected information and affidavits on violations against prisoners during arrest, interrogation and transfer to IPS facilities.

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

The year in highlights :2021

- **6 January 2021:** Prisoners Kareem Younis and his cousin Maher Younis from the Arab-Israeli town of Ara in northern Israel entered their 40th year behind bars. They are among the 25 Palestinian detainees held since before the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993, and were supposed to have been freed on 19 March 2014 as part of the fourth bath of a deal brokered with the Palestinian Authority. Israel, however, reneged on its promise and refused to free them. As of the end of 2021, 112 prisoners spending 20 years or more in a row are still incarcerated in Israeli prisons.
- **24 January 2021:** The Israeli Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit announced the closure of the investigations against a number of the *Shabak* [Israeli Security Agency] interrogators for using torture during the interrogation of Samer Arbeed, claiming that there were no grounds to prove the use of 'unlawful' force. 48 hours after his arrest in September 2019, Samer was taken to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, unconscious with 11 broken ribs, renal failure and several bruises on his whole body.
- **January 2021:** 200 cases of coronavirus infection were reported among prisoners in the Naqab and Ramon prisons; five of whom had a significant deterioration in their health and were transferred to Israeli hospitals under the secrecy of IPS and limited or no preventive measures.
- **13 April 2021:** 2,650 individuals were arrested in the Palestinian territories, as the highest rate or arrests until late May 2021, following the outbreak of the popular uprising in all the occupied Palestinian areas in a protest to the Israeli actions in Jerusalem – mainly the forced displacement of Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood residents – the settlers' attacks, and the launch of the Israeli military aggression on the Gaza Strip.
- **2021 July 2021:** 35 Birzeit University students were arrested while returning by bus from the village of Turmusaya, north of Ramallah. A delegation of university students was on a solidarity visit to the family of prisoner Montaser Al-Shalabi, whose house was demolished after his arrest. According to Addameer documentation, 97 university students were arrested in 2021 as part of Israel's policy to constantly undermine and criminalize student union work.
- **6 September 2021:** Six Palestinian prisoners held in Gilboa prison managed to free themselves through a tunnel dug underground, followed by an IPS campaign of collective and abusive punishment against prisoners, and an army campaign of punishment and abuse against prisoners' families and the various Palestinian areas, mostly in Jenin area from which the six prisoners descended.

■ **19 October 2021:** The designation of six Palestinian civil society organizations, including Addameer, as ‘terrorist organizations’ by the Israeli government in accordance with the Israeli Anti-Terrorism Law of 2016, followed by a military order to shut down their headquarters.

■ **18 November 2021:** Prisoner Sami al-Amour from Deir Al-Balah in the Gaza Strip died in the Israeli Soroka Hospital, and his death brings to 227 the number of Palestinian prisoners who have died in Israeli detention. Prior to his death, he had been subjected to a series of violations, including repeated transfers via *Bosta* [prisoner transfer vehicle], and being held at a military checkpoint outside Beersheba prison for 14 hours while on his way to the medical center, despite his serious health condition. Two more ex-prisoners died this year, including Mohammad Salah and Hussein Masalmeh, who died shortly after his release.

■ **22 November 2021:** Prisoner Kayed Fafous ended his open hunger strike of 131 days after an agreement was reached to release him. 60 prisoners went on hunger strike in 2021, mostly in protest against their administrative detention without trial. Some of them had been on a hunger strike for more than 100 days. Until the end of 2021, prisoner Hisham Abu Hawash still continues his hunger strike for the 137th day; the longest hunger strike of a Palestinian prisoner in Israel detention, in a protest against his administrative detention, and is in a critical health condition in the Israeli Assaf Harofeh Hospital.

■ **21 December 2021:** A massive repression was carried out against Palestinian prisoners in Nafha prison, during which prisoners, specifically those in Section 12, were pulled out of their cells and assaulted. Some of them were arbitrarily transferred to other detention facilities, while dozens were placed in solitary confinement, after IPS allegedly claimed that one of the jailers had been attacked by a prisoner. This year Addameer documented 27 cases of repression carried out by special units in Israeli prisons.

📊 Statistical Analysis

Each year, Addameer uses a legal matrix through which we monitor the cases we follow up during that particular year, with the aim to analyze more than 30 matrix factors and find common links between these factors in order to depict a clearer and deeper picture and understanding of the Israeli violations, and to analyze such various data using the SPSS data analysis. This matrix, for example, monitors and classifies the number of cases Addameer receive by gender, place of residence, place of detention, interrogation centers to which prisoners are transferred, number of interrogation days, number of extensions for further interrogation, orders denying access to a lawyer in terms of number and whether issued by a court, and the number of appeals submitted and the responses received from military courts, as well as other factors surrounding the lack of the military court proceedings to the most basic fair trial guarantees; principally during the interrogation stage, revealing the systematic policy of the occupation in disregarding international standards regarding fair trial guarantees.

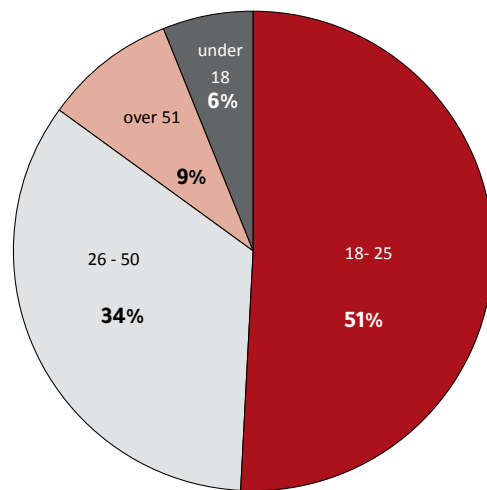
During the year 2021, Addameer received 263 new cases, of which 233 cases met the criteria of the matrix. The statistical analysis of the matrix revealed that the bulk of the detainees we monitored this year were males; 227 cases of males compared to only six cases of females. Such numbers reflect in general the overall reality of the prisoner movement, of which female prisoners constitute 0.7%; that is less than 1%. Thus, the difference between the number of female prisoners versus the number of male prisoners we represented this year is only an inevitable result of the reality that the number of female prisoners in Israeli detention has dropped.

In the past five years, Addameer has represented
more than 1,584 Palestinian detainees

● Targeting specific age groups

Addameer also seeks to monitor the ages of the detainees and later convert them into age groups in order to verify the extent of the fact that certain age groups are targeted.

The figure below shows the percentage of age groups we followed in 2021, revealing that the bulk of the detainees were young people between 18 and 25 years old. This confirms the general targeting of university students, especially since this group is closest to the age of university students. The percentage of prisoners who fall under this category reached up to 51% of the matrix sample. The second category is the age group between 26 and 50 years, making up 34% of the sample.



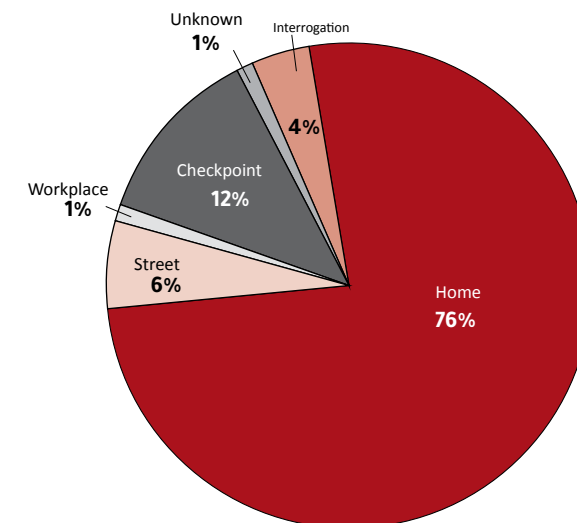
Distribution of detainees documented by Addameer by age group

In the past five years, Addameer has represented more than 172 Palestinian children

● Places of arrest

There are many places from which the Israeli occupation army arrests people. The Israeli occupation forces have no regard for privacy, as they break into homes in broad daylight and at night, terrifying those living inside. They make arrests from workplaces, at permanent or flying checkpoints, or even in the street via special forces or army units. Often-times, Palestinians are arrested following an interview by the Israeli intelligence at interrogation and detention facilities, or on their departure/return through Al-Karama border crossing.

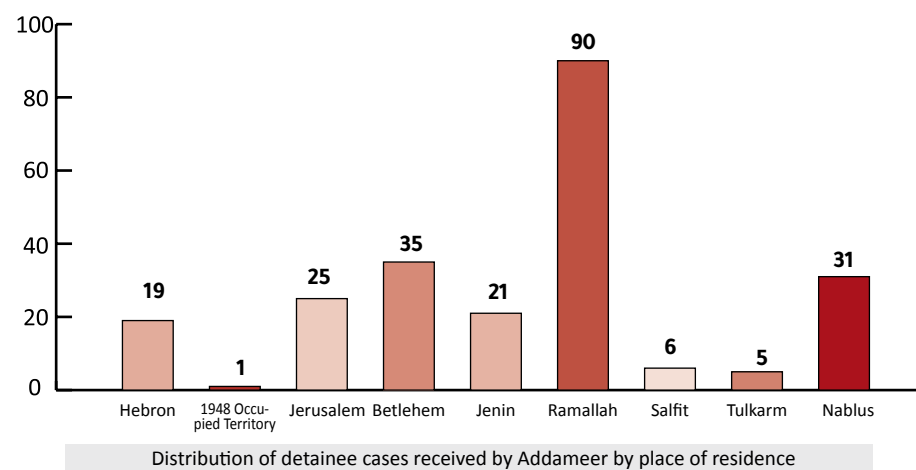
The nature of these practices does not leave the Palestinians with any room to feel safe regardless of where they are. The occupation army has been relentlessly seeking over the years to break the Palestinians' sense of safety in their own homes, as a significant part of the detainees are arrested from their homes. According to the study sample, 76% of those arrested; i.e. three quarters of the sample, were arrested from their own homes. It cannot be said in general that such approach of storming homes of others to make arrests is improvised or unplanned. These practices come within a policy seeking to terrorize any and all Palestinians and to spread terror in the hearts and souls of children by raiding their homes with large numbers of soldiers, who deploy barbaric methods during these raids, such as breaking and blowing up house doors and assaulting and intimidating family members.



Distribution of detainees documented by Addameer by place of arrest

Targeting certain geographic areas

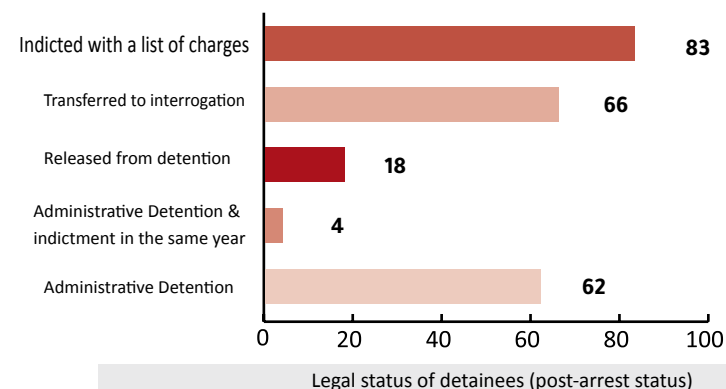
Although the occupation army has permanently targeted all Palestinian areas, the statistical analysis of our matrix confirms that certain areas have been targeted more than others. For example, arrests in 2021 were concentrated in the Ramallah area with 90 arrests, followed by Bethlehem and Nablus areas respectively.



Legal classification

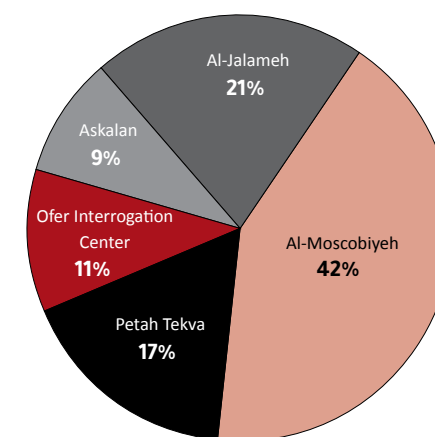
Each year Addameer lawyers monitor certain trends in dealing with detainees. Once an arrest is made, the detainee may be taken for interrogation for several days or even for weeks or placed immediately in administrative detention. Detention is often extended immediately upon arrest for the purposes of handing down an indictment, or an indictment or an administrative detention order is issued after interrogation. In some cases, an administrative detention order is issued to the detainee, and later an indictment is submitted or vice versa. Although these forms are the most frequently observed by Addameer, it does not necessarily mean that these are the only forms that exist.

The figure below shows the distribution of the legal status of the matrix sample following the arrest stage. The bulk of those who were interrogated were subsequently issued an indictment or an administrative detention order. The figure also shows the occupation state's general tendency to keep persons arrested under custody, as the percentage of those released was only 7% of the total detainees.



In the past five years, Addameer lawyers have attended more than 8,170 court sessions

Looking at the cases that have been interrogated, we find that the bulk of the detainees were interrogated at Al-Mascobiya interrogation and detention center. It can be said in general that the Al-Mascobiya interrogation center is always the highest in terms of numbers. Over the past three years, the number of detainees interrogated there has been the highest compared to the rest of the interrogation centers². In this context, the occupation authorities opened a new interrogation center in Ofer prison in the second half of 2021, as Al-Mascobiya will no longer receive detainees from the West Bank. Accordingly, it is expected that Ofer interrogation and detention center will receive more detainees in the coming years, replacing Al-Mascobiya as number one in terms of number of detainees.



Distribution of detainees by interrogation centers

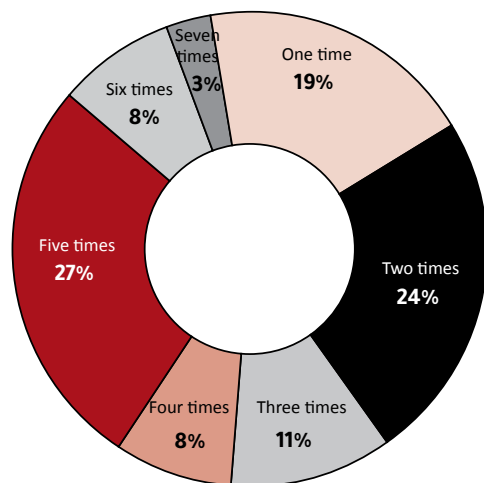
² The reason for this rise may be due to the fact that Al-Mascobiya receives detainees from Jerusalem and the central and southern West Bank; i.e. a large geographical area.

In the past five years, Addameer has represented more than 512 detainees in the interrogation stage

Of the 66 detainees who were subjected to interrogation, 37 detainees were denied access to a lawyer. Denying access to a lawyer is one of the policies deployed by the occupation authorities during interrogation, as military orders permit depriving detainees of seeing a lawyer for a period of up to 60 days, despite the fact that the interrogation period is the most important period during which a detainee needs legal advice. Denying a detainee access to his right to communicate with the outside world or contact a lawyer would leave the door open for the occupation authorities to cover up the crimes of torture and ill-treatment committed during the interrogation stage. Hence, it is often difficult for lawyers to document signs of torture, or even details of what the detainees were exposed to during interrogation due to the large spacing between visitations and the interrogation period due to the prevention of meeting with a lawyer.

12 out of 37 detainees were denied access to a lawyer immediately after their arrest. 23 detainees were denied access to a lawyer for less than 15 days, while 14 detainees were denied access to a lawyer for a period of more than 15 days. The following figure shows the distribution of detainees according to the number of orders issued denying them access to a lawyer.

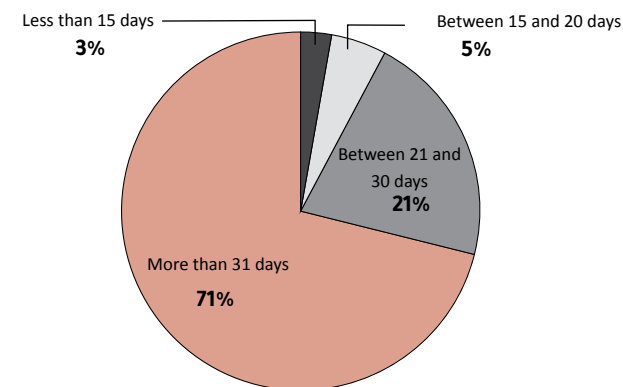
Addameer, in general, files objections to the public prosecution against ban orders pro-



Number of times detainees were denied access to a lawyer

In the past five years, Addameer has documented more than 646 orders denying detainees legally represented by Addameer lawyers access to a lawyer during interrogation

hibiting detainees from lawyers' visits, with the aim of pressuring the prosecution either to cancel or shorten the ban period. In 2021, our lawyers filed 10 petitions to the public prosecution office, seven of which were rejected. They also filed three appeals to the Israeli Supreme Court, one of which was rejected and the other two were withdrawn based on an approval for a lawyer's visit. Furthermore, Addameer monitors within its matrix the number of times a detention is extended for further interrogation, as well as the total days spent in interrogation. In this context, we concluded that 71% of the cases our lawyers followed up in 2021 were held in interrogation centers for more than 30 days. Such a percentage is significant, reflecting the general policy of the Israeli occupation.



Percentage of detainees interrogated by days of extensions

Despite the difficulty of making an impact in this field, Addameer is constantly seeking, in all possible means, to challenge the policy of ongoing extension of detention for further interrogation. This is because the interrogation stage is one of the most important and most dangerous stages for detainees, as it mainly involves isolating them from the outside world and restricting their contact with family members and lawyers. This may increase the possibility of subjecting detainees to torture and ill-treatment after being cut off from the outside world on the one hand, and decrease the possibility of documenting such violations on the other hand. Addameer constantly tries to confront the policy of extension periods during interrogation by submitting appeals against extension orders, but the bulk of these appeals are rejected by the court as judges and military courts tend to agree to the requests of the intelligence and the special military prosecution to extend detention for further interrogation.

In the past five years, Addameer has submitted more than 293 appeals against extension of detention for purpose of interrogation, 196 of which (66.9%) were rejected by Israeli courts.

Chapter I:

Torture and Ill-Treatment

Israeli, the occupying power, has never ended its policy of using methods of torture and inhumane treatment against Palestinian detainees during arrest, transfer and interrogation. During the arrest, entire families of detainees are intimidated and terrorized, starting often by night raids; the detonation of doors; vandalizing the property as well as other methods. During the transfer to prison or to an interrogation center, detainees are often assaulted, abused, and insulted, and they are subjected to practices of torture and inhuman treatment during the interrogation process.

This year, Addameer has documented dozens of cases of prisoners being subjected during interrogation to certain practices including, but not limited to long hours of interrogation; sleep deprivation; presence of multiple interrogators within the same room or being changed in-between sessions; spitting; verbal insults; painful stress positions including chair position, banana position, squat position, and standing position; and severe beating.

Despite the explicit and unequivocal international prohibition of torture and its use in any circumstances, Israeli occupation authorities annually prove its indifference to the human rights system, as human rights organizations yearly document dozens of cases subjected to various forms of inhuman treatment and torture. In 2021, Addameer documented 74 cases of detainees subjected to torture and ill-treatment in Israeli interrogation centers.

Through such practices, Israeli occupation authorities violate a number of international covenants prohibiting all forms of torture. The prohibition of torture constitutes a legal rule that must not be violated regardless of any circumstances or conditions, as confirmed by Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 2 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as multiple provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977.

🕒 A new interrogation center opens in Ofer Prison

During the last quarter of 2021, the Israeli authorities opened a brand new interrogation center in Ofer prison near Ramallah, as Al-Mascobiya interrogation and detention center would no longer accept detainees from the West Bank after being and would accept detainees from Jerusalem area only.

Our lawyers managed to visit a number of detainees who were interrogated at Ofer interrogation center to monitor and document their conditions of detention and interrogation. The detainees interviewed pointed out that Ofer interrogation center contains a large number of cells that share the same descriptions, with slight differences in size. “When I arrived at Ofer interrogation center, I was detained in a 2.5x2.5 cell that had had two beds, about 50 centimeters apart. The walls were of rough texture that made it difficult for anyone to lean on. There was also a squat toilet with a slightly high door,” said Mohammad Titi, a detainee.

The opening of a new interrogation center sheds more light on the Israeli occupation’s ongoing approach to expand detention and interrogation facilities to accommodate the largest number of detainees without making any real change in the nature and environment of such facilities, in terms of ventilation, space, lighting and others. It opens the door to the occupation authorities to commit more violations against detainees while in interrogation. Ofer camp has become an integrated center for the occupation, containing a prison, a military court, and an interrogation center. It can often allow the Israeli authorities to swiftly transfer detainees from the cellars of interrogation to courts to extend their detention for further interrogation; that is to say, not giving detainees any space to rest between interrogation sessions by virtue of the proximity of the courtrooms to the interrogation center, contrary to other interrogation centers from which detainees are transferred to the nearest military court.

🕒 Use of violence during arrest

In general, it can be said that the occupation forces often haste to use excessive force against Palestinians during arrest. An example of this is what Hutheifa al-Taweel was exposed to, when the occupation forces stormed his house in Qalqiliya on 21 May 2021 to arrest him. During the arrest, the forces broke down the door of the house, and once they spotted Hutheifa, they pushed him against the wall and handcuffed him behind back. As soon as he was removed from the house, he was dragged to an olive orchard, where soldiers started screaming at him and beating him with the rifles butts on his back. As he was

being dragged away, a soldier pushed him from behind, pricked him with his rifle butt, and kicked him on his legs more than 10 times.

“They tried to trip me in a bumpy road and hit me on my legs while I was blindfolded, until the military jeeps arrived. Then one of them said to me; now we will treat you with respect,” said Hutheifa. He was transferred to Petah Tikva interrogation and detention center, where he was detained in a 2x2 cell. It had two mattresses on the floor; each of which was about four centimeters thick, and a pit toilet. The cell was very cold most of the time. Hutheifa’s detention was extended more than three times for further interrogation. Upon failure to prove any allegations against him, the prosecution on 16 June 2021 requested they be given 72 hours to examine the possibility of issuing an administrative detention order against him. Indeed, Hutheifa was issued an administrative detention order for a period of four months ending on 11 September 2021.

It is worth noting that the Israeli authorities spare no one from these practices, as they give no regard to any physical injuries, age, or gender. On the contrary, they sometimes exploit such elements to pressure detainees, such as hitting a detainee on places of injuries and pain.

Addameer documented this year a number of cases in which detainees were beaten and humiliated, including the case of Ahmad Fayez Atta, 18, from Deir Abu Mishaal, Ramallah. A soldier deliberately stomped on his previously injured foot. The same happened to Ashraf Faour, whose wife said in a phone call with Addameer that soldiers storming their house beat him in the chest area; mainly on an old injury, causing him excruciating pain.³

In a third case, Mustafa Amira, a 13-year old from Ni’lin, Ramallah spoke of the details of what he was exposed to in an interview with Addameer. “At approximately 5:00 p.m. on 14 September 2021, while my cousin and I were playing in a plot of land belonging to my family, three Israeli soldiers approached us with their rifles pointed at us and grabbed us. They tied my hands with plastic cords and kept me and my cousins about 10 meters apart. One of the soldiers punched me on the face near my eyes, grabbed my head and slammed it against the ground three times, and once with his weapon,” said Mustafa.

³ Telephone interview conducted by Addameer field research team with Mrs. Raya Faour, wife of detainee Ashraf Faour, on 23 May 2021.

“The soldier held up to my ear while I was lying on the ground. The person on the other end of the phone was an [Israeli] intelligence officer, who told me that I was in big trouble and asked for my information; name, age, type of clothes, and those of my cousin. He asked me about another person, and each time I answered that I did not know that particular person, the soldier would hit me. He [the soldier] hit me more than once; prompting me to make up a fictitious name so that he would stop hitting me. After that, my cousin and I were placed inside a military jeep. Before doing so, soldiers blindfolded me and slammed my head against the door of the military jeep. They eventually dropped us off at Ni’lin military checkpoint. I could feel blood running down my face, and I felt a lot of pain.”

It was reported that Mustafa was interrogated for an hour before he and his cousin were transferred to a military camp, where they were placed in a very cold room that had surveillance cameras and a wet and worn mattress. During this period, soldiers repeatedly intimidated the two boys, telling them over and over that they were in trouble. Afterwards, they were transferred to a hospital for a medical check-up. Mustafa indicated that it was in the hospital that he was able to see his face for the first time since his arrest. He was shocked by the change in his looks due to cheek swelling after being beaten up. While being hospitalised, he spoke to a lawyer via a soldier’s phone screen, only to find that the call was nothing but a court session in progress to extend his detention. He was informed by the lawyer that he and his cousin would be released during the night hours.

🔗 **Nader Halahleh – a living example of state policy**

At approximately 11:00 p.m. on 11 May 2021, Nader Halahleh, 33, from Jerusalem, was returning home from work at the Red Crescent Hospital when he was brutally assaulted by the occupation forces. “I was walking back to my house from work. Upon realizing there was a security tension near the house, I started looking for an alternative road to reach the house. At that moment two persons in civilian clothes assaulted me; hitting me with a handgun butt on my head and tasing me. I somewhat lost consciousness. 10 minutes later, while I was lying on the ground, a police car pulled over nearby and a number of men got out and beat me for about five minutes,” said Nader in his testimony.

“They handcuffed me to the back, carried me and threw me inside the police car on the floor between the front and back seats. Two officers sat in the back seats and put their feet on me. One of them had his foot on my head forcing me to face the floor, and they never stopped kicking me during the transfer.”

Nader was later transferred to Salahuddin police station before being taken to Hadassah Hospital, where it was found that he was suffering from a fracture to

the left side of the nose; and bruises all over the body – concentrated in the head area.

Nader's health condition did not constitute a deterrence of further abuse, as he was later transferred to Al-Bareed police station for interrogation and charged with participating in a demonstration and throwing stones. He also appeared in court, only to be surprised that he was also charged with throwing a Molotov cocktail; a charge that was never pressed against him during the interrogation session. Nader was later released on bail. His case illustrates the nature of Israeli practices against the Palestinians, which include unarmed innocent civilians being assaulted and interrogated for groundless accusations.

🔗 Families – another eyewitness to the injustice

Israeli occupation forces use families to pressure detainees to turn themselves in or for further interrogation. Addameer documents every year a number of cases of similar practices, including the case of Waad Hoqi, whose father was arrested to pressure him to turn himself in.

“On 31 August 2021, Israeli forces raided my family's house while I was out. The [Israeli] district officer called me and told me to turn myself in or else he would have my father arrested. And this is what really happened. When I returned home, they released my father and arrested me instead. During the arrest, soldiers searched me, threw me to the ground, stomped on my head and back, and pushed me against a wall; all in front of my mother and siblings,” Waad told our lawyer.

Waad's case demonstrates the Israeli occupation's policy of detaining Palestinians only for the purpose of pressuring others to turn themselves in. Moreover, exposing detainees to beatings, humiliation, and ill-treatment in front of other family members is nothing but a sheer attempt to pressure and break the spirit of detainees and their families.

🔗 Nuruddin Al-Bitawi – shot during arrest

On 8 February 2021, Israeli forces raided Jenin refugee camp to arrest Nuruddin Al-Bitawi. During the raid, large forces with police dogs entered the camp and headed towards Al-Bitawi's house, where Nuruddin lived with his wife and four-month-old daughter. Nuruddin tried to make a rooftop escape, but snipers deployed on the rooftops of the neighboring houses shot him directly in the left side of his abdomen.

Mohammad, Nuruddin's brother, told Addameer what happened after his brother was shot. “After Nuruddin was shot, he went downstairs while screaming [in pain]. More than 10 soldiers raided the house, and when they found him, one of them hit him on the head

with his rifle butt, amidst shouting at Nuruddin's helpless wife. One of the soldier tossed a stun grenade towards her, and the grenade would have hit her directly if she had not moved. Then they brought in first-aiders and carried Nuruddin out of the house on a stretcher.”

Later, our lawyer was able to visit Nuruddin in Ramleh prison clinic, where he was hospitalized, to get his account of what he went through. “After I was shot, I lost consciousness and woke up a few days later to find myself in the intensive care unit. I underwent surgery in which parts of my intestines were removed, and I was hospitalised for about 33 days before I was brought here to Ramleh prison clinic.” During his treatment at Ramleh prison clinic, Nuruddin did not receive the necessary medical attention, as he indicated that his dressings were changed by another security prisoner, and not by a doctor or a nurse.

🔗 Use of police dogs

On 16 March 2021, Israeli occupation forces arrested Hamza Bouzia from family house in Kifl Haris, south of Nablus, and transferred him to Petah Tikva interrogation and detention center. On March 25, Addameer lawyer visited Hamza at Petah Tikva facility.

“At 3:30 a.m., I heard voices outside the house, so I opened the door to see what was happening. Israeli soldiers suddenly unleashed a muzzled dog, and I saw the dog charging at me and knocking me down. The soldiers pulled me away from the dog and out of the house by my clothes, handcuffed me and asked me for my name. I asked to change my clothes, but one of the soldiers banged my head against the wall, and my head bled. Another hit me with his rifle on my right knee, knocking me down, while a third one kicked me in the chest,” Hamza told the lawyer.

The soldiers searched Hamza's house and transferred him to an army camp, where he remained for hours, handcuffed and blindfolded and denied access to food. Israeli courts extended his detention many times and he was eventually released on bail of 2,000 shekels on April 11. No indictment was filed against him, confirming the absurdity of such baseless arrests carried out often by the Israeli occupation forces in violation of Palestinian detainees' fundamental guarantees. The general rule states that any defendant is assumed to be innocent until they have been proven guilty, but Palestinians in Israel's eyes are repetitively guilty until proven innocent.

🔗 Prisoners Hamza Zahran & Abdulmajeed Mansour experience harsh interrogation

Enhanced interrogation techniques – labelled ‘Achieving necessity’ by the Israeli occupation authorities – is one of the practices used by the Israeli authorities, in which very violent techniques that amount to torture are deployed for the purposes of extracting information from detainees. The use of such methods by the occupation authorities has surged since 2019. Addameer has documented cases of detainees subjected to rigorous interrogation and severe torture; particularly the cases of Hamza Zahran and Abdulmajeed Mansour.

Hamza talked about what happened to him during a visit conducted by Addameer. “My house was raided by Israeli occupation forces. They broke the front door, destroyed the furniture, and terrorized the children. As soon as the soldiers identified me, they knocked me down, made me face the floor and knelt down on my back painfully. After that, they tied my hands with tight plastic cords and took me to my brother’s house. They arrested six of my nephews. Later I was transferred to Ofer interrogation and detention center, and then to Asqalan interrogation and detention center.

At Ashkelon facility, Hamza was detained in a 2x2 cell, the walls of which were of rough texture made it difficult for a detainee to lean on. The cell had a pit toilet and a three-centimeter thick mattress. Hamza went through long interrogation sessions that amounted to 48 continuous hours, according to his estimates. Interrogators intentionally took turns interrogating him to keep him inside the interrogation room for long hours. Meals were brought in. Interrogators made threats to have his family members; mostly mother and wife, arrested. Hamza’s hands and legs were tied to the legs of a chair and he was painfully slapped and forced to hear the voices of others while being interrogated. He was also forced into the ‘banana’ position, during which his legs were cuffed to the lower part of a chair (the back of the chair is positioned to the side) and his hands cuffed to each other, while interrogators exerted pressure on his chest, causing severe pain to the abdomen.⁴



The ‘banana’ position

The interrogators also exploited Hamza’s broken leg for their own advantage. Hamza told Addameer lawyer that he was asked by one of the interrogators to point to his broken leg. After Hamza did so, the interrogators hit his broken leg brutally. The military interrogation left him with severe pains all over his body; mostly in the back, left side of abdomen and thighs. He was unable to walk to the extent that he had to be carried back to his cell by jailers. His brother Ahmad was killed [by Israeli forces], but Hamza was informed by the interrogators 20 days later.

Hamza was not the only young man who was subjected to such practices. Abdulmajeed Mansour was subjected to similar practices. On 14 September 2021, Israeli occupation forces stormed the house of Abdulmajeed in the Biddu, northwest of Jerusalem, to arrest him. During the raid, the soldiers dealt with the family violently, breaking the front door, shouting, and terrorizing children and causing them to cry.

In a statement given to Addameer, Abdulmajeed said that after his arrest, he was transferred to Asqalan interrogation and detention center, where he was placed in a very cold 3x2 cell, the walls of which were of rough texture. During his detention there, he was interrogated for more than 20 days. During the first 17 days, he was not allowed to sleep for more than three hours per day, as he was interrogated for nearly 21 hours from 8:00 a.m. until 5: a.m. of the following day – with the exception of two times when he was allowed to sleep more than three hours. The interrogators were not the only one depriving him of sleep. Jailers were constantly disturbing him when he was sent back to the cell to rest or

⁴ See: “Torture Positions in Israeli Occupation Prisons,” Addameer, 2020. http://www.addameer.org/sites/default/files/publications/webenglishbooklet_1.pdf

sleep, making things even more difficult for him to sleep during those three hours. They would interrupt his sleep by bringing him food, barging in for window checks and other reasons.

“On the 17th day, the interrogation session ended at 5:00 a.m. One of the interrogators, nicknamed “Zaivi,” was laughing and told me ‘tomorrow we’ll know everything’, as if that was a hint that they would use enhanced interrogation techniques. At exactly 8:00 a.m., on the same day, I was taken to the clinic, and a doctor checked my pressure and pulse before I was taken back to the interrogation room, realizing that they would subject me to ‘military interrogation’. They covered my wrists with a piece of cloth so that the handcuffs would not leave any scars.”

During interrogation, Abdulmajeed was intentionally insulted, yelled at, threatened to have his family members arrested, in addition to sexual gestures and threats made against him by the interrogators. In addition, he was slapped, punched him in the face, and forced into stress positions. One of the stress positions entailed forcing him to sit on a chair while handcuffed to the back where the hands are positioned on the table behind the chair. One of the interrogators pulled his hands to the back to inflict further pressure on his shoulders, at the same time another interrogator forcefully pushed his head (face) to the back. “I did not know how long each position lasted because of the intense amount of pressure



The ‘imaginary chair’ position

and agonizing pain I felt. Whenever they untied me, I felt as if my hand were paralyzed and moved involuntarily.”

In addition to the previous position, Abdulmajeed reported being forced into the squatting position, in which he was forced to stand on his toes and squat with his hands handcuffed to the front or back. An interrogator was standing in front of him and another behind him to prevent him from falling down on the ground, causing extreme pressure on his toes. He was also subjected to the imaginary chair position, in which his hands were handcuffed to the back, and one of the interrogators would pressure him from his shoulders and harshly beat him on the thighs.

“They forced me to stand in front of a wall and squat at a 45-degree angle. I was not allowed to move, whether by trying to stand or even sit. Every time I fell down on the ground, they would put me back in the same position. Because of that, I was unable to urinate in the pit toilet for a few days because of my leg pain.”

Abdulmajeed was interrogated for more than 20 days and was eventually transferred to Ofer prison.

🔗 Closure of investigations into the use of torture against Samer Arbeed



The squatting position

Addameer and a number of other human rights organizations are constantly seeking to prosecute torture crimes committed by Israeli interrogators against Palestinian detainees, primarily during the interrogation stage as cruel and inhumane methods of torture and interrogation are used. To hold the Israeli authorities accountable at the international level, human rights organization must first exhaust the local means of appeal. In other words, they must lodge formal complaints of torture to the Israeli authorities. Almost every year dozens of complaints against torture and ill-treatment are filed, but most – if not all – of them are closed without even opening any serious investigation into the subject matter due to the claim of ‘insufficient evidence of torture’; affirming the absurdity and falsity of such procedures.

Among the remarkable cases this year was the case of Samer Arbeed, who was arrested in 2019 outside his workplace where he was accompanied by his wife and was beaten with the guns of the army unit making the arrest. He was then subjected to harsh interrogation, during which he was forced into several stress positions, harshly beaten, and continuously interrogated for many hours. On the second day, he was brought before a military judge to extend his detention; he informed the judge that he experienced chest pains, continuous vomiting, and inability to swallow. Nevertheless, the judge dismissed his statement and ordered the extension of his detention for further interrogation.

Less than 48 hours after his arrest, Samer was transferred to Hadassah Hospital in a coma. He woke up to find himself in the hospital with 11 broken ribs, renal failure and several bruises on his whole body. Despite all this substantial evidence, the Israeli Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit announced on 24 January 2021 the closure of the investigations against a number of the Shabak [Israeli Security Agency] interrogators for using torture during the interrogation of Samer, claiming that “there are no grounds to prove that the crime of torture has been committed.”⁵

Such a step inevitably allows for the use of torture without any accountability and constitutes another aspect of the complicity of the Israeli apparatus to cover up its crime of torture. It also confirms the Israeli occupation’s unwillingness to investigate, prosecute, and hold the Shabak accountable for the excessive use of force and torture against Palestinian detainees during interrogations.

The Israeli Attorney General’s decision was not the only problematic in Samer’s case. Another problematic lies in the fact that such a decision was made unilaterally without informing Addameer, as the latter did not receive any updates from the Attorney General’s office regarding the closure of the torture case. During the reporting period, the Israeli authorities have been refusing to provide Samer’s lawyer with investigation materials and files on the pretext of being ‘classified’.

🔗 Cases of harassment and rape are insufficient grounds for initiating legal action against Shabak interrogators

The case of Samer Arbeed was not the only case in which the investigation was closed. On 23 December 2021, a decision was issued to close another complaint file submitted by H.S. who was arrested on 1 May 2016 and interrogated at Al-Mascobiya interrogation and detention center for 42 days. H.S. was interrogated for long hours, insulted, yelled at, harassed, and threatened, among other interrogation methods. On 25 August 2016, Addameer filed a complaint against the abuse of H.S., who reported that ‘one of the interrogators spread my legs and placed his leg between mine until it touched my genitals’ to provoke him and make him feel threatened.

The *Mavtan*⁶ Unit looked into the complaint on 3 April 2017; more than seven months after the date of submission. During the initial investigation, the investigated interrogators confirmed that they did not remember what happened in the course of interrogation, denying everything that H.S. said in the complaint. The Department wrapped up the initial investigation that was a mere formality, and the Department’s Head Aaron Altman issued his decision on 23 December 2021 to close the complaint due to his conviction that there was no need to open an investigation file, or to take any other fundamental measures against the suspects under interrogation.

The Department’s lengthy proceedings of examining such matters should be highlighted in this context, as it took them more than seven months to look into the complaint, and more than four years to issue its decision to close the investigation. This permanent delay in examining and responding to complaints impedes the means used by human rights organizations to hold the Israeli occupation authorities accountable for their crimes against Palestinian detainees at the international level, as the United Nations system requires the exhaustion of local legal procedures before resorting to the submission of international complaints.

This year, the case of former prisoner S.A. also surfaced. S.A. was arrested in 2015 from her home in Hebron. She woke up to two Israeli officers shouting at her and interrogating her. Then she was led to a separate room by two female soldiers and a female military doctor. The latter told her to take off her clothes and strip searched her. “I refused, but I had no other choice. I knew I would be forced to do so.” The female doctor put on her gloves and started to probing the woman vaginally and anally looking for a cellphone sim card.

⁵ See: [Addameer Condemns the Israeli Attorney General’s Decision to Close the Investigation against the Shabak for Committing Torture against Samer Arbeed | Addameer](#). Accessed on 10 February 2022.

⁶ The Inspector for Complaints Against the Israel Security Agency (ISA) Interrogators; a department examining exceptional incidents or complaints of misconduct by members of the Israel Security Agency in the course of the interrogations

Under the mandate of the Israeli Minister of Justice, the *Mavtan* opened an investigation into what the female prisoner was subjected to. The female prisoner was interviewed by the Unit in order to obtain her statement about the incident. However, on 7 April 2021, the Unit closed the investigations claiming that they were unable to identify the person who authorized the invasive search. The Unit interrogated the female doctor, the two female soldiers and others involved in the incident. The female doctor told the investigators she

could not remember exactly who issued the order to conduct the search, adding that ‘I have no regrets in this regard as I was doing my job and I caused no harm to her.’⁷

The question ‘Who gave the order for the invasive search’ remained unanswered. During the investigations, each of the parties involved blamed one another or claimed they did not know who the order in the first place. The investigations into the rape of S.A. were closed without a single indictment on the pretext that the *Mavtan* Unit was unable to identify the person who gave the order for the invasive search.

S.A. case and other cases illustrate the nature of the Israeli treatment of the Palestinian people by skirting around the truth and refraining from prosecuting or holding accountable all those involved in such crimes. The complaint file of a sensitive case such as the case of S.A., who was raped, was closed simply because the field commander who gave the search order could not be identified. Such a step is another evidence of the Israel authorities’ indifference and apathy towards the Palestinians. Additionally, such practices are a clear violation of the aforementioned international covenants, and a complete disregard by the Israel authorities of the fact that it signed and acceded to the Convention Against Torture. In its concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Israel, the Committee against Torture called on Israel to “urgently take the measures necessary to guarantee in practice that physicians and other medical staff dealing with persons deprived of liberty duly document all signs and allegations of torture or ill-treatment and report them without delay to the appropriate authorities.”⁸ This clearly contradicts the facts on the

⁷ It started with a Palestinian woman’s arrest. It ended with Israeli officers investigated for rape, Josh Breiner, published on 22 April 2021, available through: <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2021-04-22/ty-article-magazine/-highlight/it-started-with-palestinians-arrest-it-ended-with-israeli-officers-probed-for-rape/0000017f-e572-d97e-a37f-f777f0b40000>, last visited on 6 June 2020.

⁸ Committee against Torture, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Israel, 23 June 2009, Un Doc. CAT/C/ISR/4, para. 25. Available at: Committee against Torture, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Israel, 3 June 2016, UN Doc. CAT/C/ISR/CO/5, paras. 14-15 and 31(b). Available at: <https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2FPPRiCAqhKb7yhsmEKqNhdzbzr4kqou1ZPE79BvBje97SSM1KP2v4ng3Dhx74ohsby7x4AlEgvGhwtvav7rPvZmtwPwObldkyK%2BM9cNY7svWLIYmp6PB4chW8Q> [Last visited on 26 January 2021]. See also, Committee against Torture, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Israel, 23 June 2009, Un Doc. CAT/C/CO/ISR/5, para. 34. Available at: <https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2FPPRiCAqhKb7yhsmEKqNhdzbzr4kqou1ZPE79BvBje97SSM1KP2v4ng3Dhx74ohsby7x4AlEgvGhwtvav7rPvZmtwPwObldkyK%2BM9cNY7svWLIYmp6PB4chW8Q> [Last visited on 26 January 2021]

ground, as the military doctor played a key role in the case of S.A., and the same applies to the doctors who examined Samer Arbeed upon his arrival at the hospital and failed to professionally document all the signs of torture appearing on his body, in accordance with international standards.





Chapter II:

Conditions of Detention

Palestinian prisoners in Israel Prison Service (IPS) facilities are held in harsh conditions in overcrowded and narrow rooms where it is difficult to move around. Detention facilities lack basic living conditions, as the largest part of the rooms is damp and humid and many of them lack natural ventilation, causing health problems to many prisoners. Difficult living conditions also include the lack of a proper diet for the prisoners, as they suffer from the poor quantity and quality of food provided by Israeli prison administration, prompting them to buy the bulk of their food and life necessities from the prison canteens, and that puts financial burden on the prisoners and their families.

Prison conditions also entail exposing prisoners to daily violations, as Israeli occupation forces make their daily lives more difficult by conducting frequent and sudden inspections, during which – in many cases – the prisoners are cuffed and abused and had their belongings ransacked. Medical negligence is another standard policy pursued by the occupation forces when handling ailing prisoners. It includes delay in diagnosing prisoners and delay in providing the adequate treatment, causing further deterioration of their health and sometimes leading to their death.

These practices reveal the Israeli occupation's violation of many international conventions, including the provisions of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, specifically the rules for places of detention stating that "all accommodation provided for the use of prisoners and in particular all sleeping accommodation shall meet all requirements of health, due regard being paid to climatic conditions and particularly to cubic content of air, minimum floor space, lighting, heating and ventilation."⁹ In addition, the Israeli occupation is in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, particularly articles 76, 91 and 92 stating the prisoners' right to receive the medical attention required by their state of health.

⁹ See the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners adopted by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in 1955, and approved by the Economic and Social Council by its resolutions 663 C (XXIV), published in Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments of the United Nations, Volume 1, the UN, New York, 1993, Sales No. A.94.XIV-Vol.1, Part 1, page 337.

🔗 COVID-19 is still a threat to prisoners

The year 2021 witnessed more than one case of COVID-19 in Israeli prisons, posing a permanent threat to the lives of the prisoners, mostly because the Israeli occupation forces have been refusing since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak to release elderly, woman or child prisoners, or even ailing prisoners for that matter. Soon after the first month of the COVID-19 outbreak in oPt in 2020, the Israeli occupation escalated its measures against the Palestinians and resumed its former frequency of arrests. Thus, the year 2021 was no different than any other year. The Israeli occupation never stopped arresting Palestinians despite the large spread of the coronavirus and the fact that a number of them contracted the virus throughout the year. Addameer documented the spread of the virus in the Naqab and Ramon prisons in particular, as 200 prisoners contracted the virus at the beginning of the year; five of whom were transferred to Israeli hospitals after their health deteriorated and were in need for medical care. Among them were Mohammad Abu Aisha and Ayman Seder.

Despite the wide spread of the COVID-19, the Israeli occupation did not improve the conditions of detention for the Palestinian prisoners, as many of them still suffered from overcrowding and a lack of supply of disinfectants. Rasheed Al-Rishq was held in the Naqab prison in February 2021 during the spread of the COVID-19. He told Addameer that the prison administration denied them access to any supply of disinfectants and that they were prompted to buy masks at their own expense from the prison canteen. These practices reveal the Israeli occupation's reckless negligence toward the Palestinian prisoners.

This is in addition to the quarantine conditions that lacked the most basic human needs, as IPS administration deliberately placed prisoners for more than 10 days in special sections within the prisons that it called 'transit', in order to make sure that they were not infected with COVID-19. The prisoners in these section lived their worst days. Dozens of them, whose conditions of detention were documented by Addameer, recounted that during that period they were not allowed to take a shower, and that they were not supplied with any clean clothes if allowed to take a shower. They were not allowed to buy supplies from the canteen, which was a real problem to prisoners as they often rely on the canteen to buy their food, disinfectants, soap and shampoo as such items are not provided – or provided in limited quantities – by the prison administration.

Addameer visited prisoner Monther Khalaf, held since 2004, who contracted the virus in 2021. Monther explained that he was quarantined in a special section in poor conditions with no regard whatsoever to prevention measures. "I was not provided with any change of clothes, and the blankets and the toilet in the room were very dirty. I felt my chances of contracting the virus there were bigger than anywhere else," said Monther.

🔗 Infected and quarantined under conditions that increase the risk of re-contracting the virus

During the first month of 2021, a number of COVID-19 infections were reported in the Naqab prison, so the prison administration conducted tests for a number of prisoners and transferred some of them to other sections within the prison while others were transferred to Ramon prison for quarantine. Addameer documented what those prisoners went through during a visit to prisoner Jaber Abu Alia. "We were transported by an ordinary vehicle, with two prisoners seated next to each other on metal seats, which meant that anyone could contract the virus. Upon our arrival at Ramon prison, we were held in section 8 in poor conditions. The beds and mattresses were dirty and the food was very bad. There were no cooking pots or a hot plate. We were only allowed to go out to the yard for two hours each day; prisoners from three rooms all at once. We were not supplied with disinfectants, and we could not use the washer and dryer in the section due to the fact that they were out of order," explained Jaber. These conditions were not the only bad things that made life even worse for the quarantined prisoners, as Jaber spoke of the fact that when any prisoner felt ill or nauseous, the prison administration would stall in bringing him a nurse or medication.

Not only the infected or quarantined prisoners went through these bad conditions, but also the new detainees. Many of the new detainees told Addameer that after their arrest and the end of the interrogation process, they were transferred to sections or detention centers designated for quarantine for the new detainees. These sections lacked the most basic necessities of human life. During a visit conducted by Addameer, prisoner Karam Abu Aita said that at the end of his interrogation, he was transferred to Huwwara interrogation and detention center, where he was placed in a filthy 4x4 cell that had no toilet. There were four beds, and each detainee had a thin mattress and two blankets. "The food was dirty. I was not given any clothes, towels, or anything to use when I showered," explained Karam, who was later transferred to Megiddo prison, where he was placed in the quarantine section for 28 days, during which he was denied access to the canteen.

🔗 Incitement to deny prisoners access to vaccines

Tensions were boiling up in December 2020 and the beginning of 2021 over the Israeli Minister of Public Security Amir Ohana's decision not to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention. During a session of the Israeli Knesset, Ohana indicated that his decision not to provide vaccines to the prisoner population would affect security prisoners only, in direct contradiction to the vaccination priority set by the Deputy Director General of the Israeli Ministry of Health in a memorandum sent to the Ministry of Public Security, with an emphasis on prisoners aged 60 and over, and those in high-risk groups.

Ohana's directive illustrates the Israeli occupation's approach of medical neglect and disregard for the lives of the Palestinian prisoners. It is in fact a violation of the prisoners' health and medical rights, and it clearly contradicts the Israeli Ministry of Health's instructions. At its simplest, it violates the ethics of the medical profession that require equal treatment for all; especially since the talk here is about a dangerous virus that is spreading rapidly and could threaten the lives of prisoners.

At the end of 2020, Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel sent a letter to Israeli Public Security Minister Amir Ohana and Israel Prison Service (IPS) Chargé d'Affaires Asher Vaknin demanding that they move to revoke Ohana's decision to prevent Palestinian prisoners from being vaccinated. The letter further emphasized that it shouldn't be necessary to remind the Public Security Ministry and the IPS of its mandated responsibility to protect the lives and health of prisoners in accordance with Israel's Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom, which states in Article 4 that "All persons are entitled to protection of their life, body and dignity, and that "All governmental authorities are bound to respect the rights under this Basic Law."¹⁰

The battle over the COVID-19 vaccine continued. At the beginning of 2021, five human rights organizations petitioned the Supreme Court against Israeli Public Security Minister Amir Ohana's decision not to vaccinate prisoners, contrary to the Ministry of Health's directive. The petition was filed on behalf of Physicians for Human Rights Israel, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, HaMoked: Center for the Defense of the Individual, and Rabbis for Human Rights.

The organizations demanded that the Israel Prison Service vaccinate the entire prisoner population according to the vaccination priority set by the Ministry of Health, with an emphasis on prisoners aged 60 and over, and those in high-risk groups. The petition was filed after Ohana relayed to Israeli Deputy Attorney General that he did not intend to withdraw his directive refusing to vaccinate prisoners at this stage.

The petition was accompanied by a medical opinion from the Association of Public Health Physicians from the Israeli Medical Association, which stated that "prisoners must be treated as a captive population. In the context of COVID-19, this is considered an at-risk population, both due to preexisting health issues and to the overcrowded conditions that increase the risk of infection and mortality. The State of Israel has an ethical obligation to offer the vaccines to the prisoner population."¹¹ Such various attempts succeeded in shedding light on the prisoners' issue and culminated in the vaccine rollout for Palestinian prisoners.

🔗 Prison raids as a policy and approach – more than 27 raids in 2021

Palestinian prisoners are constantly exposed to violations by the Israel Prison Service, as special units frequently and suddenly raid prison sections and conduct inspections. Most of the raids involve assaulting and insulting prisoners, violating their privacy, and ransacking and confiscating their modest belongings such as appliances, books, and others.

Addameer documented more than 25 attacks in various Israeli prisons throughout the year 2021. In one of these documented incidents, Ofer prison was raided in April 2021. Prisoner Sinar Hamad stated that during the raid, the repression forces deliberately bound the hands of everyone in the section with plastic cuffs behind their backs, struck them with their hands and feet, hit them with batons, in addition to unleashing a police dog toward them. A number of prisoners sustained injuries. This was not the only time that Ofer prison was raided, as it was raided more than once throughout the year, as in the case of other prisons.

In December 2021, the repression forces raided Nafha prison and abused the prisoners, after the prison administration alleged that prisoner Yousef Al-Mabhohu assaulted one of the guards. At the time tensions had been boiling up in Israel prisons following the assault on the female prisoners in Damon Prison. Addameer documented the details of the raid during a visit to prisoner Omar Al-Sharif. According to Omar, Israeli forces stormed the section following the alleged incident at approximately 5:00 p.m. They handcuffed prisoner Yousef, pepper sprayed his face, beat him up, and dragged him out of the section. After that, sirens sounded in the prison, and the forces returned and dragged out six prisoners whom the prison administration claimed they were responsible. Another unit accompanied by police dogs raided section 12.

During the raid, all the prisoners in the section were bound with plastic handcuffs behind

¹⁰ See: Israeli minister blocks COVID-19 vaccinations for Palestinian prisoners; Adalah demands decision be overturned, 28 December 2020. <https://www.adalah.org/en/content/view/10207>

their backs and many of them were beaten. The prisoners were all led out of the rooms and into the yard in a humiliating manner and were seated on the ground on their knees. Although it was extremely cold outside, the prisoners were forced to take off their heavy clothes. The prisoners' injuries included dislocated shoulders, cuts and bruises on the face and other parts of the body after being hit with batons. The prisoners remained seated in the yard from 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. and had their cuffs removed at approximately 8:30 p.m. In the meantime, the six prisoners who were dragged out earlier were bound and locked up in a waiting room for almost five hours. One of them felt nauseous and pain in the hands because of the tight handcuffs. Later the six prisoners were placed in isolation in a 2x2 cell. Upon their protest against the small sized cell, part of them were transferred to Hadarim isolation section, while the others were sent to Asqalan isolation section until 4 January 2022.

🔗 The persistent isolation policy

For years, the Israeli authorities have resorted to solitary confinement against Palestinian prisoners, within its policy of inflicting the most severe punishments on prisoners by depriving them of any contact with the outside world or with other prisoners. Prisoners are often placed in solitary confinement for exceedingly long periods of time in cramped, dark cells, of which walls retain humidity, causing physical and psychological harm to many of them.

The Public Defender's Report on Prison Conditions in 2019-2020 affirmed that the Israeli occupation state resort to isolation against security and criminal prisoners, as a prisoner is either placed alone in isolation or with a group of other prisoners. However, all cases of isolation are held in poor maintenance conditions. For example, a number of isolation cells in Aaylon prison lack any entry of ray of sunlight, depriving prisoners of natural lighting, and thus affecting their ability to tell the time and distinguish day from night.¹²

The report also addressed the issue of using isolation against children, stressing that isolating minors can take a heavy toll on their psychological conditions which can jeopardize their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. In addition to that, the report referred to isolation as a cause of mental conditions and disorders, stating that numerous prisoners were held in isolation without taking into account the nature of their mental state, and the possibility of isolation affecting their psychological condition.¹³

Throughout the year 2021, the Israeli occupation resorted to isolation as a means of punishment for prisoners, whether individually or collectively. Until the end of 2021, there were 13 Palestinian prisoners in isolation cells, in addition to a number of prisoners who were isolated and returned to regular sections throughout the year. It can be said that the success of six prisoners in liberating themselves from Gilboa prison escalated the occupation's practices towards the prisoners. Following the jailbreak and the prisoners' response to the IPS policies by setting fire to a number of cells in Naqab and Ramon prisons, the IPS escalated its use of Isolation¹⁴ by holding a number of prisoners, individually and collectively, in solitary confinement in cells, the most of which were unsuitable for human habitation.

During a visit to Ramon prison, prisoner Ashraf Abu Srour, who is placed in solitary confinement, told Addameer lawyer that an isolated prisoner is faced with various problems, including the issue of food, as the prisoners depend mainly on the prison canteens to buy food and other supplies due to the poor quality and quantity of food offered by the prison administration. Isolated prisoners, however, are denied access to the canteen.

Moreover, living in isolation cells causes multiple diseases to prisoners, the most prominent of which are vision problems. The long periods of time spent in the same narrow space with no far horizon to look at and train the eyes can oftentimes cause vision impairment. Among the prisoners who were held in solitary confinement this year was 50-year-old Omar Khurwat from Hebron). During a visit by his lawyer and another visit by Addameer, Khurwat spoke of his harsh conditions in Hasharon isolation section, as he has been banned from family visits or even phone calls for more than a year, and in many cases lawyer visits were blocked. Khurwat is held in a 2x3 cell, which has a 0.5x0.25 window, a bed, a blanket, a toilet, and a small shower fixed to one of the corners. He is only allowed out into the yard for one hour a day, which he spends all alone, unlike the civilian prisoners who are granted yard time in groups. He is not provided with satisfactory food, as the prison administration offers food that is of poor quality and quantity, prompting him to buy his own food from the canteen. However, he is not allowed to buy any meat or vegetables, leaving him with limited food items to choose from.¹⁵

¹² The Public Defender's Report on Prison Conditions in 2019-2020. Published on 9 May 2021. <https://www.gov.il/he/departments/news/detention-conditions-report-2019-2020>.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ See the chapter on the freedom tunnel of this report.

¹⁵ It is noteworthy that a number of women prisoners were held in isolation for different periods of time during this year, including Nawal Fatiha. For more on this subject, see the chapter on women prisoners in this report.

🕒 Sami Al-Amour and Hussein Masalmeh join the list of prisoners who died in Israeli detention

On 18 November 2021, prisoner Sami Al-Amour died in the Israeli Soroka Hospital, after suffering from a congenital heart problem that had deteriorated due to the IPS policy of intentional medical negligence against prisoners. Al-Amour, from the city of Dair Al-Balah in the Gaza Strip, was arrested in 2008 and sentenced to 19 years in prison. He was banned from family visits, with the exception of his mother who was able to visit him limited times at the beginning of his detention. He was faced with the IPS stalling necessary medical follow up and attention and the harsh conditions of detention. His health condition deteriorated while being held in Nafha prison, and he was transferred for surgery at Soroka Hospital, but the surgery was a failure and resulted in his death. According to the information collected by Addameer, Al-Amour was subjected to a series of violations that led to his death, including repeated transfers via *Bosta* [prisoner transfer vehicle], and being held at a military checkpoint outside Beersheba prison for 14 hours while on his way to the medical center, despite his serious health condition.

Addameer documented the testimony of prisoner Jamil Ankush, who was with Al-Amour in Ohalei Keidar transit site in Beersheba. Ankush indicated in his testimony that Al-Amour was very ill when he met him, and confirmed that Al-Amour had been in the transit site for a few days, as he was transferred from Nafha to Asqalan a month earlier for examinations, and then from Asqalan to Ramleh transit site, Ramon, Naqab, and then to Ohalei Keidar respectively; with all transfers done by the same vehicle.

Ankush recalled Al-Amour telling him that during his transfer, the air conditioner inside the vehicle was on and he repeatedly asked to be turned off, but the guards refused, and that increased his suffering.

“When I saw him, he was very ill. He had shortness of breath and chest pain. I and the other prisoners asked for a nurse and call out the guards, but one of them came and told us that the nurse refused to come because the doctor had examined him [Al-Amour] an hour earlier and gave him glucose. At around 6:00 p.m., a nurse came to hand medicine to the prisoners, and I asked him to examine Al-Amour, but he refused and said that the doctor had already examined him. After the nurse left, Al-Amour felt more pain and we knocked on the door, asking for Al-Amour to be taken for a check-up, but the guards kept saying that the nurse and the doctor were refusing to see him. A female guard even said that she would not care if one of us died,” added Ankush.

What Al-Amour, Ankush, and those with them experienced did not satisfy the IPS appetite for inflicting further harm, as an army unit rushed to the room in which they were held to suppress them for their knocking on the doors and sought to pull Al-Amour out without a wheelchair or a stretcher. The prisoners resisted for 20 minutes and Al-Amour was eventually taken out on a wheelchair. “But they kept him outside the room for about 20 minutes,” recalled Ankush.

Al-Amour’s death brings to 227 the number of Palestinian prisoners who have died in Israeli detention since 1967, of whom 72 died a result of the policy of deliberate medical negligence. Also, the number of prisoners’ bodies seized by the Israeli authorities rose to eight as Al-Amour’s body is still withheld. According to human rights organizations, there are roughly 600 prisoners in need of intensive medical care, as at least 19 prisoners diagnosed with cancer and tumors of varying degrees, the last of whom was Nasser Abu Hamid, who was – during the reporting period – in a coma in critical condition in the Israeli Barzilai Hospital after being diagnosed with lung cancer.

It is noteworthy that during the year 2021, Addameer followed up 55 cases of ailing prisoners in Israeli detention in coordination with other partner institutions. The cases included prisoners suffering from diseases before or during detention; prisoners suffering from diseases related to blood pressure, diabetes and heart, and bone and joint pain; prisoners living with scars after being subjected to torture during interrogations such as Samer Al-Arbeed and Jamil Darawi; and prisoners with dental problems due to poor diet and nutrition and the lack of periodic dental care.

🕒 Martyrs after captivity – Hussein Masalmeh another victim of medical negligence

The impact of the policy of medical negligence extended to prisoners even after their release from detention, as multiple of them died after their release from Israeli detention due to the medical negligence they were subjected to while in detention. Such a policy often exacerbated the health situation of prisoners suffering from diseases they had before or after detention.

The case of prisoner Hussein Masalmeh, 40 years old from Bethlehem, is among the evidence demonstrating the policy of medical negligence and stalling necessary treatment to prisoners, resulting in the deterioration of their health conditions.

Masalmeh died shortly after his release. He had been diagnosed with leukemia while in Israeli custody amidst a deliberate medical neglect. He spent nearly 19 years in prison before

he was released with a very critical health condition in February 2021. He was hospitalized in Hadassah Hospital before He was transferred to the Istishari Hospital in Ramallah, where he died on September 22.

Since the end of the year 2020, Masalmeh's health had deteriorated and he had complained of severe pain for more than two months, during which the administration of the Naqab desert prison delayed his transfer to the hospital, continuing its policy of systematic medical negligence that led to further deterioration in his health. By the time his health was in a difficult stage, he was taken to the hospital to find out later that he had late-stage leukemia.

It is noteworthy that Masalmeh was arrested on 22 November 2002 and sentenced to 20 years in prison, of which he spent 19 consecutive years in various prisons. Vigorous legal efforts led to his release in critical condition after being diagnosed with leukemia, only to spend his last days under medical care in the hospital before succumbing to cancer and joining the hundreds of prisoners who passed away after their release due to the diseases they suffered from while in detention.

In this context, it must be noted that during the year 2021, former prisoner Mohammad Salahuddin, 20 years old from the town of Hizma in Jerusalem, also died of cancer. He was arrested in April 2019 and sentenced to two years in prison. In July 2020, he was diagnosed with cancer and was released in August 2020 in a critical condition. On January 2021, it was announced that he succumbed to cancer.

🕒 Ailing prisoners – Abdulbasit Maatan

Israeli occupation forces stormed the house of Abdulbasit Maatan, 48 years old from Al-Bireh, at 2:00 a.m. on 25 October 2021 and arrested him in front of his four children. He was transferred to an army camp, where he was kept bound and in the open air for more than two hours. He was then taken to Shaare Zedek Hospital, where he was asked health-related questions without undergoing any medical examinations, although he spoke of his serious health condition.

Maatan was transferred to Ofer prison, where he was briefly interrogated by the police for nearly half an hour. During the session, the police accused him of being an activist in a banned organization, an accusation he denied. A few days later, the military commander of the area issued a six-month administrative detention order against Maatan, which was later reduced in a court session to three months, ending on 30 January 2022.

Prior to his arrest; in 2018 in particular, Maatan underwent several surgeries, during which part of his intestines was removed. However, it became clear later that cancer cells had not completely dried out and that new cells might spread in his body, prompting Maatan to begin radiotherapy abroad. Although his condition requires intensive medical care, regular checkups and CT scans to make sure that cancer cells do not spread in his body – and to follow them up in case they do – the Israeli authorities have been deliberately neglecting his medical condition since his arrest. He has not been seen by a specialist, nor necessary and regular checkups have been conducted for him. All that has been done for him is mere routine checkups in Ofer prison clinic, in addition to being prescribed medication for high cholesterol and vitamin D pills.

🕒 Jamal Zaid – a confidential file with renal failure as its sole witness

Jamal Zaid, 63 years old from Al-Bireh, was arrested on 15 September 2021 from his home. The suffering of detainee Jamal Zaid is not only because of his old age but also because he suffers from many serious medical conditions that require close and constant attention. Zaid suffers from the effects of a previous stroke and previously underwent a retinal detachment surgery, requiring him to take fluid medication on a regular basis, in addition to his suffering from gout, blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol, and irregular heartbeat, all of which require regular medication. The aforementioned complications do not even account for his case of kidney failure, which requires dialysis every other day.

As a result of his medical complications, Zaid will spend his administrative detention period—of indefinite duration—in Ramleh prison clinic, where he undergoes dialysis three days a week. The session becomes four hours of suffering, after which he is transferred to the Ramleh prison clinic rooms, where he languishes with the rest of the sick prisoners in difficult conditions.

Zaid was arrested for the second less than 16 months after his release, under the pretext of a secret file, and was issued another administrative detention order. During his one-year-long detention, Zaid suffered from harsh living conditions in the Ramleh prison clinic, and during his movement between prisons, he did not receive the necessary medical treatment and was subjected to ill-treatment and deprived of adequate food, in line with the requirements of his diet, as mandated by his health condition. When his health condition deteriorated, he was taken handcuffed in the *bosta* from Ofer to the Ramleh prison clinic, despite the known arduous journey of the *bosta*. Some prisoners refuse treatment to avoid suffering through the *bosta*, which prompted the detainee Zaid to refuse transfer to the Ramleh prison clinic for treatment after he had been through the *bosta* transportation the first time.¹⁶

16 For more information on Jamal Zaid's case, see his profile at [Jamal Zaid | Addameer](#)



Chapter III:

Administrative Detention

For many years, the Israeli occupation authorities have turned administrative detention into a systematic policy to arrest hundreds of Palestinians every year without filing any charges or determining the duration of detention. A military commander often issues administrative detention orders against Palestinians from occupied West Bank for a duration of two to six months, which is subject to unlimited renewals.¹⁷ These orders are not based on any concrete evidence as they are issued by the occupation authorities under the guise of 'security reasons' and secret evidence on a supposed threat to the region's security and public safety. Thus, detainees and lawyers are denied access to their right to know the grounds for their detention, and thereby the right to offer a genuine defense. Administrative detention is a blatant violation of international covenants, in particular Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which states that any detained person shall be promptly informed of any charges against him in order to prepare an adequate defense.

For many years, the occupations authorities have used administrative detention as a card to obstruct the release of detainees. During the past years Addameer documented a number of cases in which the occupation authorities issued administrative detention orders against detainees who were scheduled for a release after spending a few months or even years in detention. This is not the only form noticed by Addameer, as our lawyers noticed that administrative detention is yet another approach to keep some detainees in detention for further interrogation, or when the allegations brought against them are not proven, or when the military prosecution fails to submit indictments. Accordingly, the occupation authorities seek to keep a person in detention under the pretext of 'a secret file,' which usually does not contain any additional materials other than those that the prosecution was unable to prove in an indictment.

During the year 2021, the occupation authorities issued 1,595 administrative detention orders, of which more than 530 were new while more than 800 were renewals. The number of orders issued during this year proves the systematic policy of the occupation authorities to increase the implementation of administrative detention. If these numbers are compared with the numbers of previous years, we find that this year witnessed a significant increase in the use of such orders, and thus supporting the fact that the occupation authorities are persistently resorting to this policy on a larger scale, and that the military courts¹⁸ are only a means of the occupation and a tool used by the intelligence and the army, as these courts permanently approve and confirm administrative detention decisions without a real judicial discussion or review.

It is noteworthy that in the past five years, the Israeli occupation authorities have issued 5,728 administrative detention orders against Palestinians, which confirms that the Israeli occupation authorities do not use administrative detention within a narrow scope, as established in international law, especially Articles 78 and 79 of the Fourth Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilians.¹⁹

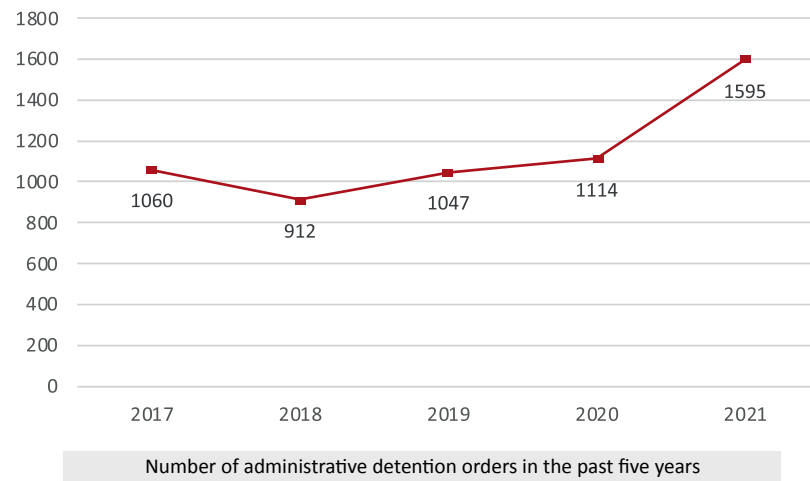
¹⁷ Palestinian Jerusalemites are issued administrative detention orders by the Israeli Minister of Public Security

¹⁸ For more on the history of Israeli military courts, see Addameer's document in this regard.

<https://www.addameer.org/node/4318>

¹⁹ See also another document issued by Addameer: <https://www.addameer.org/ar/content/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A>

See also: 'Administrative detention', The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, 1 January 2017. https://www.btselem.org/administrative_detention



⊗ Administrative detention affects everyone

This year arrests made by the Israeli occupation authorities included – as in other years – various segments of Palestinians. A number of PLC members were issued administrative detention orders, including Mohammad Bader, Yasser Mansour, Hatem Qafisha, Ahmad Mubarak, Nayef Rjoub, and Mohammad Abu Tair. In parallel, the occupation forces arrested a number of journalists this year and held them in administrative detention, including Mohammad Nemer Asida, Alaa Al-Rimawi, Hazem Nasser, Amer Abu Hlayil, and Bushra Taweel. The occupation forces did not exclude Palestinian children from its policy, as eight children were held this year in administrative detention, namely Sami Al-Hraimi, Amal Nakhleh, Mohammad Mansour, Baraa Wild Mohammad, Ahmad Al-Bayed, Wadea' Ihdavid, Musa Hammam, and Abdullah Hammam.²⁰

⊗ Elderly people or cases of critical health conditions: no one is immune

The occupation authorities pay no regard to any circumstances in its practices, as they arrest the elderly, children and mothers. Although this policy is not new, a number of cases rose eyebrows this year that prove the brutality and cruelty of the Israeli occupation.

On 7 June 2021, the Israeli occupation forces arrested Omar Abdul Rahim, 69 years old from Jerusalem, who suffers from heart disease and arterial problems. Omar was brought

²⁰ For more on children and administrative detention, see the chapter on children in this report.

before a court for the first time on June 10 and his detention was extended for a period of 72 hours for the purposes of issuing an administrative detention order against him. On June 17, a session was held and confirmed the four-month administrative detention order against Omar, ending on October 6.

During the confirmation session, the military prosecutor indicated that Omar was an activist in a banned organization and had a long history of arrests, which was deemed sufficient by the judge to believe that detainee posed a danger that requires him to be held in administrative detention for a period of four months. In response, Addameer's lawyer appealed the court's ruling, and the matter was heard before Judge Aram Lufman, who stated that the ruling to place the detainee in administrative detention for the full term was based on information received from multiple sources confirming that the detainee, despite his age, was a member of a banned organization.

The lawyer challenged these allegations, explaining that the detainee was over 69 years old, and that he had not been arrested for more than 16 years; a fact that would lead to the question about the nature of the activity that a person like him might be engaged in that would pose a threat to the security of the region. During the hearing, the lawyer stressed the seriousness of the detainee's health condition, as he suffered from heart and artery problems, and thus advised by one of his doctors to undergo an open-heart surgery. Despite all that the lawyer referred to, the court was intransigent and rejected the appeal.

Omar's case was not the only case that stood out this year. The occupation forces arrested Jamal Zaid²¹, an ailing man suffering from renal failure and a number of other health issues and is in constant need for dialysis on an almost daily basis. Jamal Al-Neser, 75 years old from Ramallah, another old man who was also arrested on 9 June 2021, after his house was raided. Al-Neser was brought before a military court and his detention was extended for a period of 72 hours in order to issue an administrative detention order against him. Indeed, an order of four months was issued against him, and his lawyer appealed the ruling. In a hearing held on June 28, the lawyer explained the detainee's health status, pointing out he suffers from diabetes, high blood pressure, and cholesterol. Nonetheless, the judge rejected the appeal and disregarded the detainee's health condition.

Through such practices, the occupation authorities are in grave violation of numerous international conventions, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention, stressing that the arrest and administrative detention should be used only as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time. However, the occupation authorities use administrative detention in cases of insufficient evidence for the purposes of keeping Palestinians in detention until the allegations brought against them can be proven.²²

²¹ For more on the case of Jamal Zaid, see the chapter on conditions of detention in this report.

²² See UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Opinion No. 24/2016 concerning a minor (whose name is known by the Working Group) (Israel), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/WGAD/2016/24 (Oct. 20, 2016), <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/WGAD/2016/24>

🔗 A release order is no obstacle to issuing an administrative detention order – the case of Bashir Kheiry

More than three years ago, the occupation authorities escalated its targeting of civil society institutions and human rights defenders and activists. Among those targeted this year was lawyer and human rights activists Bashir Khairi, 79 years old from Ramallah.²³

On 29 October 2021, the occupation forces stormed Khairi's home in Ramallah, arresting him and transferring him directly to Ofer interrogation and detention centre near Ramallah. A few court sessions were held; on November 1, 3, and 8 respectively, to extend his detention for further interrogation. In all of these sessions, the military judge gave the military prosecution the green light to extend his detention under the guise of conducting further interrogation and submitting an indictment against him.

On 15 November 2021, the military prosecutor submitted a list of charges against Khairi relating to his alleged association in an organization deemed "unlawful" under Israeli military orders. Notably, the list of charges cited as evidence events dating as far back as decades, including 2000, 2014, and 2017, including his participation in public events.

On November 21, Ofer military court ordered his release on bail of 5,000 NIS, along with a third-party guarantee of 10,000 NIS. In response, the military prosecutor appealed the ruling, and a hearing was held to review the appeal, which was rejected by the court. The Israeli military judge amended the terms of Khairi's release to increase bail to 10,000 NIS, along with a third-party guarantee of 20,000 NIS. Notwithstanding, the Israeli military prosecutor requested to postpone his release for 24-hours to consider an administrative detention order, to which the court acceded. The Israeli military prosecutor issued a six-month administrative detention order until 28 April 2022. The confirmation hearing for the administrative detention order was held on December 26, in which Judge Moshe Ben David confirmed the administrative detention order for the full term.

Khairi's case is yet another example of dozens of cases that are exposed to the same policy every year. The list of charges submitted against those detainees cited as evidence events dating as far back as decades, including the participation in public activities, or even lack evidence to support the allegations brought about by the occupation authorities. When a military court issues its decision to release a detainee, the Israeli military prosecutor hurriedly appeals the ruling, and, within a few hours, issues an administrative detention order against the detainee. In this regard, it can be argued that the Israeli intelligence service and the military prosecution control the judiciary system, as what happens in the end is

²³ Lawyer Farid Al-Atrash was also arrested on June 15 and was released after eight days of detention.

Israel must safeguard human rights defenders in Occupied Palestinian Territory and within its borders – UN expert, published on 11 Aug 2021, United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. Last visited on 21 January 2022.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27375&LangID=E>

what the intelligence service seeks to achieve. This is confirmed by the fact that a military judge upholds the detention of a detainee during the judicial review sessions, despite the fact that a previous judge may have issued a decision to release the detainee due to the lack of sufficient evidence.

Khairi was previously arrested four times before his current detention. He was first arrested in 1960s and was incarcerated for 15 years before being freed in 1984. Nevertheless, Khairi was arrested again on 13 November 1988 and was deported to Lebanon for five years before he was able to return in 1993. On 27 February 2003, he was arrested and placed under administrative detention for two years. He was arrested for the fourth time on 29 April 2011, interrogated at Al-Mascobiya interrogation and detention centre and denied access to his lawyer.

🔗 Hunger strikes as individual attempts to challenge the occupation policy

During the year 2021, more than 59 prisoners went on individual hunger strikes to have their demands met, the most prominent of which was to protest the Israeli occupation's policy of administrative detention. In addition, a few prisoners went on hunger strike for various reasons, such as demands to provide medical treatment, end solitary confinement and improve conditions of detention, or in a show of solidarity with other prisoners on hunger strike.

Among the cases that went on a hunger strike this year was Imad Sawarka, whose hunger strike lasted around 56 days and ended after reaching an agreement to set a definite period of time for his administrative detention. Sawarka was eventually released in July. Ghadhanfar Abu Atwan ended his hunger strike that lasted for 65 days after being issued a court ruling cancelling his administrative detention order. Khader Adnan went on hunger strike for 35 days, and Jamal Al-Taweel's hunger strike lasted 29 days in protest of his daughter's detention.

🔗 Hunger striking detainees in 2021 – case studies

Case study 1: Alaa Al-Araj

On 30 June 2021, Israeli occupation forces arrested Alaa Al-Araj, a 34-year-old engineer from Tulkarm, and transferred him to administrative detention, forcing him to declare a hunger strike on August 8 while being held in Megiddo prison. Following his strike, Al-Araj was moved to a cell with poor lighting and ventilation, and full of insects. During his strike,

he was repeatedly transferred to Al-Jalame prison, Ramleh prison clinic, and Afula Hospital. Addameer was able to visit Al-Araj in Ramleh prison clinic and Al-Jalame prison. During the visits, Al-Araj spoke of his pain across his body – particularly his abdomen, chest, head and eyes – blurred vision, severe renal pain, dizziness, fainting, difficulty in concentration, forgetfulness, loss of bladder control, and the regurgitation of water.

The poor physical conditions of his health is in part due to, and exacerbated, by harsh retaliatory practices by Israeli Prison Services (IPS). Al-Araj was placed in solitary confinement in Ramleh prison clinic, during which he spent two days in an extremely filthy and small cell, with closed windows, and full of cockroaches that he was forced to clean himself. IPS confiscated his personal belongings, including blankets, a towel, a Quran, and a prayer rug. On November 2, Al-Araj, who was still on hunger strike, was taken for interrogation in Ramleh prison clinic despite his critical health condition. After 103 days of hunger strike, Al-Araj ended his strike after an indictment was filed against him. It is noteworthy that Al-Araj spent more than five years in detention. He is married and father of one. During his hunger strike, he was transferred to Al-Jalame prison, Ramleh prison clinic and Israeli hospitals.

Case study 2: Hisham Abu Hawash

In October 2020, Hisham Abu Hawash, 39 years old from Hebron, was arrested and issued three administrative detention orders, each for a period of six months, the third of which was issued on 25 October 2021 and reduced to four months in an immaterial manner. He initiated an open hunger strike in protest of his continued arbitrary and indefinite administrative detention without charge or trial. He is a father of four, one of whom has kidney problems. He is also a former detainee who spent more than eight years in Israeli detention. During his strike, he languished in Ramleh prison clinic, and the IPS used to transfer him to Israeli hospitals when his health condition deteriorated and return him to Ramleh prison clinic.

During his strike, Abu Hawash suffers from pain across his body, particularly kidney and head, heart irregularities and vomiting. During a visit by Addameer's lawyer, Abu Hawash stated that he was placed in harsh living conditions in a cell in Ramleh prison, with high humidity, cockroaches, and extreme filth.

Abu Hawash's hunger strike was the longest this year, reaching up to 141 days, and almost took his life. However, on 4 January 2022, Abu Hawash ended his hunger strike after reaching an agreement to release him on 26 February 2022.

Case study 3: Kayed Fafous

In July 2020, Kayed Fafous, 32 years old from Hebron, was arrested and placed under ad-

ministrative detention. On 15 July 2021, Al-Fafous initiated a hunger strike, which lasted 131 days. During the strike, he stopped drinking water for two days more than once, which necessitated his transfer to the hospital. He was transferred between Al-Jalame prison, Ramleh prison clinic, Kaplan Hospital and Barzilai Hospital.

During his stay at the hospital, Fafous was heavily guarded for many days by 15 security guards, with his hands and legs bound to the bed. He was also denied access to the bathroom and was given an empty bottle to relieve himself. During his strike, he suffered from potassium and vitamin B deficiency, joint and back pain, severe cramps and headaches, and interrupted sleep, as he was unable to sleep more than two hours due to constant noise, daily searches and knocking on windows. His weight dropped from 95kg to 59kg. "Once, three guards were with me in the room. They were talking about food and trying to pressure me to eat. They deliberately ate food in front of me and provoked me by making sounds while eating," recalled Fafous. Such practices show the permanent attempts made by the occupation authorities to break and abuse the detainees.

The occupation authorities disregarded Fafous's hunger strike. On 14 October 2021, the Israeli Supreme Court chose to freeze the administrative detention order against him, prompting Fafous to continue his hunger strike. On October 29, his lawyer was informed of the decision to reactivate Fafous's administrative detention order for six months. However, another decision was issued on November 4 to freeze the administrative detention order. After 131 days of hunger strike, Fafous was issued a release order on December 12.²⁴

Case study 4: Miqdad Al-Qawasmeh

In January 2021, Miqdad Al-Qawasmeh, a 24-year-old university student from Hebron, was arrested and placed under administrative detention. On 21 July 2021, Al-Qawasmeh initiated an open hunger strike in protest of the policy of administrative detention pursued by the occupation authorities. Notably, Al-Qawasmeh was previously arrested on multiple occasions, and he spent nearly four years in Israeli detention serving sentences and administrative detention orders.

On 6 October 2021, while Al-Qawasmeh had been held in Kaplan Hospital in intensive care for more than a month due to the gravity of his condition, the Israeli Supreme Court chose to freeze the administrative detention order against him, but later reactivated the order on November 14. Al-Qawasmeh was transferred to Ramleh prison clinic, in complete disregard for his dangerous health condition, on the pretext that his health had improved. After 113 days of hunger strike, Al-Qawasmeh suspended his strike after reaching an agreement to release him in February 2022.

²⁴ See: 'Addameer's lawyer visits Fafous and Al-Araj, both in critical health conditions and held in harsh conditions in Ramleh prison clinic,' 30 September 2021, <https://www.addameer.org/ar/news/4514>

🔗 The policy of freezing administrative detention orders

In 2015, the Israeli Supreme Court issued a so-called decision to “freeze or suspend” administrative detention orders against Palestinian prisoners engaged in individual hunger strikes, a decision that was regarded by human rights organizations a tool to consolidate the administrative detention policy. The Supreme Court is still implementing it to this very day. Notably, freezing or suspending an administrative detention order does not mean the cancelation of the administrative detention all together, but rather a sheer attempt to release the IPS and the Israeli intelligence service (Shin Bet) from responsibility for the fate and life of the hunger striking prisoner, relegating him to unofficial prisoners under the guard of the hospital unable to be transferred by or returned to his family, and subjecting him to the hospital’s rules regarding family visitations. Additionally, the presence of prisoners in Israeli hospitals often prevents families from obtaining entry permits for visitation.

The Israeli occupation authorities used this policy with more than one case during the year 2021, including the cases of prisoners Kayed Fafous and Miqdad Al-Qawasmeh, whose hunger strike exceeded 100 days. The administrative detention order against Fafous was frozen twice before being reactivated, despite his serious health condition. Notably, he was transferred from intensive care in Kaplan Hospital to Ramleh prison clinic, further endangering his life and health.

🔗 The occupation’s attempt to withhold the name of the military commander issuing administrative detention orders

Military orders for administrative detention have always been signed by the explicit name of the military commander. A few months ago, however, the Israeli military stopped its policy of using the military commander’s explicit name on administrative detention orders, replacing it with the initials of his name. Such a change, as claimed by the Israeli military, was to preserve the security and safety of the military commander, as using his full name would pose a threat to him. It came mainly after an article in Haaretz newspaper in February 2021 stated the name of the military commander who issued an administrative detention order against child prisoner Amal Nakhleh. As a result, the decision was made to replace the military commander’s full name with his initials.

Stakeholders, mainly lawyers, were not notified of these changes, until they were spotted in October 2021 by one of Addameer’s lawyers. The lawyer selected five random files among the files he represented and filed a petition to Ofer military court in protest of sign-

ing military orders with initials only. The court approved the lawyer’s request and issued a decision requiring the military commander to sign administrative detention orders with his full name, giving the military prosecution until 12 February 2022 to rectify the decisions signed with the initials to be signed with the full and explicit name of the military commander. The military prosecution sought to appeal the court’s decision, stressing its previous argument that the use of an explicit name would pose a threat to the military commander, but the appeal was refused and the policy of signing by full name was restored.



Chapter IV:

Guarantees of a Fair Trial

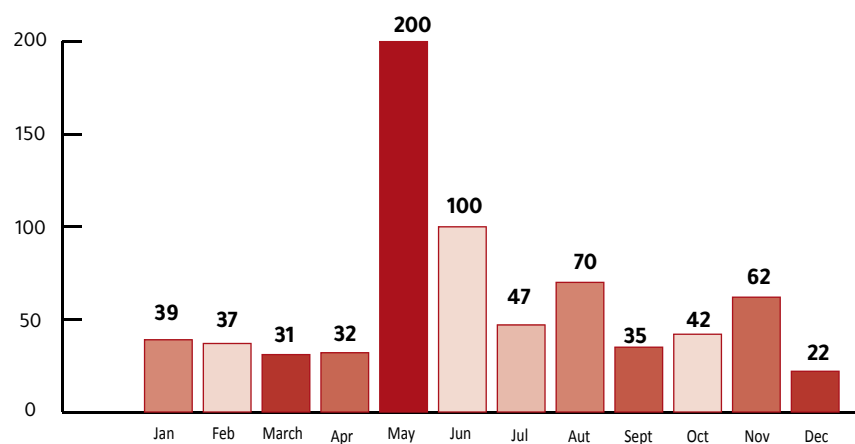
Various international conventions guarantee every person's right to a fair trial, including the right to an interpreter; the right to be informed promptly and in detail of the nature and cause of the charge; the right to prosecution before properly-constituted, independent and impartial courts, among others. However, Israeli practices often do not guarantee these simplest guarantees. With the spread of COVID-19, the scope of the Israeli occupation's violations of fair trial guarantees expanded, especially in light of the fact that court sessions were no longer held in courtrooms but via video conferences. Detainees did not appear in court, and their access to a lawyer was denied due to a ban on lawyer visitation to detention facilities under the pretext of state of emergency. It should be noted that there are many international conventions that emphasized the importance of ensuring fair trial guarantees, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Mandela Rules. Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court considers such practices a war crime in specific context.²⁵

No immunity to restrictions

Israeli violations do not exclude any Palestinian, without distinction of any kind, such age, gender, political affiliation, or even any professional immunity they may hold. The Israeli occupation forces annually commit dozens of violations against journalists, lawyers, and human rights defenders, and these violations include arresting them, summoning them for interrogation, or even obstructing their work; particularly the work of journalists by preventing them from covering what the occupation forces are doing towards the Palestinians. In 2021, the Palestinian Ministry of Information documented 717 violations against journalists, including cases of gunshot wounds, prevention of coverage of events, summonses, imposition of financial fines, home incursions, and blocking on social media.

The following figure shows the number of violations against journalists over the months of the year, which reveals a significant increase in the targeting of journalists in May and June. This was due to the popular uprising and the war on the Gaza Strip, during which the occupation forces deliberately obstructed the work of journalists, and confronted anyone who tried to document and publish the occupation's violations. During 2021, Addameer documented the detention of 20 journalists, 13 of whom are still held in Israeli detention.

²⁵ Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, article 8.



Number of violations against journalists in 2021²⁶

Banning journalists from practicing their work freely, constantly pursuing them and obstructing their work is a violation of numerous international conventions, including article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; article 2 of the UNESCO 1978 Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding, to the Promotion of Human Rights and to Countering Racism, apartheid and incitement to war; and Security Council Resolution No. 2222/2015 on protection of journalists.²⁷

🔗 Participation in the Palestinian elections is another reason to get arrested

Since the Palestinian National Authority announced its intention to hold legislative and local elections, the Israeli occupation forces started targeting candidates and election committees workers, with the aim of obstructing their political participation in the elections. This in essence constitutes a clear violation of human rights standards that guarantee citizens the right to political participation, whether by running for elections, voting, or other forms of participation in the political life. Persons were arrested for running for the elections or for taking part in organizing the elections, and such arrests violate the provisions of international legitimacy of human rights. In 2021, Addameer documented the arrest and prosecution of a number of election candidates, including Najeh Assi, 47 years old from Ramallah, who was part of “Jerusalem is our Destiny” electoral list.

Assi’s house was raided on 12 April 2021. During Addameer’s documentation of the raid, Alia Assi, Assi’s wife, indicated that at around 10:40 p.m., Israeli occupation forces stormed their neighbourhood in Al-Bireh area, and came banging on the door of our house a few minutes later. “My husband opened the door and three soldiers grabbed him immediately, twisted his hands behind his back, seated him on a chair, and surrounded him. They were screaming and being brutal all the time. When I asked them to speak quietly, one of them pointed his weapon at me,” recalled Alia. Later, the occupation forces arrested Assi and withdrew.

Assi was not the only case, as a number of other candidates were arrested, including Hassan Al-Wardian, Fadi Amr, Alaa Hmaidan, Khaled Brahma, Mohammad Sabha, Zeyad Sheikh Abu Saleh, Yasser Al-Badrasawi, Youssef Qazzaz, and others. The Israeli occupation forces placed a number of them under administrative detention, while others were persecuted. Former prisoner Nasser Abu Khdeir, a candidate for the “People’s Pulse” electoral list, was held in detention for a few days before being released, but the occupation forces continued to pursue him after his release, as he was repeatedly summoned for interrogation; placed under house arrest; banned from entering the West Bank for a period of six months; and his health and national insurance were cancelled.

Such practices illustrate the constant persecution carried out by the occupation authorities against the Palestinians involved in the political life, in clear violation of all legal provisions that guarantee this right.

🔗 Arrested for Facebook posts

The occupation forces constantly tighten the screws on the Palestinians by inventing new ways to prosecute them. Among these policies is the pursuit of the Palestinians due to their posts on social media. During the year 2021, Ipoke documented 390 cases in which the occupation military system arrested or summoned Palestinians for their posts on social media.²⁸ By these practices, the occupation authorities violate the right to freedom of opinion and expression guaranteed in a number of international covenants, including article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Israeli occupation establishes legal grounds for arresting Palestinian residents of Jerusalem and the occupied Palestinian territories before 1948 on article 144.B and 144.D2 on Incitement to Violence or Terror of the Israeli Penal Code of 1977. The Israeli military prosecution base their decisions in incitement charges against Palestinians in the West Bank, to articles 251 and 199 of chapter G of the order regarding Security Provisions (consolidated version) No. 1651 of 2009.²⁹

²⁸ Ipoke, “The Palestinian Digital Reality,” 2021, p. 56.

https://ipoke.co/report/SocialMediaOnPalestine2021.pdf?utm_source=Palestine+Digital+Report+2021+|+ipoke

²⁹ See: “Arrests on charges of ‘incitement’ on social media platforms and Israeli government policy: a Facebook case study” published by Addameer on 7 January 2019. [Arrests on charges of “incitement” on social media platforms and Israeli government policy: a Facebook case study | Addameer](#)

²⁶ According to the figures documented by the Palestinian Ministry of Information

²⁷ Security Council resolution 2222 (2015), adopted at the 7450th meeting on 27 May 2015. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3CEsBTw>

🔗 Arrested for Facebook posts and held in administrative detention – Wisam Khatib

At approximately 4:00 a.m. On 22 February 2021, Israeli military forces stormed Wisam Khatib's house in Hizma, Jerusalem, breaking the glass veranda before storming the rooms of the house as the family was asleep without wearing masks. The soldiers violently shook Wisam to wake him up, allowing him to change his clothes without saying goodbye to his family. They tied his hands behind his back with plastic cuffs, blindfolded him with a piece of cloth and then took him on foot to the military vehicles. He was then transferred to Etzion interrogation and detention center, where he was held in harsh conditions for 14 days of quarantine before transferring him to Ofer prison.

A hearing session was held on 1 March 2021 to present an indictment against Khatib. The military prosecution presented a list of charges that included one clause that the detainee 'attempted, orally or otherwise, to influence public opinion in the area in a manner which harms the safety of the public'. This was apparently done through a post on his personal Facebook page that allegedly promoted incitement, harmed regional security, and called for violence.

During the hearing, the military judge decided to release Khatib under certain conditions; a financial guarantee of 5,000 shekels; the signature of two guarantors to guarantee an additional 10,000 shekels each; along with the requirement that Khatib is on call to return by necessity through his lawyer, and that is considered official notification. The military prosecution, however, requested a 72-hour extension of Khatib's detention to examine the possibility of issuing an administrative detention order against him. The military judge complied with the request and extended his detention, claiming that after examining a secret file, he found that there was reason to consider the request of issuance of an administrative detention order and that the circumstances justified the extension of his detention.

On 4 March 2021, the Israeli military commander issued an administrative detention order against Khatib for a period of four months ending on 21 June 2021. In the confirmation hearing held on 7 March 2021, the military judge claimed a basis for the administrative detention order and that the secret materials presented had nothing to do with the incitement charge against which Khatib was being tried. The judge stated that the detainee was an activist who threatened the region's security and that there was fear of more activity if released. Thus, the military judge confirmed his administrative detention order for the full term.

The administrative detention order against Khatib was renewed for a period of four months ending on 20 October 2021. In the confirmation hearing, the military judge confirmed his administrative detention order for the full term, claiming that Khatib is a threat to the region's security.³⁰

🔗 "Incitement" on social media... systematic repression

The persecution of Palestinians by occupation is no longer limited to physical acts of public and popular solidarity. Still, it now extends to everyone who publishes a post on social media that falls under the Israeli military's definition of 'incitement'.³¹ This had become the approach of the occupation authorities as it aims to repress the Palestinian people and impose control over them, criminalizing all legitimate action or words under a framework of linking it to 'terrorist acts.'

The Israeli occupation authorities seek to restrict any space available for the Palestinian people to express their opinion, whether through social media or union and student work, thus depriving Palestinians of the right to freedom of speech and expression by various means. The Israeli occupation is not satisfied with submitting indictments against those charged with 'incitement,' but, as Addameer had documented, often couples such charges with administrative detention orders so that each detainee is tried according to the indictment and subjected to administrative detention. In many cases, a person is tried on charges of incitement and stays for months in the occupation prisons. By the time their release arrives, an administrative detention order is issued against them. This practice clearly demonstrates how administrative detention represents a legal loophole that allows the Israeli occupation to hold Palestinians indefinitely without any clear charges.

In the case of the detainee Khatib, the nominal role of the military judge is evident through his issuance of a decision to release Khatib with conditions, only to approve the military prosecution's rebuttal then to extend his detention by declaring that the military judge has access to secret materials which allowed for the possibility of issuing administrative detention. The extension of Khatib's detention further shows the complicity of the military judges with the military prosecution's office in flagrant violation of fair trial guarantees and the mandates of independence and impartiality of judicial courts.

🔗 Double standards... a factor to the Israeli apartheid regime

The censorship imposed by the occupation authorities affects all Palestinian users of social media sites. It is not only the publication of posts themselves that are monitored and claimed to constitute incitement, but also the number and types of comments, and the

³⁰ Khatib was released on 20 October 2021 upon the expiry of the administrative detention order against him.

³¹ For further reading on arrests related to 'incitement' on social media, and the policies of the occupation regime and Facebook, see here: <https://bit.ly/32vSmEe>

number of likes so that these numbers are used to support the indictments of Palestinian detainees and determine the 'danger' posed by the detainee's post.

Through military orders, the Israeli occupation authorities have legalized the violation of freedoms of speech and expression, which apply—in violation of the law—to Palestinians only to perpetuate the apartheid regime. For example, the occupation state does not prosecute or question Israelis who use social media to urge the killing of Palestinians. At the same time, it throws Palestinians in prison for months or even years on end for posts containing pictures of martyrs or symbols or slogans of Palestinian parties banned under military orders.

According to a 2021 report issued by 7amleh – The Arab Center for Social Media Development, in 2020, one out of 10 publications related to Palestinians and Arabs on Israeli social media networks contained insults, incitement, and racism, an increase of 16% over the year 2019.³² Over time, with the impunity given to these practices by the Israeli occupation regime, incitement and racism against the Palestinian people continue to increase. Conversely, the prosecution and arrest of Palestinians on charges of incitement, on an illegitimate basis, is exacerbated and takes various forms under the broader aim of imposing greater repression on the Palestinian people and furthering the Israeli apartheid project.

🔗 Denying access to a lawyer... Other practices in violations of fair trial guarantees

Violations of fair trial guarantees are not limited to the aforementioned occupation practices. The occupation authorities each year deprive dozens of detainees of accessing legal counsel during the interrogation stage, by pursuing a policy of banning detainees from meeting with lawyers with the aim of completely isolating them from the outside world during the interrogation period, which is the most sensitive period of detention. Denying detainees access to legal counsel during this period would give the occupation authorities further space to falsify facts, making detainees believe things that contradict the truth, which would sometimes prompt them to provide confessions or information that could lead to their conviction later due to their lack of knowledge of their legal status. Furthermore, this could open the door to the occupation authorities to commit crimes of torture and inhumane treatment against detainees, and to obtain a sufficient period of time to hide the effects of these practices, as preventing the detainee from meeting a lawyer would impede the lawyer's ability to document the signs of torture on detainees' bodies in accordance with international standards.

32 7amleh - The Arab Center for Social Media Development, 'Racism and Incitement Index 2020: Racism and incitement against Palestinians and Arabs increase during the pandemic'. <https://7amleh.org/2021/03/08/mushr-alansryh-walthrydh-2020-azdyad-alansryh-walthrydh-dhd-alfstynyn-walarb-khlal-aljaehh>

The Israeli military orders permit depriving a detainee of meeting his lawyer during interrogation for a period of up to 60 days. In 2021, Addameer documented cases of 37 detainees who were denied access to their lawyers during the interrogation process, which made it easier for the occupation authorities to pressure the detainees and expose them to harsh interrogation methods.

🔗 Six Palestinian organizations stand up against the occupation's decision to designate them 'terrorist organizations'

On 19 October 2021, the occupation's Defense Minister Benny Gantz issued a decision declaring six human rights organizations to be 'terrorist organizations', including Addameer for Prisoner Care and Human Rights, Al-Haq, Bisan Center for Research and Development, the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees, the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, and the Defense for Children International-Palestine. This decision came despite the fact that the six organizations are registered with the Palestinian Ministry of Interior in accordance with the NGOs and Institutions Law, and are subject to its supervision and the supervision of the relevant ministries, and submit annual reports to these bodies.³³

Nearly three weeks after Benny Gantz's decision, the military commander of the occupation army in the West Bank declared these groups "unlawful" according to the 1945 Emergency (Defense) Regulations, imposing two parallel paths on these organizations, and thus enabling the occupation authorities to prosecute them and their employees. It should be noted in this context that this decision was preceded by a decision issued by the military commander in January 2020 declaring the Union of Health Work Committees and the Union of Agricultural Work Committees 'unlawful' associations. The organizations did not receive any information prior to the issuance of the designation orders, and found out about this only after some of its staff members were arrested.

The occupation authorities based its decision on the Counter-Terrorism (Anti-Terror) Law of 2016, and on very vague or baseless reasons. This comes as part of the occupation's ongoing policy years to target civil society organizations and their workers, specifically human rights organizations, through repeated raids on its headquarters³⁴, confiscating its properties, arresting its workers, and drying up its funding sources.³⁵

33 Council of Organizations, 'The designation of six leading human rights organizations by the occupation as 'terrorist organizations' is a failed attempt to silence and control the Palestinians', 22 October 2021, <https://www.addameer.org/ar/news/4539>

34 See: Israeli forces raid DCIP office, confiscate computers and client files, Defense for children- Palestine, 29 Jul 2021. Last visited on 12 Dec 2021.

https://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli_forces_raid_dcip_office_confiscate_computers_and_client_files.

35 <https://www.addameer.org/ar/news/4537>. See also: 'Occupation forces raid the offices of Bisan Center for Research and Development', Bisan Center for Research and development studies in Palestine, 29 Jul 2021, last visited on 23 Jan 2022. <https://www.bisan.org/occupation-forces-raid-the-offices-of-bisan-center-for-research-and-development/>

Following the designation orders, many local, regional and international bodies, coalitions and organizations supported the position of the six organization, affirming that the services they provide cannot in any way be linked to terrorism. “Claiming rights before a UN or other international body is not an act of terrorism, advocating for the rights of women in the occupied Palestinian territory is not terrorism, and providing legal aid to detained Palestinians is not terrorism,” UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said.³⁶

On 3 February 2022, as part of the organizations’ work to confront the designation orders, the organizations – with the exception of the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, which was previously declared ‘unlawful’ – submitted a petition to the Israeli military commander in protest of labelling them ‘unlawful associations’ according to clause 84(1)(b) of the 1945 Emergency (Defense) Regulations.

This objection came after the organizations sought to disclose materials allegedly implicating them by the occupation authorities. On 16 December 2021, the organizations sent a request to the Israeli military commander to disclose the investigation materials and what the occupation authorities call ‘evidence’ that led to declaring them terrorist and unlawful organizations. Thus, the failure to hand over all the materials on which this decision was based would constitute a legal breach, confirm that it lacked any just legal path, and deprive the organizations from its natural right to respond and defend itself.³⁷

🔗 Spyware surveillance of the six organizations and its staff

On 16 October 2021, prior to the Israeli designation of the six organizations as ‘terror organizations’, Al-Haq contacted Front Line Defenders (FLD) on suspicion of the spyware infection of the iPhone device of one of its staff members. FLD technical investigation found that the device had been infected in July 2020 with Pegasus spyware marketed by the Israeli NSO Group.³⁸

³⁶ Israel’s ‘terrorism’ designation an unjustified attack on Palestinian civil society – Bachelet, United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, 26 October 2021, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27708&LangID=e>.

³⁷ Palestinian organizations petition the decision declaring them ‘unlawful’, which lacks a sound and fair legal path, 3 February 2022, <https://www.addameer.org/index.php/ar/news/4680>

³⁸ See ‘Spyware Surveillance of Palestinian Human Rights Defenders’, 8 Nov 2021, <https://www.alhaq.org/ar/advocacy/19188.html>

Further forensic investigation-peer-reviewed by Citizen Lab and Amnesty International’s Security Lab revealed that at least five additional devices were also tapped into. Amongst them, Ghassan Halaika, Jerusalem-based field researcher at Al-Haq; Ubai Al-Aboudi, Executive Director at Bisan Center for Research and Development; and Salah Hammouri, lawyer and human rights defender at Addameer.

“When Pegasus is installed on a person’s phone, an attacker has complete access to a phone’s messages, emails, media, microphone, camera, passwords, voice calls on messaging apps, location data, calls and contacts. The spyware also has the potential to activate the phone camera and microphone, and spy on an individual’s calls and activities.” (FLD, 8 November 2021).

These practices illustrate the nature of the occupation authorities’ persistence in disregarding the domestic and international human rights system, as well as all international conventions that guarantee these rights.³⁹

Events continued to emerge after discovering that the staff devices had been hacked, prompting many to question the extent to which there is a link between such a discovery and the occupation declaring these six organizations as terrorist organizations, wherein such decision came only three days after the discovery of the spyware surveillance. Additionally, the Minister of Public Security revoked the Jerusalemite residency of lawyer and human rights defender, Salah Al-Hammouri, two days after discovering the hacking of the devices.

🔗 Shatha Odeh ... a human rights defender in Israeli detention

On 7 July 2021, Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) stormed the house of Shatha Odeh, the Director of the Health Work Committees (HWC) and the chairwoman of Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO). The IOF arrested Ms. Odeh and confiscated her mobile phone and the organization’s car. Her detention was extended multiple times for further interrogation, up until the military prosecutor laid out the charges against her on July 26.⁴⁰

³⁹ See also: ‘The six civil society organizations call for an international investigation to uncover the circumstances surrounding the hacking of its staff members’ phones by an Israeli spyware,’ 8 November 2021, <https://www.addameer.org/ar/news/4568>.

⁴⁰ See also: Palestinian civil society submit urgent appeal to un special procedures on the arbitrary detention and harassment of HRD Shatha Odeh, Addameer prisoners support and human rights association, 12 December 2021. Last visited on 1 January 2022. <https://www.addameer.org/news/4469>.

A number of charges were brought against Ms. Odeh, primarily revolved around her position in an unlawful association, wherein the military prosecution based this charge on an Israeli military declaration, dated 22 January 2020, declaring HWC to be an 'unlawful and illegitimate organization.' Although the declaration was never sent to HWC, the occupation authorities used it as one of the reasons to arrest Ms. Odeh. Other charges included Ms. Odeh's participation in an event affiliated to an organization deemed unlawful by Israeli occupying authorities. Addameer discovered it to be a public memorial service attended by many Palestinians, including political figures and civil society leaders.

The charges laid against Ms. Odeh lack clear evidentiary bases and are purposely extreme in nature. They reflect an escalating policy by Israeli occupying authorities of criminalizing fundamental Palestinian human rights and services through allegations of terrorist links, arresting staff members and attempting to cut their funding sources.

It is noteworthy that the military court hearings held for Ms. Odeh lacked the most basic guarantees of a fair trial, as none of the sessions lasted for more than 15 minutes, and no specialized legal interpreter was provided for the bulk of these sessions, as they were conducted in Hebrew; a language neither Ms. Odeh nor her family understand. This violates one of the most important guarantees of a fair trial based on the need to inform the accused of the charges against him in a language that he understands, and to provide him with an interpreter. This violates one of the key guarantees of a fair trial; wherein a defendant shall be informed promptly and in detail in a language which he understands of the nature and cause of the charge against him, and to have the free assistance of an interpreter.⁴¹

Ms. Odeh suffers from numerous chronic illnesses, including diabetes, blood pressure, irritable bowel, eye problems, a bulging disc in the neck, and irregular digestion, and is prescribed various medications that she need on a daily basis. Despite the fact that her health is extremely compromised, she was subjected to ill-treatment and medical negligence during the interrogation process. The Israeli Prison Services (IPS) denied her request to access one of her critical medications up until 15 July 2021, after her lawyer presented documentation proving the necessity of this medication. Until present, Ms. Odeh has lost nine kilograms as her health continues to deteriorate. The IPS systematic medical negligence violated Ms. Odeh's right to health and well-being as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)⁴² and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).⁴³

41 See Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

42 See Article 25 of UDHR.

43 See Article 12 of ICESCR.

Upon detention and up until her third hearing, for almost two weeks, Ms. Odeh was not allowed to have underclothing or clothes to change despite requests and clothes brought to the prison by her lawyer. Furthermore, the conditions of her detention were poor and inhumane, as she was held in a room with two metal beds, plastic mattresses, a thin cover and no pillows, and had to use the jacket she wore on the day of her arrest as a cover.

It should be noted in this context that the arrest of Ms. Odeh was not the only case, as a number of staff members from the six organizations were arrested or summoned for interrogation. Among them were Khitam Saafin, president of the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees; Juana Rishmawi, a fundraiser at the Union of Health Work Committees; and Tayseer Abu Shalbak, the former accountant at the Health Work Committees.

The occupation's crackdown on Palestinian civil society and human rights organizations continues to intensify, as evidenced by the recent raid on and closure of the headquarters of Defense for Children International-Palestine and Bisan Center for Research and Development in July.



Chapter V:

Students and Professors

The Israeli occupation continued to target Palestinian school, university students and even postgraduate students in 2021, in addition to the permanent targeting of university professors and blocking the entry of visiting professors.

Throughout the year, Addameer documented the arrest of more than 95 university students, the vast majority of whom were from Birzeit University and An-Najah National University. The arbitrary and mass arrests did not exclude students from other universities, including female students. The occupation forces arrested a number of university students, postgraduate students, and even schoolgirls, including sisters Safa and Amani Jaradat, Anaghim Awad, Mays Al-Muraqtan, Layan Nasser, Shams Mashaqi, and Mona Qa'adan, in addition to Nofouth Hammad, who is a minor.

The past three years have witnessed an increase in the targeting of Palestinian university students, as part of the occupation intensive campaign seeking to arrest a larger number of university students, and file indictments against them that are predominantly punishable for participating in university and student union activism. Most of these practices aimed at silencing the Palestinians and curbing any form of participation in political life. Through these mass arrests, the occupation authorities violate students' right to education, the right to form or join unions, as well as the right to political association enshrined in various international conventions, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the two International Covenants.

Among the prominent cases this year was the case of the student Ruba Assi, who was sentenced by the occupation authorities to a 21-month prison term on charges relating to her student and union activism, as well as her membership in an 'illegal' association under Israeli military orders (the Progressive Democratic Student Pole), and charges of throwing stones. The indictment laid against Ruba goes into minute detail on her participation in activities such as a book supplies fair, the hanging of flags and pictures of martyrs, selling books at discounted prices, along with food and drink on behalf of the 'illegal' association. This raised the question about the necessity of issuing such a high sentence against such activities.⁴⁴

44 For more information on the case of Ruba Assi, see Appendix 2 of this report.

🕒 The arrest of Safa and Amani Jaradat... the occupation's farce in indictments on the basis of student activism

On 11 March 2021, the occupation forces raided the Jaradat house in Hebron in order to arrest the two sisters; Safa and Amani, 24 and 22 years old, respectively). During the arrest process, both sisters were handcuffed with plastic cuffs, blindfolded, and searched. Then they were transferred to an unknown location, which one of them assumed was Etzion interrogation and detention centre, where they were placed in a very cold room for more than two hours. Later, both sisters were subjected to a brief interrogation session before being transferred to Hasharon prison.

On March 14, the first court hearing was held for Safa, and her detention was extended to March 18 in order to file an indictment. On March 18, Safa appeared in Ofer military court and had the indictment read to her, which included affiliation to a banned organization; assuming responsibilities in a banned organization, providing services to a banned organization, and taking part in a demonstration held by a banned organization. The multiplicity of clauses, although their content is the same, reveals the nature of the constant intimidation that the occupation forces seek to inflict upon the Palestinians, through which they mainly aim to amplify the indictments of Palestinian detainees, wherein affiliation to an association or organization entails participating in its activities, assuming some responsibilities and providing services.

In the indictment that was laid out against Safa, the public prosecution included her affiliation with the Student Labor Front, deemed by the occupation authorities as a student bloc affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Within the framework of this membership, the public prosecution indicated that the detainee was a member of a Facebook group affiliated with the Labor Front, and that she participated in a book fair held by the Labor Front at Hebron University, in addition to her participation in an activity held to commemorate the martyrdom of Ghassan Kanafani. The prosecution also referred to Safa's participation in a student activity that included distributing food items and juices to students of the Faculty of Medicine, among others.

On 26 April 2021, Judge Lidor Dirkmann sentenced Amani Jaradat to six months of imprisonment, starting from the date of arrest, a fine of 2,000 shekels, and a stay of execution.

“When we arrived at the centre, I asked one of the female soldiers to let me use the bathroom. She took me to the bathroom but refused to untie me, so I had to relieve myself with my hands still tied.”

Amani Jaradat

The indictment that was laid out against Amani was not significantly different from that of her sister Safa. The first court hearing was held on 11 March 2021, during which her detention was extended to November 18 for the purposes of submitting an indictment. On November 18, an indictment was filed against Amani and included the same main items: affiliation to a banned organization, assisting in providing services, attending a demonstration held by a banned organization, and assuming responsibilities in a banned organization.

Within the indictment, the public prosecution detailed these items by claiming that Amani was active in the Student Labor Front during her studies at Hebron University, and that she participated in recent years in the activities held by the Labor Front, including decorating the football stadium; hanging pictures of prisoners and martyrs; distributing masks to university students; and participating in organizing cultural competitions, the aim of which is to raise awareness and other items on which the occupation prosecution relied. The military court sentenced Amani to seven months of imprisonment, a fine of 2,000 shekels, and a stay of execution. Amani's case is an evident of the farce of the occupation's courts, wherein the court tried and punished Amani for activities she participated in during her time at the university, but her arrest and detention came after she graduated.

The clauses listed on both indictments confirm the nature of the occupation's persecution of Palestinian students, as the majority of such clauses – if not all – were based on community, political, or student union activism in which both students participated in the university during their studies. Such is a grave violation of the right to participate in political and union life, mainly since all the activities the occupation authorities claimed the students had participated in were peaceful, aiming in essence at raising awareness about student political, human rights and union issues at the university.

🕒 Abusing student Abdul Majid Hassan during his arrest

During the arrest process, the occupation forces abuse Palestinian detainees and their families, and often these abuses affect the families living in houses surrounding the detainee's house, and thus committing violations and attacks on people who have no connection to the detainee. One of the examples that embodied this policy was what happened during the arrest of Abdul Majid Hassan, an accounting major student at Birzeit University. At approximately 6:20 a.m. on 30 March 2021, the occupation forces stormed the house of Abdul Majid Hassan in Ramallah's Ain Misbah neighborhood. “We were shocked when the occupation forces stormed our house, accompanied by undercover agents. They stormed the place in a white Mercedes bus, and special forces raided our house in a barbaric and frightening way. They were so barbaric that they blew up and broke the door of the neighboring house,” said Shatha, Abdul Majid's sister.

“As soon as we opened the door of the house, soldiers spread into the rooms after they pushed my father aside. When they saw Abdul Majid in front of them in the corridor, they violently dragged him out of the house, after which they started beating him. They were so barbaric that they arrested him barefooted.” Abdul Majid’s arrest embodies the occupation authorities’ indifference to any Palestinian or what might happen to him/her during the arrest process, wherein the occupation forces stormed a house adjacent to Abdul Majid’s house, blew up the front door, caused damage to the property, and subjected everyone in the house to fear and anxiety, despite the fact they had no intention of arresting anyone in that particular house.

🔗 More than 30 students from Birzeit University arrested after visiting the home of a Palestinian prisoner

As part of the arrogant occupation’s practices, the occupation authorities are constantly targeting any form of solidarity with the families of prisoners and martyrs. This year, more than 30 male and female students from Birzeit University were arrested on 17 July 2021 when their buses were intercepted by the occupation forces during their return from a visit in solidarity with the family of prisoner Montaser Al-Shalabi, whose house was demolished by the occupation forces on 8 July 2021 in Turmusaya, north of Ramallah, after claiming that Al-Shalabi killed a settler and wounded two others.

Addameer documented the testimonies of the students who were held or arrested during this incident. “I was with a group of students. At around 5:30 p.m., as we were leaving the village of Turmusaya after visiting the house of prisoner Montaser Al-Shalabi, the occupation forces intercepted the two buses in which we were traveling. We were shocked when a number of occupation soldiers circled us,” said student Lina Amar.

“After the two buses stopped, we saw soldiers and undercover soldiers – armed soldiers disguised as civilians. The sight of the weapons was terrifying. They surrounded the two buses, ordered all of us to put our hands above our heads and not to move. This was before they entered the bus. We were forced to put our hands above our heads for more than half an hour,” added student Balqis Houshieh.

“We saw the occupation soldiers push off students on the first bus, beat and insulted them. We saw all this with our own eyes.”

Student B. H.

“After I was searched, they put me in a bus, and a female soldier told me to sit near the window. I didn’t understand what she was saying, but later she grabbed me by the neck and pushed me towards the seat by the window.”

Student L. A.

Later, the students were taken off for search. “They took us down, one by one. We were around seven [female] students. I did not see anything from my location, as they were taking the girls for search behind the bus. At first, they stood me by the door of the bus and searched me before I was moved to another place behind the bus and searched. When the female soldier got me off the bus, she pressed my arm tightly, and the way she searched me was very violent and humiliating; closer to [sexual] harassment as she pressed her hands on all parts of my body with no exception and put her hands inside my clothes. Behind us there was an open area with a mountain in the horizon, and there was a gathering of the villagers, meaning that there was no privacy for the search. The female soldier unpinned my hijab [head cover] only for the sake of the search, removed my blouse a little, told me to open my legs to the extent that I could no longer open them, and forced me to take off my shoes and socks. Another female soldier searched me again, even though I told her that I had been searched, but she did as if it was a provocation,” explained A.B.

“I stayed with my hands on my head for more than half an hour, during which my hands became numb. Whenever I tried to lower them a little to relax them, a soldier would at me to raise them again.”

A. B.

Some of the female students indicated that the occupation forces would deliberately remove one of the female students from the bus from time to time, called her family in front of her to pressure her, intimidated her family, and even tried to cast doubt regarding the whereabouts of their daughter. After hours of detention, at approximately 9:30 p.m., a number of students were released, while others remained in custody.

Addameer followed up a number of the legal files of the detained students. During the trial sessions and the submission of the indictments by the military prosecution, our lawyer noticed that the bulk of the indictment articles revolved around the students’ participation in demonstrations, provision of services to an illegal party – a reference to the Islamic bloc at Birzeit University – and taking part in a procession without a permit. This further illustrates the ridiculousness of the indictments submitted against the Palestinians in general and the students in particular, as the occupation authorities considered the participation of the students in a visit to the house of prisoner Montaser Al-Shalabi a violation. Thus and under this pretext, some students were tried, while others were detained for more than 30 days. Such practices constitute a continuation of the occupation’s general and systematic policies of obstructing the educational process of university students; a violation of their right to education, their dignity, and their freedom of movement. Moreover, such approach aims at silencing university students, violating their right to express their opinion and show solidarity with national causes.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ For more information, see ‘A statement issued by Birzeit University regarding the arrest of dozens of its students at the entrance to the village of Turmusaya,’ published on 16 July 2021. Accessed on 18 November 2021. Available at: <https://www.birzeit.edu/ar/news/byn-sdr-n-jm-byryzt-hwl-tql-lshrt-mn-tlbth-nd-mdkhl-qry-trmsv>

🔗 Mahmoud Rabie – a university student facing administrative detention and suspicions of incitement on Facebook

On 20 May 2021, the occupation forces arrested, Mahmoud Rabie, a student at Al-Quds University, from Beit Anan. Three days later, on May 23, a court hearing was held to extend Mahmoud's detention. Another hearing was held on May 30, during which the military prosecution clarified that it would not file an indictment against him due to the insufficiency of the evidence available against him, and that it is requesting a 72-hour extension in order to examine the possibility of issuing an administrative detention order against him.

The defense lawyer objected the extent of the recklessness with which the military prosecution deals with Palestinian detainees, indicating that the prosecution's request in the session held on May 23 that the detainee's detention be extended for further interrogation was not real, as the detainee confirmed that he was not interrogated from May 23 until May 30. Accordingly, Mahmoud's extension was not for further interrogation, but only for the purposes of keeping him in detention until the prosecution's file against him was prepared. The occupation practices take a sharper turn in this context when it fails to present indictments against the detainees, as in the case of Mahmoud Rabie. Instead of releasing the detainees in such cases, the military prosecution requests that their detention be extended for the purpose of issuing administrative detention orders against them. This explains the nature of the occupation's use of administrative detention as a backup card that they resort to in any case of detainees they want to keep in detention.

The public prosecution sought to counter the defense's argument by claiming that the detainee was arrested for suspicions of incitement on Facebook, and that the prosecution's refusal to submit an indictment against him in this regard stemmed from the lack of sufficient materials to link him to these suspicions, and accordingly, it requested an extension of detention to explore the possibility of issuing an administrative detention order. A military judge, therefore, extended Mahmoud's detention for 48 hours for the purpose of exploring this possibility.

The occupation forces issued a four-month administrative detention order against Mahmoud Rabie. On 10 June 2021, a confirmation session was held, during which the military court confirmed his administrative detention order for the full term. During this session, the military prosecution claimed the existence of a secret file that justified placing him under administrative detention, and stated in general that the detainee was active in a banned organization, as well as on Facebook. Conversely, the defense explained to the court that there was another aspect that the court overlooked; almost a year before the date of his arrest, Mahmoud received a phone call from one of the occupation intelligence officers, requesting Mahmoud's presence for an interview with the intelligence services,

but Mahmoud strongly refused and even insulted the intelligence officer during the call. Not long after this phone call, Mahmoud was arrested and interrogated by the intelligence before he was later released.

During the confirmation session, the defense sought to link all these events with the malicious arrest of Mahmoud, asking the military prosecution about the region's intelligence officer whom Mahmoud insulted over the phone, and whether this officer was responsible for requesting the issuance of an administrative detention order against Mahmoud. However, the prosecution declined to answer any of these questions, referring the matter to the secret file. Accordingly, Judge Rafael Yamini issued his decision to confirm Mahmoud's administrative detention order for the full term, as he was convinced that there were no other alternatives to detention.

It should be noted in this context that Mahmoud was supposed to travel to Germany for the purpose of completing his studies, but he was arrested before he could do so.

🔗 School teachers are targeted

At approximately 7:40 a.m. On 8 December 2021, Israeli special forces raided Al-Rawda Al-Haditha Girls School. During a telephone interview conducted by Addameer, Fatima Al-Rifai, the school headmistress⁴⁶, said that she was in one of the school's offices when special units dressed in black uniforms stormed the school campus, and it became clear later that they were searching for a female student, whom the occupation authorities were allegedly accusing of carrying out an attack that morning. The number of the forces present in the area increased and reached up to approximately 900 members of *Yasam* [special patrol unit], police and border police. They cordoned off the school and the surrounding area and withdrew at around 8:30 a.m., after arresting student 14-year-old Nofouth Ham-mad, her 15-year-old sister, the school principal, and the school counselor. During the raid and the search, the forces deliberately destroyed the property, broke the dropped ceilings, and vandalized the teachers' offices.

"The school counselor and I were seated in an intelligence vehicle and transferred to Al-Mascobiya interrogation and detention center, whereas the two students were taken in another car and we did not see them after that. As soon as I entered the interrogation room in Al-Mascobiya centre, I found interrogators waiting for me, and I was interrogated continuously from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., during which I was moved from one room to another, and from one interrogator to another. I moved between five different rooms," recalled Al-Rifai. The school counselor was released at around 11:30 a.m., while Al-Rifai was

46 Interview conducted by Addameer on 9 December 2021.

released later that day at around 5:00 p.m. Through these practices, the occupation forces intimidated more than 400 female students, arrested more than one student and school officials without any legal grounds, as most of these practices were carried out to punish those around student Nofouth Hammad.

Al-Rifai added that later that day, the occupation forces arrested student Israa Ghatit from her home and beat her during the arrest. They also arrested Nofouth's mother and summoned her father. Addameer documented what Nofouth's father was subjected to. Jad Hammad indicated that he had received a phone call from the Israeli intelligence services, after which he was summoned to Al-Mascobiya interrogation center, where he was kept in a waiting room for four hours and seated in a corridor before he was taken to an interrogation room. While he was in the corridor, Hammad was severely beaten. "While I was in the corridor, around five officers beat me with their hands and feet all over my body, but mostly on the head area. After I entered the [interrogation] room, they continued beating me without asking me any questions. Every time I was beaten, I saw how hateful and spiteful they were. The assault caused me bruises all over my body, and a hole in my left ear, in addition to being insulted and humiliated," said Hammad in his testimony to Addameer. Hammad was released later that day at 9:30 p.m. His daughter in the evening, as well as his daughter who was arrested with Nofouth.

Chapter VI:

Collective Punishment

Throughout this year, the occupation authorities continued its policies of imposing collective punishment on the Palestinian people, in terms of repeated raids of Palestinian villages and cities, mass arrest campaigns, and extensive search campaigns that often cause vandalism and destruction of property, and the arrest of dozens of Palestinians without any solid justifications but only as a matter of punishing all. Furthermore, these practices included house demolitions, which were carried out as a punishment of entire families for the act of one of their members. In 2021, the occupation forces demolished three houses as part of its collective punishment policy⁴⁷, including the house of prisoner Montaser Al-Shalabi in Turmusaya, northeast of Ramallah, following allegations that he carried out a shooting attack that left one settler dead and two others wounded. These practices left 13 Palestinians and six children homeless.⁴⁸ The occupation authorities, through its practice of the collective punishment policy, violates the standards of international law, as article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War stipulates that “No protected person may be punished for an offense he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited.”

🔗 Destroying homes and furniture

At approximately 12:00 p.m. on 19 January 2021, the occupation forces arrested Faris Al-Shouli, 25 years old from Asira Al-Shamaliya, north of Nablus, while returning from Al-Quds University – Abu Dees at a police checkpoint that was erected near the settlement of Ma’ale Adumim. The vehicle, in which Faris and a group of his relatives were, was pulled over at the checkpoint and Faris was arrested and transferred to Petah Tikva interrogation and detention center. Less than 24 hours after his arrest, the occupation forces stormed his family’s house at around 1:00 a.m. “We were sleeping on the second floor of our two-storey house, and we were surprised to find the soldiers above our heads in the bedrooms with their rifles pointed at us. During the raid, they broke three main doors; one of metal, one of aluminum, and one of multi-lock,” recalled Ismat Al-Shouli, Faris’s father.⁴⁹

47 This number does not necessarily reflect the number of housing units and establishments that the occupation authorities demolished during the year 2021. It only reflects the cases in which the demolitions took place as part of the collective punishment policy. However, numerous housing units and establishments were demolished in 2021 under the pretext of lack of a building permit, wherein the occupation authorities deny Palestinians in Jerusalem and Area C access to building permits or impose hefty fines on houses built without a permit.

48 Demolition of houses as punishment, The Israeli information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories. Available at: <https://statistics.btselem.org/en/demolitions/demolition-as-punishment?tab=overview&demoScopeSensor=%22false%22>

49 Telephone interview conducted with Ismat Al-Shouli by Addameer on 20 January 2021.

Al-Shouli said that the army unit that stormed his house was large, with approximately 50 male and female soldiers, and two police dogs. The soldiers treated the family members rudely, shouting at them, holding him and his wife in a room, and assaulting his son Khaled. “We could hear the beating and screaming of my son Khaled. He was beaten up, handcuffed, blindfolded, and locked in the bathroom for nearly one and a half hours.” The occupation forces thoroughly searched the house, destroying furniture, ransacking and emptying wardrobes, ripping off the aluminum window shutters and the wooden door frames, breaking glass windows, and leaving traces of mud all over the house as their boots were soaked in mud.

The case of Al-Shouli family embodied a vivid example of the policy of collective punishment. In addition to breaking into the house and destroying property, the occupation forces arrested Faris’s father, in order to put pressure on Faris during interrogation. Faris told Addameer’s fieldworker that during one of the interrogation sessions, his father was brought into the interrogation room, threatening Faris that his father would be kept in detention. Ismat Al-Shouli was released at a later time, whereas Faris was released on 10 March 2021. This confirms the occupation’s policy of violating the rights of the Palestinians and exposing them to such practices in an unfair manner, with no aim other than to abuse them and their families.



Pictures depicting the destruction caused by the occupation forces to Al-Shouli house⁵⁰

50 Pictures provided to Addameer by Al-Shouli family.

🔗 Abusing numerous families in Al-Doha

During the year 2021, the occupation forces raided a number of Palestinian houses in Al-Doha, southwest of Bethlehem, during which family members were abused and threatened. The occupation forces raided the house of 26-year-old Mosab Al-Azza, after breaking down the main door, according to Mosab's mother⁵¹. Mosab was then interrogated and repeatedly threatened with administrative detention, and that he would spend years in detention. Mosab's mother added that the soldiers searched the house, destroyed the furniture by deliberately emptying the wardrobes and searching the kitchen cabinets and the refrigerator.

The Al-Azza family was not the only family that was subjected to such practices, as the occupation forces also stormed the house of 23-year-old Mohammad Fararja at exactly 3:00 a.m., after breaking down the main door to the house. Addameer documented the incident, during which the occupation forces searched the house in a barbaric manner, entered all rooms and destroyed the furniture, by turning over the mattresses; taking the clothes out of the wardrobes; and tearing some sofas. According to Haifa Fararja, Mohammad's mother, even though the soldiers' boots were dirty with mud, they deliberately stepped over the quilts, mattresses, and carpets. "One of the soldiers asked my son Abdullah, 17, for his mobile phone, and when my son refused to hand it over, the soldier pushed him hard against a plaster wall, causing my son back pain and breaking part of the plaster wall," recalled Haifa. It is reported that after about half an hour, a second unit of the occupation forces raided and searched the house again in the same way, deliberately causing destruction like the one caused by the first unit. The occupation forces withdrew from the house without making any arrests or leaving any notification to anyone. All this abuse and vandalism aimed at intimidating and interrogating Mohammad inside the house.

🔗 Family abuse as part of a systematic policy

On 4 August 2021, an occupation army unit raided Baraa Odeh's house in Deir Ammar, northwest of Ramallah, and arrested Baraa. Later on August 24 at approximately 3:00 a.m., the occupation forces stormed the family's house again. During Addameer's documentation of the incident, Baraa's sister, Salsabil⁵², noted that the occupation forces barbarically stormed the house. Prior to the raid, the family heard the soldiers' voices outside the house, prompting them to open the door quickly in order to avoid detonating it. The occupation forces dealt with the family violently, threatening and yelling them, and ignoring the presence of three children in the house.

51 Interview conducted with Elizabeth Al-Azza - Mosab's mother, on 16 February 2021 by Addameer's documentation staff.
52 Telephone interview conducted by Addameer on 31 August 2021.

"The occupation forces took my 16-year-old brother Mohammad and kept him in a room alone while he was tied up. We could hear a severe beating, and they were asking about Baraa's phone. Later, five soldiers attacked me, pulled my clothes off and tried to take off my prayer clothes. They also attacked my mother and tried to pull off her clothes," recounted Salsabil. The occupation forces continued searching the house until they found Baraa's phone. They told the family to open the phone. They even detained the three children in a military vehicle in front of their mother and older sister to pressure the family to unlock the phone.

Another example that can be given in this context is the case of Hammad family. In December 2021, the *Duvdevan* unit [a counter-terror unit] raided the family's house in Qalandia refugee camp, north of Jerusalem, at exactly 4:00 a.m. The family woke up to the sounds of the house's door being blown up and the soldiers' screams. The soldiers broke into the two-storey house. Osama lives on the second floor with his wife, whereas his parents and siblings live on the first floor. "During the raid on the house, the soldiers were accompanied by a dog tied to a leash about 10 meters long. One of the soldiers was holding the end of the leash, and when we were shouting at him, the dog was trying to attack my brother Mohammad. One of the soldiers threw three stun grenades into the house, directly at us, and my brother Mosab's left knee was wounded after one of the grenades exploded next to him. Later, the soldiers grabbed me and my brother Mosab, tied our hands behind our backs with plastic cuffs, put us aside and beat us with their hands and feet and their rifle butts. One of the soldiers hit my head against the wall three times," recalled Osama.

The Hamdan family's case embodies another aspect of the use of family members to pressure detainees, as the occupation authorities have for years implemented such policy to exert pressure on Palestinians to coerce them to turn themselves in or to extract confessions from them during interrogation.

At approximately 1:50 a.m. on 24 November 2021, the occupation forces, accompanied by the police and intelligence, moved into Al-Jalazone refugee camp, north of Ramallah, and raided the Hamdan family's house and two other houses. "The occupation forces entered the house and broke the wooden front door. My wife and I live on the first floor, whereas my parents and siblings live on the second floor. They started asking about my brother Ahmad, but they did not find him. During the search for my brother, the occupation forces assaulted my younger brother because he did not know where Ahmad was. Then my mother and I were arrested to force Ahmad to turn himself in. Indeed, I was handcuffed and blindfolded, and my mother and I were taken to Beit El settlement. After waiting for

a while, an officer informed me that I would be released, but my mother would be kept in custody until my brother Ahmad turned himself in. I was released and my mother was held in detention until 5:00 p.m. My mother told us that her hands and feet were cuffed for a long time,” recalled Osama.⁵³

🕒 Beita, Turmusaya, and Aqraba – villagers targeted and arrested

For more than thirty years, the occupation authorities have been trying to control Jabal Sbeih, which is located between the villages of Beita, Qabalan and Yitma in the West Bank, and on which the occupation army established the Tabuhim military camp in the eighties before withdrawing from it a few years later. In 2013, a group of settlers set up an outpost under the name Evyatar, but it was vacated after a short period of time by a military order issued by the commander of the central region in the Israeli army. On 2 May 2021, a group of settlers decided to rebuild the outpost and managed, within two months, to pave some streets, construct some stone buildings, and install caravans, bringing the number of settler families who moved there to around 50 families.⁵⁴

The residents of the Palestinian neighboring villages have sought to counter the attempts of the occupation and the settlers to seize Jabal Sbeih on a daily basis by mobilizing night rotation units to provide constant protection for the mountain, and repeatedly clashing with the army and settlers in that area. These continuous clashes have resulted in mass arrest campaigns carried out by the occupation forces in Beita, raids on many homes, and destruction of property.

Addameer documented some of these practices in Beita village, one of which was carried out against members of Hamayel family. During an interview conducted by Addameer, Ammar Hamayel, 30 years old from Beita, said that on 20 June 2021, the occupation forces raided the family’s house, blew up the door, handcuffed a family member, and destroyed the property, as the soldiers deliberately tore the sofa, smashed some photo frames, and broke the glass in the kitchen.

Hamayel recounted to Addameer the details of his arrest. “I was not allowed to say goodbye to my wife. I was taken out of the house on foot and then transferred to Huwwara interrogation and detention center, where I was placed in a white army bus. I was searched normally, but I was not seen by a doctor, nor was I tested for coronavirus. I was held in a room with four other detainees. There was no toilet in the bathroom. The food provided to us was of poor quality, and we were not provided with any disinfectants or cleaning materials. Despite the fact that some detainees felt ill, they were always given pain-relieving pills without seeing a doctor or taken to the clinic.”

⁵³ Telephone interview conducted by Addameer on 26 November 2021.

⁵⁴ ‘The issue of Evyatar outpost (Jabal Sbeih) and its reflection on the Israeli government’, a position paper issued by the Palestinian Center for Israeli Studies – MADAR, 25 June 2021, <https://bit.ly/3fN4M1l>.



The destruction caused by the occupation forces to Hamayel family’s house in Beita

Beita was not the only village that was subjected to such practices, as the villages of Turmusaya and Aqraba witnessed similar practices. Israeli occupation forces in large numbers raided the house of Montaser Al-Shalabi⁵⁵ in Turmusaya and arrested his son Ahmad at approximately 2:30 a.m. on 4 May 2021. Al-Shalabi’s wife noted that more than 150 soldiers were inside and outside the house, and that they did not give the family the opportunity to answer the door, as they deliberately blew up the door and detained the wife and children in the house with a large police dog, which scared the children and caused them to scream all the time. The soldiers intentionally destroyed the wardrobes and their contents and did not leave the house until 10:00 a.m., after arresting Ahmad, who is a high school student and was doing his school pilot examinations.



From Aqraba village

The occupation forces’ incursions into Turmusaya continued for a few days until Montaser Al-Shalabi was arrested. On 5 May 2021, the occupation forces raided the village and arrested Sanaa, Al-Shalabi’s wife; Lafi Al-Shalabi, the former council head, and Zeyad Abu Zahra. In conjunction with what was taking place in Turmusaya, and the extensive search for Montaser Al-Shalabi, the occupation forces were also implementing mass arrest campaigns and harassing the Palestinians in Aqraba, believing that Al-Shalabi had fled to it. On 3 May 2021, the occupation forces stormed Aqraba, imposing a curfew and restricting movement, in addition to setting up military checkpoints around the neighboring villages of Qusra, Awarta, and Majdal Bani Fadel. Their pres-

⁵⁵ All the incursions that took place in Turmusaya and Aqraba were to search for Montaser Al-Shalabi, who the occupation authorities were accusing of carrying out a shooting attack that killed a settler and injured another.

ence in Aqraba continued to the following day when military reinforcements arrived to the village, including armored vehicles. They raided and searched more houses, during which they destroyed property, detained dozens of families inside their homes, turned some of the houses into military barracks, and partially destroyed a number of houses by targeting them with live ammunition and grenades.

All of these practices are form of collective punishment, as the occupying power targeted entire regions and isolated them from the outside world, impeded movement to and from these regions, arrested dozens of people, conducted field investigation with others, and destroyed the property of the residents of those regions, which represents an explicit violation to the provisions of international law.

🕒 Targeting Palestinian institutions and obstructing any community or national activities

The occupying authorities are constantly targeting Palestinian national and community institutions, seeking to obstruct the work of these institutions; cut off their funding sources; raid their headquarters and arrest their staff members. Such policy was clearly embodied during the year 2021 when the occupation authorities declared six Palestinian organizations as unlawful. The designation targeted six of the most prominent and vital organizations of Palestinian society, constantly working to expose the crimes of the occupation, locally and internationally, and to hold the occupation accountable for such crimes.

Similarly, Jerusalem is faced with constant harassment, as the occupation forces arrest every year hundreds of Palestinians from Jerusalem and demolish dozens of their facilities under the pretext of lack of building permits, in addition to targeting community-based organizations and seeking to close the majority of such organizations. Among the facilities that were targeted during 2021 was the Mount of Olives Women's Center in the city of Jerusalem. In an interview conducted by Addameer, Ikhlas Al-Sayyad, the director of the center, indicated that on 8 March 2021, the center was marking the International Women's Day by organizing an open day in which women benefiting from the activities of the center can display some of their products that they make. However, at around 11: a.m., only six minutes after the opening of the exhibition, everyone was shocked when a number of Israeli intelligence agents stormed at the center and detained Al-Sayyad separately from the rest of the staff members.

"They told me to shut down the place and told everyone to leave. When I asked why they were holding me, they told me I was accused of organizing an event funded by the Palestinian National Authority, and that they had an order issued by the Minister of Public Security banning such an event and closing the centre," added Al-Sayyad, who was taken to Al-Mascobiya interrogation and detention center, where she was interrogated for a few hours before she was released.

Another example of targeting the Jerusalemites is the case of its Governor Adnan Ghaith. Since his appointment as the governor of Jerusalem at the end of August 2018, Ghaith has been repeatedly pursued by the occupation authorities, as he is monthly – if not weekly – summoned or arrested, held under house arrest, and has the course of his movement inside the city restricted and predetermined. Furthermore, military orders are issued against him preventing him from entering the West Bank, or even getting in touch with a number of Palestinians, including Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, leaders, officials and activists, in addition to banning him from participating in many national events.

The various practices show the face of the occupation authorities that permanently seek to Judaize the city of Jerusalem and target any Palestinian living there. The occupation authorities are constantly trying to obstruct any activity that reflects the Palestinian identity, and arrest any Palestinians involved in such activities, denying Palestinians living in Jerusalem and the surrounding areas access to their most basic humanitarian, political and civil rights.

Chapter VII:

The Popular Uprising

Between April and June 2021, the occupation authorities escalated its attacks and suppression towards the Palestinian people, especially those living in the 1948 occupied territories, as part of its policies targeting everything and everyone that is Palestinian. These attacks included a violent aggression on the Gaza Strip by warplanes and artillery, which led to the martyrdom of more than 225 people; including 65 children, 39 women, and 16 elderly people, and the wounding of more than 1,700 people, most of whom were civilians. Conversely, the Israeli occupation regime issued a judicial ruling to evacuate a number of Palestinian families from their homes in occupied Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, as part of its systematic policy to forcibly displace the Palestinians and extract them from their homes and land. It can be argued that the occupation forces stepped up their repression of the Palestinians with the start of the blessed month of Ramadan by implementing certain practices such as preventing Palestinians from gathering at Bab Al-Amoud [Damascus Gate], carrying out repeated incursions into Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Old City of Jerusalem by the occupation police and settlers, and abusing the worshipers in Al-Aqsa and its surroundings.

Together with everything that was taking place in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Palestinians in the 1948 occupied territories were subjected to attacks and suppression by the occupation forces after they went out to the streets in peaceful demonstrations. The occupation forces targeted them with live ammunition and grenades, carried out random mass arrests, exercised excessive use of power, used methods of beating and dragged off protesters during the arrest process. Below are some of the practices implemented by the occupation authorities during the arrest of Palestinians in Jerusalem, the West Bank and the 1948 occupied territories that were documented by Addameer between April and June 2021.



Violence used by the occupation forces during the arrests

🔗 Assault and repression by all means

The spark of clashes erupted in the city of Jerusalem with the start of the month of Ramadan; more specifically on 13 April 2021, following the occupation authorities' unjustified decision to ban the Palestinians from gathering at *Bab Al-Amoud* in light of its daily storming by the occupation forces and settlers. Clashes erupted between the occupation forces and the Palestinians after the occupation forces attacked those at Bab Al-Amoud and in the Old City with beating, dragging off along the road, spraying gas and wastewater, in addition to firing rubber bullets⁵⁶, and assaulting and scattering the worshipers in Al-Aqsa Mosque, in a clear violation of their right to the freedom of worship.⁵⁷

In the same vein, and with the decision of the occupation courts to forcibly displace 28 Jerusalem families from Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, solidarity events were held on a daily basis with the residents of the neighborhood who were subjected to settlers' daily attacks. Solidarity took a peaceful form, but the residents and the activists were subjected to daily attacks by the occupation police and special forces, as they were beaten, dragged off, shot at, targeted by teargas and wastewater, in addition to being expelled and blocked from entering the neighborhood. Journalists were banned from photographing, and residents were assaulted and targeted with teargas inside their own homes. The occupation forces also set up cement barriers and berms at the entrances to the neighborhood, restricting the movement of its residents, checking IDs of Palestinians, blocking the entry of non-resident Palestinians into the neighborhood, turning the neighborhood into a military barrack, which simultaneously granting access to organized groups of dozens of Israeli Jewish extremists – many of them armed – according to Mona Al-Kurd, one of the local residents.⁵⁸

Addameer documented a number of cases in which civilians were assaulted by the occupation forces, among them was Leith Ghaith, 26 years old from Jerusalem. On 8 May 2021, Ghaith was present at *Bab Hutta* [Forgiveness Gate] in Jerusalem, where he works as a cart vendor. In his testimony, Ghaith explained that he was standing at his cart when a policeman sought to start a fight with him, and although Ghaith tried to stay away from the policeman more than once, the policeman continued to provoke him until he punched him in the face near the left eye. A score of the occupation policemen came in and took part in punching and kicking Ghaith and beating him up with sticks for nearly two minutes, during which Ghaith tried to protect his face, but he was handcuffed behind his back and transferred to the occupation police station near *Bab Al-Asbat* [Lion's Gate].

⁵⁶ For more about the overall violations and attacks that took place during this period, see: 'Adalah defends rights of Palestinians protesters in East Jerusalem and across Israel', 11 May 2021, <https://www.adalah.org/ar/content/view/10314>

⁵⁷ 'Adalah calls on the Legal Advisor and the General Inspector to stop the police forces from preventing worshipers from accessing Al -Aqsa Mosque,' 8 May 2021, <https://www.adalah.org/ar/content/view/10311>

⁵⁸ 'Adalah, Sheikh Jarrah residents and the Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem petition Israeli Supreme Court against police checkpoints at access points to the neighborhood,' 20 May 2021, <https://www.adalah.org/ar/content/view/10335>

At the police station, Ghaith was beaten by the occupation forces until he lost consciousness. "I partially regained consciousness, but then a border policeman hit me with his knee on my teeth, and another one punched me on the head, after which one of them spat in my face. An occupation policeman then lifted me off the ground by pulling me by the handcuffs, while another policeman kicked me on the chest four times and said to me in Hebrew, which I understand well, 'until you die.' After that, an ambulance took me to Shaare Zedek Hospital," recalled Ghaith.

Ghaith was not the only case, as Addameer also documented what Yassin Sbeih and Naji Abbas were subjected to during their presence at Bab al-Amoud in a vigil against the occupation regime's practices in Jerusalem. The protesters were scattered by the cavalry unit, which is affiliated with the occupation police, and the border police who fired stun grenades and rubber bullets to disperse the protesters. "The protesters were dispersed. When my friend Naji and I returned to Bab Al-Amoud, we saw seven border policemen pushing and assaulting three young Palestinian women, so we both rushed to their rescue, but a large number of border policemen, who were deployed in the area to suppress the protesters, arrested both of us," recounted Yassin.

The occupation forces tied Yassin's hands behind his back using plastic handcuffs which they tightened to be exceedingly painful. He was then taken to a place called '*Al-Burj*' [The Tower] in front of Bab Al-Amoud, where an Arabic-speaking occupation officer commanded the soldiers to beat Yassin and the other detainees. "The soldiers closed the door of the tower, tackled me to the ground, and started punching me all over my eyes, nose, ears and chest. One of them stepped on my head and kicked me, which caused bruises to my nose and eyes, and a hole in the right ear. Moreover, one of the soldiers tried to suffocate me with his hands for about half a minute, until I moved my head forcefully because I could no longer breathe. In addition to the previously mentioned bruises as a result of the beating I was subjected to, there were bruises to the rib cage," continued Yassin.

Yassin Sbeih was transferred to Salahuddin police station, where he was interrogated and charged with assaulting a policeman, participating in banned demonstrations and threatening a policeman. He was later transferred to Al-Mascobiya interrogation and detention center, and then to the transit section at Ramleh prison. He was released after five days of detention on bail of 500 shekels, a third-party bond of 5,000 shekels, in addition to being deported from Bab Al-Amoud for one month, and banned from participating in any demonstrations for one month.

🔗 Assault on a father and his two sons, one of whom is blind

Three members of the Salah family, Khaldoun and his two sons; Ali and Yousef, were attacked by the occupation forces while they were sitting for a few minutes in Bab Al-Amoud area. They were attacked, beaten and arrested. As a result, they suffered multiple bruises, wounds, and various pains. Khaldoun explained that he was with his two sons at Bab Al-Amoud on 22 April 2021 when they were approached by special unit operators, who started pushing and assaulting them before arresting them and taking them into the holding room in Bab Al-Amoud. Inside the room, the father and his two sons were brutally and unjustifiably attacked. “I told the soldiers over and over while they were arresting and beating us that my 22-year-old son, Ali, was of special needs; blind and cannot see at night at all, but they acted indifferent and continued to beat him. Ali tried to tell them that while he was lying on the ground and showed them the “blind” card, but they refused to stop beating him,” added Khaldoun.

Khaldoun described what he and his two sons were subjected to as “breaking and not an ordinary beating, as it was carried out with rifle butts, feet and hands. We were gassed with pepper spray, handcuffed and thrown to the ground in the corners of the control room.” Khaldoun clarified that the soldiers deliberately hit them on the head and back in particular. After about half an hour of detention and beating, Khaldoun and his two sons were taken to Salahuddin police station. His two sons were later released on the condition that they are on call to return for interrogation, while Khaldoun remained in detention and was released the following morning without conditions.

Palestinian in the 1948 occupied territories faced similar methods of repression, as protesters were beaten with batons and rifle butts, dragged along the ground, and targeted with live ammunition, rubber coated bullets and tear gas. In addition to being oppressed by the occupation forces, Palestinians in Arab towns were also oppressed and assaulted by settlers, as a number of them were shot at and wounded by settlers, including Musa Hassouna from Lod who was shot and killed by a settler, and 17-year-old Mohammad Kiwan from Umm al-Fahm who shot and killed by a bullet to the head fired at him by an occupation police officer on 12 May 2021.

On the other hand, the West Bank witnessed an escalation in attacks by the occupation forces and settlers, following the allegation that a Palestinian had carried out a shooting attack at Za'tara checkpoint that left one settler dead. The occupation authorities imposed collective punishments against a number of villages in the West Bank, wherein a number of villages in Nablus and Ramallah were stormed, and the people of Aqraba and Turmusa were subjected to severe abuse. The occupation forces arrested Ahmad Al-Shalabi,

the son of Montaser Al-Shalabi – who is accused of carrying out the shooting attack at Za'tara checkpoint – after field investigation with him and his mother, and their house was searched and their furniture was destroyed. In the early morning hours of the following day, the family's house was raided again, and the wife was arrested to exert pressure on Montaser and harass his family.⁵⁹

🔗 Systematic and random arrests

The occupation regime's violations during the May uprising were not limited to aggression, physical assault and repression. Rather, it was accompanied by systematic and indiscriminate mass arrests of Palestinians in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the 1948 occupied territories, during which the occupation security apparatus used brutal force, violence, and physical assault, and thus violating detainees' basic rights during arrest, interrogation and prosecution. In Jerusalem, the clashes and assaults were accompanied by massive arrests targeting young men, children, and girls. Lawyers' testimonies confirmed that most of the detainees showed signs of physical assault on their bodies, mainly on the upper parts. Arbitrary arrests were made in Bab al-Amoud and Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood against worshippers, protesters and those gathering in solidarity.

In addition to the arbitrary arrests carried out by the occupation forces in Jerusalem, there were organized arrests. On 9 May 2021, a day before the march called for by settlers in Al-Aqsa Mosque, the occupation security forces launched a campaign of arrests against more than 25 Jerusalemites, including former prisoners and activists, by raiding their houses in broad daylight. The arrested individuals were held in preventive detention for days before some of them were released. In such a vein, the occupation courts issued dozens of orders of deportation from Al-Aqsa Mosque, surrounding neighborhoods and the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. These orders were coupled with dozens of additional orders of forced house arrest.

In respect of the arrests conducted in the 1948 occupied territories, nearly 900 Palestinians, both men and women, were indiscriminately and arbitrarily arrested in the streets and public arenas during the repression of protesters. In addition to that, house raids were conducted, during which family members were assaulted and arrested. The arrests were accompanied by the use of excessive force, leading to bruises and fractures in the legs, arms, back and neck. Police officers also deliberately slammed detainees' heads against the ground, walls and the doors of police vehicles, in addition to physically assaulting them during the transfer. Child detainees had their rights violated, as they were exposed to threats, barred from accessing legal counsel or interrogated in their mother tongue, as well as being interrogated for prolonged hours at night.

59 For more information, see the chapter on collective punishment in this report.

Among the cases that should be highlighted was the case of the young man B. Sh. from Nazareth, who was arrested by the occupation forces on 17 May 2021, and issued a four-month administrative detention order by the Minister of Defense, Benny Gantz, on May 31. The administrative detention order was then confirmed by Nazareth District Court, despite the fact that the detainee was previously diagnosed with mental illness, and was being treated by psychiatric institutions. Furthermore, the detainee was not examined by a psychiatrist as soon as the occupation authorities learned of his health condition, and the District Court disregarded the many documents it received confirming his special health condition.

Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel submitted an appeal to the Israeli Supreme Court for the purpose of explaining the unlawful detention, and the prosecution’s failure to provide any evidence on the danger supposedly posed by the detainee, or any medical or specialized opinions that explain what the detainee posted on social media, which the prosecution claimed was the ground for his administrative detention. The decision of the Israeli Supreme Court was not different in essence from previous practices, as it rejected Adalah appeal on 19 July 2021, and contented itself with requesting the prosecution to provide a psychiatric evaluation of the detainee’s mental health.⁶⁰

What is strikingly shocking about this case is the occupation authorities’ attempt to legitimize the administrative detention of mentally ill persons, as the prosecution based the arrest and detention of the mentally ill young man on what he posted on social media, considering the terms that the young man used as suspicious, without submitting an examination or report to a psychiatrist or a psychologist that clarifies the true meaning of such terms, or the nature of the patient’s psychological state while writing these terms.⁶¹

Arrests escalated in the West Bank since the beginning of May as part of the occupation regime’s practices of collective punishment against a number of Palestinian villages. The mass arrests targeted former prisoners and activists. On 12 May 2021, the occupation forces arrested approximately 60 Palestinians, including journalists, activists, and candidates for the Palestinian Legislative Council. Numerous houses were raided, and notifications were handed over in the absence of the person to be arrested. Among the detainees, at least 25 were transferred to arbitrary administrative detention without charge or trial as part of the occupation’s attempts to control and oppress the Palestinians, as well as denying them access to their rights.

Israeli Supreme Court approves the administrative detention of a mentally-ill man without having a psychiatric evaluation, Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, 19 July 2021, <https://www.adalah.org/ar/content/view/10408>. The administrative detention was not renewed, and the young man was released upon the end of the term of the first order

.Ibid ٦١

🔗 A family of seven under arrest

On 19 May 2021, large numbers of occupation soldiers and special units raided the village of Bani Naim, east of Hebron. “We started hearing noise and the spread of soldiers on the rooftops of houses and surrounding buildings. They were arriving in civilian vehicles with Palestinian registration plates. They laid siege to the houses and the neighborhood from all directions, and we saw snipers on the rooftops,” explained Mahmoud Al-Khadour. The occupation forces arrested five brothers and two children from Al-Khadour family. They raided the house of Mustafa Al-Khadour, 40, and police dogs attacked him and tore his clothes and body. Mustafa was then assaulted again by the occupation soldiers, who beat him with rifle butts, punched and kicked him. According to his cousin Mahmoud, Mustafa was taken out of the house leaning on the soldiers, with his body covered in blood. His son Khaled was also arrested before the soldiers withdrew from the house at 7:00 a.m., and was released later that evening.

After that, the occupation forces moved into the house of Mohammad Al-Khadour, a former prisoner. Special units raided his house and attacked him on the spot; hitting him on the head with assault rifles and tackling him to the ground in front of his wife and children. According to his cousin’s testimony, they heard beating and screams outside the house as he was being taken away on a stretcher to a military vehicle. The occupation forces also arrested his son Yousef, 22, who is also a former prisoner, after searching the house and destroying its contents. Mohammad was released later that day and had to be taken by his family to the hospital to receive treatment as a result of the severe beating he was subjected to.

The occupation forces also arrested Khalil Al-Khadour after beating and searching him in front of his children, even though he was suffering from severe back pain and was scheduled to undergo an operation. Likewise, Fadi Al-Khadour left the house when he heard voices, only to be attacked and assaulted by the occupation soldiers, who then searched his house and interrogated his wife and daughter. They occupation soldiers handcuffed his daughter and held her inside a military vehicle for half an hour, before releasing her and threatening her with arrest. In the same raid, the occupation forces arrested Abdullah Al-Khadour, a former prisoner who spent nine years in Israeli detention, after his house was searched and vandalized. He was released later that evening, whereas Mustafa, Khalil, Fadi and Yousef Al-Khadour were kept in detention and transferred to Asqalan interrogation and detention center for further interrogation.

🔗 Mass arrests and apartheid judicial system

Official figures indicate that since the beginning of the May uprising in Jerusalem and the 1948 occupied territories, the occupation forces have arrested 1,160 Palestinians, most of whom were released with or without conditions, and 155 were issued indictments by the public prosecution. The indictments against Palestinian detainees revolved around charges of incitement to ‘murder Jews’, incitement to ‘terrorism’, ‘obstruction of police work and other racially-motivated changes aimed at the intentional portrayal of Palestinian detainees as violent and racists committing ideologically-motivated activities.

Conversely, occupation forces arrested 159 Israeli Jews, and released most of them. The Israeli Prosecutor’s Office submitted indictments against only 15 Israeli Jews, including charges related to stone throwing and attacks on Israeli press crews covering events.

Moreover, Israeli occupation courts imposed arbitrary release conditions against Palestinian detainees, such as house arrest, deportation from certain neighborhoods, and a ban on participating in demonstrations. Notably, Israeli judges refused to address physical evidence of assault and beatings evident on the detainees’ bodies. The release of most of the detainees without charges highlights the arbitrary nature of mass arrests of Palestinians, which are rather aimed at harassment and repression of Palestinians.

🔗 Mariam Afify – arrested, abused and released without conditions

On 8 May 2021, Israeli occupation forces arrested Mariam Afify, 26 years old from Jerusalem’s Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood at 10:30 p.m. Mariam witnessed the IOF assault and push a Palestinian girl forcing her to fall on the ground. When she rushed to assist her, the IOF started yelling at her and violently pushed her back. Mariam tried to approach the girl again to check up on her, in response a soldier violently attacked her and aggressively dragged her by her headscarf. Meanwhile, another number of soldiers started kicking and hitting Mariam all over her body. Then the IOF cuffed her hands to the back and her legs.

After half an hour, Mariam was transferred to Salahuddin police station, where she was detained till the morning in a room with a number of other detainees. Later, she was transferred to Al-Mascobiya detention center, where she continued to suffer from ill-treatment, as she was detained in a very cold cell and her request to turn off the air conditioner was

rejected. That day, Mariam was brought before a District court judge, as the prosecution requested to extend her detention. The first time the judge was not present as it was the afternoon break, so they returned her to a cell, and after a while they brought her back to the courtroom. During these transfers, the cuffs on Mariam’s hands and feet were tightened and they caused severe pain. After reviewing a recording of Mariam’s brutal arrest, the judge rejected the prosecution’s request to extend her detention and ordered Mariam’s release without any conditions on May 9.

The practices of the Israeli judicial system clearly point to an apartheid system governing the Palestinians from the 1948 occupied territories. Despite clear acts of violence and provocation, Israeli settler violence is afforded impunity and protection. Israeli occupation police officers brutally assaulted peaceful protesters and used excessive force without being held accountable. Israeli judges refused to address physical evidence of assault and beatings evident on the detainees’ bodies, and the indictments submitted against Palestinians demonstrate the apartheid regime and its various powers in dealing with Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The practices of the Israeli judicial system, at the onset of arrest, then upon detention and release, demonstrate systematic practices of racism and the existence of dual legal systems that characterize the Israeli apartheid regime. Palestinians, including those in the 1948 occupied territories, are subjected to racism, false charges, arbitrary house arrests and deportation bans, along with physical assault and ill treatment, in accordance with military orders affecting all aspects of life, in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law.

🔗 Torture and abuse at Al-Mascobiya police station in Nazareth

During the May uprising, a number of Palestinians were subjected to torture and abuse at Al-Mascobiya police station in the city of Nazareth, northern occupied Palestine. A number of detainees reported being beaten and humiliated while being detained there.

Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights documented a number of Palestinian testimonies, including the testimony of F. Z., who recounted the details of what he was subjected to.

“The cops dragged me, grabbing me by the head and forcing me to look down. I was taken to the police station a few minutes’ walk away. On the way to station, the same cops continued beating me even though I wasn’t resisting at all. On the way, we met a policeman who appeared to be an officer, and he started laughing and said to them: “Did you only arrest him? That’s not enough. We need more.

[In the Nazareth police station], police brought more detainees into the room, some of them minors who were nevertheless held together with us rather than being separated. At this point, the cops started beating us and kicking us with their feet and batons. [My friend] who was next to me, received a blow that caused a head wound which began to bleed. The blood could be seen on the floor. I told him he should ask for immediate medical attention, but he was afraid that if he asked for help they would beat him again. The cops kept saying “Close the door.” No one was allowed to raise their head; whomever raised his head or spoke was beaten more. I saw one guy who had a broken nose, his face covered in blood, and yet they kept hitting him inside the room.

During the adhan [Muslim prayer], they started laughing and saying “Pray that God will get you out of here.” After a while, a police officer approached me and whispered in my ear, threatening me. He cursed my mother, my sister, and my wife. He then asked, “Did you understand?” I didn’t answer, and he immediately slapped me in the face. He asked me again: “Do you understand?” I still didn’t answer and he slapped me again in the face. I saw deliberate humiliation of the detainees. I saw one of the cops kicking a detainee in the leg. Another officer came over and said to him “That’s not how you beat someone,” and kicked the detainee harder. The two cops started laughing.”⁶²

In light of the various practices that the Palestinians were subjected to, and following the arrival of the detainees at the court with stitches in the head, swelling and scratches in the face, blue marks on the body, and traces of physical and psychological violence, Adalah Center filed a complaint to the *Mahash* Police Investigation Department on 7 June 2021, confirming that serious violations and brutal attacks were committed against demonstrators in Al-Mascobiya police station, calling on the removal of the officer of the police station, named Elie Sarok, from his work.⁶³

62 For more on testimonies of torture, see: ‘What happened in the torture room at Israel’s police station in Nazareth? Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, 7 July 2021, [What happened in the ‘torture room’ at Israel’s police station in Nazareth? - Adalah](#)

63 See: Adalah Center calls for the removal of the officer of Al-Mascobiya Center, 17 August 2021, <https://www.adalah.org/ar/content/view/10393>

Chapter VIII: The Freedom Tunnel



The hole from which the six prisoners came out

The occupation's regime, with its various apparatus and agencies, have never stopped implementing abusive practices against Palestinian prisoners, or seeking to impose further restrictions on the prisoners' lives; turning every prisoner's right or need into a tool of abuse; and canceling many of the achievements made by the prisoners' movement

along a long course of struggle in the face of the jailer. On 6 September 2021, six Palestinian political prisoners escaped from Gilboa prison⁶⁴ via an underground tunnel. The six prisoners were Mahmoud and Mohammad Al-Ardah, Zakaria Al-Zubaidi, Yacob Qadri, Ayham Kammaji, and Munadil Infaat.⁶⁵

Immediately following the escape of the six Palestinian prisoners, the Israeli occupation forces and Israel Prison Service (IPS) began waging war against the prisoners, by intensifying collective, punitive, retaliatory, and arbitrary measures and seeking to target the prisoners' historical achievements again, especially those related to organizational life in detention facilities. The six prisoners were recaptured days after they freed themselves and were subjected to a series of penalties, including lengthy interrogation and sleep deprivation. Some of them were physically assaulted during the arrest, which led to hospitalization. Others were subjected to various threats by interrogators, in addition to the occupation authorities' endeavor to submit new indictments against them with the aim of re-trialing them and adding more years to their actual sentences. Four of the escaped pris-

⁶⁴ Located in the North of Palestine, Gilboa prison was recently established in 2004 next to Shatta prison in the Bisan (Hebrew: Beit She'an) area. It is a high-security prison, and is described as the most intensely secured of its kind where occupation authorities incarcerate Palestinian prisoners. There are 360 prisoners in the prison's four sections.

⁶⁵ See: [Abdel Nasser Ferwana](https://www.palestine-studies.org/ar/node/1651574), 'The Escape of Palestinian Prisoners from Israeli Jails: A History of Freedom Seeking', Institute for Palestine Studies, 8 September 2021, <https://www.palestine-studies.org/ar/node/1651574>. Accessed on 10 January 2022.

oners are already sentenced to life or more. Moreover, the occupation forces continued its practices and abuse of the escaped prisoners and their families for more than two months.

🕒 Collective punishment as a tool of retaliation against prisoners following Gilboa prison escape

The six prisoners' self-liberation was alarming and sparked collective penalties against all Palestinian prisoners that included, inter alia, locking down all prison sections, reducing yard time, denying access to the canteens, banning family visits, repeated raids on prisoners' rooms and sections, assaulting prisoners, and attempting to sabotage the prisoners' political and organizational structure. In response, the prisoners' movement sought to challenge these practices aimed at undermining the gains and rights that prisoners succeeded in extracting after decades of long struggle. To this end, the prisoners' movement formed an emergency committee that brought together prisoners from all Palestinian factions to challenge the IPS oppressive measures.⁶⁶

"I was in Gilboa prison, more precisely Room 4 in Section 2, from which the escape took place. At around 3:00 a.m., a force of prison guards broke into the section and started calling out names. They called out the names of the six young men held in the room next door but did not hear any answer. Sirens sounded all over the prison, and large forces from the prison's special units 'Metzada and Dror; hundreds of them, raided the rooms and handcuffed everyone in front of their bodies with plastic cuffs. The cuffs were so tight, but they never cared. They interrogated a group of old prisoners and kept us in the rooms, bound for long hours before transferring us to Ramon and Nafha prisons. – excerpt from prisoner Faisal Naffa' testimony to Addameer's lawyer, 27 October 2021.

IPS began the mass forcible transfer of dozens of prisoners associated with the Islamic Jihad in an attempt of forced separation and dispersal of the prisoners affiliated with the Islamic Jihad across prisons, under the pretext that five of the escaped prisoners were affiliated with the Islamic Jihad. Such measures were challenged by the prisoners who announced disobedience and took certain step, including ceasing talks with the prison administration, refusing to stand up during headcounts, refusing to leave the rooms for floor

⁶⁶ See: 'Addameer Urges to Safeguard Palestinian Political Prisoners' Rights against Collective Punishment and Retaliatory Measures by the Israeli Prison Services,' 7 September 2021, <https://www.addameer.org/news/4488>.

security checks, knocking on the windows, as well as burning cells in Naqab and Ramon prisons in protest against the arbitrary transfer of Islamic Jihad prisoners. Jailers, on the other hand, countered these steps by restraining the prisoners; using force to make them leave their cells; depriving them of many of their rights – such as closing the canteen, reducing the yard time, and banning family visits – imposing hefty fines on them; and placing dozens of them in solitary confinement.⁶⁷

🔗 Naqab is a witness to the IPS crimes – 19 prisoners held in solitary confinement in inhumane living conditions

“We live in caves, and there is a continuous crime being committed against us on a daily basis,” explained prisoner Nabil Mughayer to Addameer lawyer. Mughayer is one of the 14 prisoners held in solitary confinement in Naqab prison. On 8 September 2021, and as part of the prisoners’ attempt to protest the IPS’ reinstatement of greater punitive measures, prisoners in Naqab desert prison burned down cells in section 6, and prisoners in Ramon prison burned down cells in sections 4 and 5. During Addameer visit, Mughayer spoke of the prisoners’ extreme living conditions and degrading treatment. IPS returned the 14 prisoners to burnt cells in section 6, completely stripped of personal needs under extremely dire and inhuman living conditions, about 10 days after the section was set on fire and the forced separation of Islamic Jihad prisoners in the prisons of Ayala and Asqalan.⁶⁸

The 14 prisoners, alongside five other prisoners in different cells, were held in complete isolation and were prevented from visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross or any other party prior to the visit of Addameer’s lawyer. Mughayer described the cells as “caves,” where prisoners were held in dark rooms with no light or electricity, with the walls, floors, and iron bars still burned. The smell of the fires remained and was extremely harmful to the prisoners, who were not provided with clothes, mattresses, or blankets. IPS only brought one mattress and blanket per prisoner each night at around 12:30 and pulled them out before sunrise at 6 in the morning, stating that “whoever wants to sleep after can lay on the decrepit iron sheet.”

The prisoners, who were refused sweaters or blankets, suffered from the bitter cold at night, which exacerbates existing medical conditions among the prisoners, such as hemorrhoids, infections, and kidney pains. Nevertheless, IPS refused to transfer any of the prisoners to the clinic. Moreover, the windows of the cells lacked any glass, “which allowed

67 See: Palestinian Human Rights and Civil Society Warn the International Community of Collective Punishment and Retaliatory Measures by the Israeli Occupation Authorities, 9 September 2021, <https://www.addameer.org/news/4495>.
68 19 Palestinian Prisoners Held in Solitary Confinement under Unprecedented, Extreme, and Inhuman Living Conditions in Naqab Prison | Addameer, 9 October 2021.

the entry of reptiles and insects.” In addition, Mughayer noted the poor quality of food given to them and their prohibition from accessing the canteen for any supplies, including cigarettes and hygienic items, and ignoring their request for toothpaste and toothbrushes.

The prisoners’ cells contained only a toilet and a sink from which to drink. As for showers, they were outside the section. The guards took out those who needed to shower in handcuffs to shower and return. Still, IPS only provided one spare shampoo to each isolated prisoner one month after rationing the shampoo from section 7 of Naqab prison. Mughayer added that they were not allowed out into the prison yard for their usual break and that every two prisoners were taken out separately, handcuffed, for only one hour.

The prisoners were facing “unprecedented” conditions of solitary confinement, in violation of all aspects of prisoners’ rights. Mughayer confirmed that there were no hearings held for them, as per Israeli prison administration regulations, to determine the charges against them or hear their statements. The prisoners were held indefinitely under solitary confinement, as they were not given any indication of the length of time of their confinement. No IPS administrator had contacted them, which Mughayer pointed out was “the administration indirectly accusing them of being the main ones responsible for burning the section,” and that “any step can be faced with extreme ferocity.” The 14 prisoners were held by the IPS in the burned section 6 in poor and inhumane living conditions for nearly one and half months, despite the calls from legal authorities and the prisoners to end it.

In addition to the prisoners confined in section 6, five other prisoners were confined in solitary confinement in Naqab prison, where they were isolated for a week following the escape of the six Palestinian political prisoners from Gilboa prison on accusations that they were “involved” with the escape. During his meeting with Addameer’s lawyer, prisoner Tamim Salem confirmed that the five prisoners lived in abhorrent conditions, where they were handcuffed by their hands and feet any time they left the cell to the yard, “which resembled a metal box of 3x3 meters”. The prisoners suffered from the desert conditions of Naqab prison, which were extremely high temperatures during the day and low temperatures at night.

🔗 The escalation of the prisoners’ protest and challenge to punitive penalties

Immediately after the institution of the punitive penalties against the prisoners affiliated

with the Islamic Jihad, the latter took a series of escalatory steps, including the refusal to abide by daily prison counts or to be held with prisoners from other factions. Financial penalties were imposed on every prisoner who refused to abide by the prison counts, triggering support by the prisoners' movement by following escalatory steps, including sit-ins in the prison yard during the headcounts, the refusal to enter the cells, and the lockdown of the sections for hours. In addition to that, prisoners associated with the Islamic Jihad, as well as other prisoners, entered into an open hunger strike until their demands were met, the most prominent of which was the return of the Islamic Jihad prisoners to their sections, the lift of the collective penalties; especially the financial ones, and the end of the solitary confinement of the Islamic Jihad prisoners, including Zaid Bseiso and Anas Jaradat.

In light of the IPS intransigence amidst the prisoners' escalatory protest, dozens of prisoners announced an open hunger strike that began on 13 October 2021 and lasted for nearly nine days. The strike ended after reaching an agreement to fulfill the prisoners' demands, the most of which were ending the targeted attack on the Islamic Jihad prisoners, lifting the collective punishments enacted in the aftermath of the 'Freedom Tunnel' operation, returning all the prisoners held in solitary confinement to the sections; especially the leaders of the Islamic Jihad, canceling the financial fines estimated at millions of shekels, granting them access to family and lawyer visitation, pledging not to reopen the files of the prisoners who challenged the jailer by burning down the cells, and most importantly preserving the organizational structure of the Islamic Jihad prisoners.⁶⁹

🔗 Families of the 'Freedom Tunnel' prisoners targeted by the occupation's retaliatory practices, and the recapture of the six prisoners within days

Following the 'Freedom Tunnel' operation, the occupation authorities leveraged all its apparatus to search for the six escaped prisoners and declared a state of alert, dispatching thousands of members of security services, special forces and trackers, and using helicopters and drones and other advanced technological means. According to the occupation regime's sources, the manhunt cost more than \$30 million.

As part of the escaped prisoner manhunt, the occupation forces targeted the prisoners' families started from the first day of the prison escape, conducting organized incursions and raids into Jenin; the hometown of the six escaped prisoners. The occupation forces

⁶⁹ For more information, see: 'The five prisoners held in solitary confinement in Naqab prison join the mass open hunger strike amidst excrement living conditions,' Addameer, 21 October 2021, <https://www.addameer.org/ar/news/4535>

stormed their families' houses, arrested and interrogated some of their family members, as well as summoning them for interrogation by the intelligence service almost on a daily basis. The city of Jenin was sieged, restricting the movement of citizens to and from it, and to the surrounding villages and towns. A number of checkpoints were erected between cities, particularly in the northern region of the West Bank, and in the villages located near the Green Line. The occupation forces stormed several villages near Jenin, including the towns of Arraba, Arabouna, Na'ura, Kafr Dan, Bir Al-Basha, and Ya'bad.

Although what Addameer was able to document did not necessarily reflect all the measures taken by the occupation authorities, what followed reflected the nature of the collective punishments that the occupation authorities instituted. IOF stormed the village of Na'ura in the 1948 occupied territories, arbitrarily detaining three young Palestinian men. The father of the escaped prisoner Ayham Kammaji was summoned for several hours of interrogation, during which he was threatened with the assassination of his son. The village of Arraba was raided, during which Dr. Nidal Al-Ardah was arrested and his house camera recordings were confiscated. IOF arbitrarily detained Radad and Shadad Al-Ardah—brothers of Mahmoud Al-Ardah; Shadad was beaten by Israeli soldiers prior to his detention. As well as Basem and Ahmad Al-Ardah—brothers of Mohammad Al-Ardah. In addition to Yacob Infaat—father of escaped prisoner Munadil Infaat. The detained relatives were released from interrogation hours later, in a clear act of reprisal, intimidation and coercion.

🔗 The recapture and abuse of the escaped prisoners

After an extensive manhunt and search, the occupation forces recaptured Mahmoud Al-Ardah and Yacob Qadri on 10 September 2021 near the city of Nazareth, while Zakaria Al-Zubaidi and Mohammad Al-Ardah were rearrested the following day. Lawyers for Al-Zubaidi said that his client was badly beaten during his arrest. The recaptured prisoners appeared before Nazareth District Court to have their detention extended for further interrogation, and they were transferred to Al-Jalame interrogation and detention center, where they were denied access to a lawyer for days. The court refused the lawyers' appeal against the ban orders.

On September 19, the occupation forces were able to arrest the other two captives; Ayham Kammaji and Munadil Infaat in a joint operation led by the army, the intelligence service and the border police in the city of Jenin, where the two captives had been hiding for nearly two weeks. The six captured political prisoners were formally indicted and charged with escaping from the Gilboa prison, while five others were accused of assisting them. Following the interrogation, the six captured prisoners were held in solitary confinement,

whereby Mahmoud Al-Ardah and Munadil Infaat were transferred to Ramleh prison, Mohammad al-Ardah to Asqalan prison, Yacob Qadri to Rimonim prison, and Ayham Kammaji to Ohalei Keidar prison.

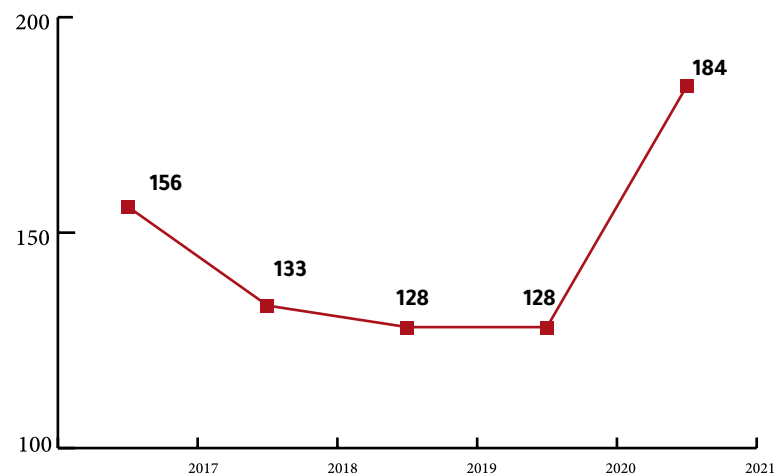
The prisoners were placed in retaliatory and extremely difficult isolation conditions, prompting Al-Zubaidi and Al-Ardah to begin on an open-ended hunger strike in protest of their harsh detention conditions. According to the lawyer of the Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs Commission, Al-Ardah was held in a cell that lacked basic human needs, completely isolated from the outside world and without electrical appliances. The lawyer added that the special repression units or the prison police deliberately carried out repressive searches of Al-Ardah's cell, and that he was granted one hour of yard time. The lawyer indicated that Al-Ardah was suffering from severe back pain and was transferred to the prison clinic, where he was given pain-relieving pills without being examined, which led to further deterioration of his health condition.⁷⁰

Chapter IX:

Women Prisoners

⁷⁰ For more, see: '199 human rights networks and organizations hold the occupation authorities fully responsible for the lives and safety of the six captured Palestinian prisoners, calling on the immediate formation of an independent international inquiry committee to examine the conditions of their detention,' Addameer, 20 September 2021, <https://www.addameer.org/ar/news/4504>.

Palestinian women prisoners are being incarcerated in Damon prison, which is located in Northern Palestine in the forests of Carmel in Haifa and was established during the British mandate. By the end of 2021, there were 34 women prisoners in Damon prison, of whom 18 have been sentenced – of whom eight have been sentenced to more than 10 years – 15 detainees who are awaiting trial, one administrative detainee, six wounded while 10 others suffer from various diseases – including dental problems, joint and ear pain, psychological problems – and 11 mothers. In general, it can be said that the year 2021 witnessed an increase in the number of Palestinian women who were arrested compared to the past five years.



the number of Palestinian women who were arrested compared to the past five years

The women prisoners in Damon prison suffer from unfair and prejudice policies implemented against them by Israel Prison Service, as they are held in a prison, the walls of which filled with humidity, lacking adequate and sanitary ventilation, and are forced to sleep on rusty beds that often cause back and bone pain and other health problems. The prison administration seeks on a daily basis to abuse and harass the women prisoners by raiding their cells for headcounts, routine or sudden checks, which often result in the confiscation of some of the women’s belongings, mostly any educational material or books that the administration can find. Furthermore, the detention of women prisoners in Damon prison, which is located in the 1948 occupied territories, is in direct and explicit contravention of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which states that an Occupying Power must detain residents of occupied territory in prisons inside the occupied territory.⁷¹

As every year, IPS continued its policy of delaying health treatment and care for women prisoners or providing it in an insufficient manner. These practices came despite the out-

⁷¹ Al-Haq Sends an Urgent Appeal on the Arbitrary Detention and ‘Severe Suffering’ of Human Rights Defender Ms. Shatha Odeh Abu Fannouneh, General Director of the Health Work Committee, 24 July 2021, <https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/18644.html>

break of COVID-19, amidst the IPS failure to implement any real measure to protect the women prisoners from the pandemic. Over the past two years, and since the start of the COVID-19, Addameer has documented dozens of cases in which women prisoners complained about the poor conditions of their detention or quarantine, and the prison administration’s failure to adequately provide disinfectants and detergents, often prompting the prisoners to buy these detergents at their own expense.

The occupation authorities generally violate many international conventions that guarantee detainees the most basic rights, such as detention in places with natural lighting and adequate ventilation, periodic contact with the outside world, and provision of a diet commensurate with their needs, and other basic rights. Accordingly, the occupation’s practices gravely violate fundamental international human rights conventions, the most important of which are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Fourth Geneva Convention, the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders.

🔗 Brutal arrests and extreme interrogation conditions

At approximately 2:30 a.m. On 12 April 2021, a large force of the occupation army raided the town of Arraba, southwest of Jenin, and arrested Muna Qa’adan. Addameer documented what Ms. Qa’adan was subjected to during her arrest and interrogation. “The number of soldiers was so great that I thought they came to arrest 10 people. They were about to blow up the door to my house, but I quickly opened it,” recounted Ms. Qa’adan. After her arrest, Ms. Qa’adan was cuffed with plastic cuffs, blindfolded and transferred to Salem interrogation and detention center, and then to Al-Jalame interrogation and detention center, where she was placed in a 2x1.5 cell. Ms. Qa’adan was subjected to more than one interrogation session at Al-Jalame interrogation center, during which her hands were tied behind her back and was deliberately interrogated by more than one interrogator per session, adding an additional stress factor to her. In addition to that, Ms. Qa’adan was shouted at and constantly threatened with the arrest of her brother. Moreover, Ms. Qa’adan was denied new clothes during her interrogation, prompting her to refuse to take a shower for more than two weeks.

🔗 Breaking fast in a cold *bosta*

Male and female prisoners are constantly suffering from *bosta*, which is a vehicle that is used to transport them to courts, prisons, or detention centers. *Bosta* is often made of metal boxes and lacks any real means of ventilation. In many cases, the occupation forces

deliberately keep the prisoners for long hours inside these vehicles, wherein the prisoners cannot stand or move, forcing them into an angled seating position for lack of appropriate space. The materials from which the bosta is made and the air conditioner inside turn the bosta into a very cold refrigerator in winter and an extremely hot box in summer. This often leads prisoners to refuse to go to medical check-ups or to hospitals only to avoid being transported by the bosta.

On 10 May 2021, the occupation forces arrested Mays Al-Muraqtan from her house in Hebron immediately after the fajr [dawn] prayer. During the arrest process, Mays was cuffed behind her back with plastic cuffs and blindfolded. When she asked to use the bathroom, the occupation forces abused her and refused to untie her, claiming that they did not have any extra plastic cuffs. Mays was later transferred to Ofer prison for interrogation in a black bosta. "The bosta was very cold because the air conditioner was turned on. I repeatedly asked the soldiers to turn it off, but they refused. After the interrogation with me in Ofer was over, they transferred me to Hasharon in the same bosta. It was during the blessed month of Ramadan. Upon the calls to Maghreb [sunset] prayer, the soldiers handed me a cup of tea and a cake, and I broke my fast alone in a cold bosta," recalled Mays.

🔗 Hasharon transit section – A tragedy in the lives of women prisoners

Hasharon transit section is one of the abhorrent stations in the life of every woman prisoner, where new women prisoners are isolated for more than 10 days under the pretext of quarantine, to make sure that they are not infected with COVID-19. It is also a waiting and transfer station for women prisoners between Damon prison and the occupation's hospitals and clinics or military courts. It lacks the basic human needs. Each year, Addameer documents a number of cases of women prisoners who are transferred to Hasharon transit section, where they are held in harsh conditions. Among the women prisoners who lived through these conditions during this year was Juana Rishmawi, 63 years old from Ramallah.

At approximately 5:00 a.m. on 13 April 2021, the house of Juana Rishmawi was raided by around 20 male and female Israeli soldiers, who held her husband and his mother in separate rooms, before Juana was searched and arrested.⁷² Juana said that during the interrogation process she was intentionally yelled at by the interrogators, who accused her of being a murderer, interrogated her for long hours, and used other forms of psychological pressure that are often exerted by the occupation forces on Palestinian prisoners. This led, more than once, to Juana's crying and collapsing. Juana's case represents a flagrant violation of the principles of fair trial guarantees, as Juana is a Spanish citizen and

⁷² See also: 'Israeli occupation authorities leverage individual Palestinian human rights defenders to escalate systematic harassment campaign against Palestinian civil society', Addameer Prisoners Support and Human Rights Association, 12 December 2021, <https://www.addameer.org/news/4611>. Accessed on 7 January 2022

does not speak Arabic fluently. Nonetheless, most of the interrogation and court sessions were conducted in Arabic or Hebrew, and that caused her to not understand the questions in many cases and she was not provided with an interpreter throughout these sessions. Moreover, Juana signed a statement and an interrogation report without understanding what was written in it. It is noteworthy that during Juana's detention at Hasharon transit section while waiting to be transferred to the military court, she was dealt with in a cruel and inhumane manner and was denied access to the bathroom for long hours, triggering her to cry and scream hysterically as a result of the humiliation she felt.

🔗 Prisoner Khalida Jarrar denied release by IPS to attend her daughter's funeral

The brutality of the occupation authorities is evident in the simplest practices, but the worst of which is depriving Palestinian prisoners of burying their loved ones. Dozens of prisoners' first degree relatives and others die every year, but Israel Prison Service denies their release to attend the funeral of their loved ones in any way. Among the noticeable cases of such nature was the case of prisoner Khalida Jarrar, whose youngest daughter, 31-year-old Suha, died unexpectedly on 11 July 2021.

Despite the international campaign that was launched with the aim of pressuring the occupation authorities to release PLC member Khalida Jarrar to bury her daughter, and the legal efforts made by Addameer and other organizations, Israel Prison Service denied the release appeal for Khalida Jarrar, citing the alleged "security threat" she poses inside and out of prison, and thus falling under a category prohibited from temporary humanitarian release under the amended Israeli Prison Ordinance of 1971. This was not the first time that Khalida Jarrar lost one of her relatives, as she lost her father during her previous detention in 2017, and she was also denied release to attend his funeral.⁷³

It is noteworthy that Jarrar has been punished for years, repeatedly for her political work and human rights activities as a former member of the Palestinian Legislative Council. Over the years of her detention, she has been repeatedly denied family visits. She has been arrested several times, at times under an administrative detention order and at times under an indictment, the last of which on 31 October 2019, a mere eight months after her release from a 20-month long administrative detention. She was accused of being a member and holding a position in a 'terrorist organization' according to the Israeli occupation. Jarrar is a Palestinian political and civil society leader, who held several positions in civil society organizations, and was elected as a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council in 2006 and was the head of the Prisoners Commission of the PLC.

⁷³ Israel Prison Service (IPS) denies humanitarian release appeal for prisoner Khalida Jarrar, citing 'security threat', Addameer, 13 July 2021, <https://www.addameer.org/ar/node/4453>. Accessed on 24 November 2021

The barbarism of the occupation authorities in the case of Jarrar is evident when her daughter died, she had spent nearly two years in detention and was scheduled to be released in two months. Jarrar was arrested as part of a campaign targeting dozens of political activists and university students in the second half of the year 2019. Jarrar was released on 26 September 2021,⁷⁴ which confirms that it was possible for the occupation authorities to enable her to take a last look at her daughter and participate in her funeral. The ruling came after the military prosecution amended the indictment to categorically state that Jarrar's activity was limited only to her political role and work related to the Palestinian National Authority, confirming that she had no ties to any military, organizational or financial work. This comes despite the lies spread by the occupation authorities and media that Jarrar's arrest was a result of her responsibility in a military operation in Ain Boubin in August 2019.⁷⁵

🔗 Solitary confinement

The Israeli occupation systematically resorts to solitary confinement and isolation due to punitive penalties or security reasons. Among the cases this year was the case of prisoner Nawal Fatiha, who was placed in solitary confinement by Damon prison administration after claiming that Fatiha assaulted a female jailer. During its periodic visits to Damon prison, Addameer managed to document the conditions that Fatiha went through while being held in solitary confinement. To begin with, the prison administration did not inform Fatiha, during any stage of her isolation, of the IPS regulations under which she was isolated, and her statement was not even heard before imposing the isolation sentence penalty on her. During the isolation period, Fatiha was held in a 3x3 cell, containing a blue mattress on the floor and a blanket. Although the cell had a window, it was closed immediately after Fatiha was detained in the cell as one way or another to tighten the noose around her neck during her isolation.

Fatiha was granted a yard time in a 4x5 yard for one hour per day, during which she was handcuffed. Although these conditions were sufficient to make life in isolation extremely harsh for Fatiha, IPS was additionally tyrannical by denying her access to three meals per day, but whenever Fatiha insisted that she be provided with food in good quantity and quality, the jailers would do so. Even though Fatiha was denied access to radio, books, shower, refrigerator, notebooks, pencils, food equipment, or mirror, her cell was repeatedly searched.

⁷⁴ PLC member Khalida Jarrar released two months after her daughter's death, Addameer, 26 September 2021, <https://www.addameer.org/ar/node/4512>. Accessed on 24 November 2021.

⁷⁵ Continued targeting of PLC member Khalida Jarrar, Addameer, 1 March 2021, <https://www.addameer.org/news/4324>. Accessed on 24 November 2021.

Fatiha was not the only prisoners placed in solitary confinement. During the last quarter of the year, following IPS's escalated policy towards the prisoners; mostly Islamic Jihad prisoners, in response to the six prisoners' escape from Gilboa prison, a group of women prisoners – Amal Taqatqa, Shatila Abu Ayyad and Muna Qa'adan – announced their open hunger strike and returned the meals in solidarity with the Islamic Jihad prisoners and their struggle to end the penalties imposed on them. Damon prison administration countered such a step as usual by punishing the hunger striking women prisoners, placing them in solitary confinement, banning family visits for three months, and banning access to the prison canteen for a full month.

🔗 Arrest of mothers and pregnant women – Anhar Al-Deek almost gave birth while imprisoned by the occupation authorities

The occupation forces arrested Anhar Al-Deek, 26 years old from Kafr Nima, northwest of Ramallah, on 8 March 2021, after she was violently assaulted by the occupation forces and settlers. Although she was three months pregnant, she was beaten up by the occupation forces and transferred to the hospital. It was evident from the beginning of her arrest that she was suffering from a mental health condition and pregnancy-related depression.⁷⁶ Anhar was held in harsh conditions, subjected to long hours of interrogation, and placed in isolation for nearly a month before being transferred to Damon prison, which lacks the most basic human needs.

Since her arrest, Anhar was denied any contact with her family via the phone or visits, with the exception of one visit by her husband in the first six months of her detention. With Anhar entering her ninth month of pregnancy, an international and local campaign was launched demanding the release of Anhar to avoid giving birth inside prison by a caesarean section while being detained in extreme conditions that amounted to torture and cruel and inhumane treatment.

Instead of releasing Anhar Al-Deek, Israel Prison Service announced that Anhar would be placed in a separate room immediately after giving birth, and scheduled a caesarean section for her on 20 September 2021, putting her at increased risk of being infected with COVID-19, or the effects postpartum psychiatry. In light of all these procedures, Anhar defense submitted a request to release her on bail as an alternative to her actual detention. On September 1, Ofer military court postponed its verdict to decide on this request, to later issue its verdict to release Anhar to house arrest on a bail of 40,000 shekels.

⁷⁶ 'Palestinian Mother Prisoners: Endless Suffering', Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs Commission, 17 August 2021, <http://cda.gov.ps/index.php/ar/ar-news-2/9198-2021-08-17-10-31-11>

Anhar Al-Deek was not the only case subjected to such practices. Since 1972, eight cases of imprisoned pregnant Palestinian women who have given birth in occupation prisons have been documented,⁷⁷ wherein the occupation authorities have disregard their health conditions during prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum periods. In this vein, during a visit to conducted by Addameer in 2005, the then-prisoner Manal Ghanem, who was two months pregnant when she was arrested, stated that Israel Prison Service refused to provide her with a vital medication as she was suffering from thalassemia, despite her repeated requests.

Such practices represent a blatant violation of Article 76 of the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Convention, as well as Article 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and are inconsistent with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. The occupation authorities restrain the hands and feet of Palestinian pregnant women during the prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum and during the transfer to hospitals. In the past years, Addameer has documented cases in which Palestinian laboring women were tied to beds, increasing labor-related risks and pains.⁷⁸

🔗 Repression and excessive use of violence against women prisoners

At approximately 9:00 p.m. on 14 December 2021, Damon prison administration informed Marah Bakir, prisoners' representative, that room 11 must be evacuated. It was rainy that night, making it difficult for the women prisoners to move their belongings to another room, and thus they rejected the orders and agreed to comply the following morning. However, the prison administration responded in a barbaric manner, sending jailers and special units into the women prisoners section at exactly 12:30 a.m. to forcibly evacuate it. The women prisoners were abused, tied with plastic cuffs and dragged out of the room.

The prison administration was not content enough with its abuse of the women prisoners during that day. The following day, the forces raided the section and confiscated some electrical appliances such as hot plates, water heaters, and TV screens. The prisoners' representative was informed of the administration's reshuffle decision; moving prisoners

⁷⁷ The eight women prisoners who gave birth inside occupation prisons are: Zakia Shamout, arrested in 1971 while she was six months pregnant and gave birth in February 1972; Aisha Al Kurd, arrested in 1988 while she was seven months pregnant; Omaima Al-Agha, arrested in 1993 while she was two months pregnant and gave birth on 4 October 1993; Samar Sbeih, arrested on 29 September 2005 while she was two months pregnant and gave birth on 30 April 2006; Fatima Al-Zeq, arrested on 20 May 2007 while she was two months pregnant and gave birth on 17 January 2008; Manal Ghanem, arrested on 17 April 2003 and gave birth on 10 October 2003; Mirvat Taha, arrested on 29 May 2002 and gave birth on 8 February 2003; and another prisoner whose name is unknown.

⁷⁸ See: 'Position Statement: Shackling/Restraint of Pregnant Women who are Incarcerated', American College of Nurse-Midwives (2012), <http://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/acnmldata/uploadfilename/000000000276/anti-shackling%20position%20statement%20june%202012.pdf>

between rooms every six months. The women prisoners and their representative rejected the decision and refused to abide by the prison count the following morning; a move led to escalatory measures against them, wherein a number of them were isolated over the course of these two days.

🔗 Isolation conditions

The occupation authorities isolated prisoners Muna Qa'adan and Shorooq Dwayyat in Gilboa prison, after they were searched and kept in a waiting room for several hours before they were transferred to a solitary confinement 2x2 cell, which had a doorless squat toilet and a bunk bed with no ladder. Shorooq had to sleep on the floor because she was unable to climb onto the bed. Prison administration deliberately handcuffed the two women every time they went out to take a shower, and searched their room after every meal. Prisoner Marah Bakir was also placed in similar harsh isolation conditions in Al-Jalame prison. Marah was held in a cell with a surveillance camera; preventing her from taking a shower, or even taking off her prayer clothes that she had been wearing for five days. She was eventually transferred to another cell without a surveillance camera.

Muna was returned to the section on 20 December 2021, while Marah and Shorooq remained in isolation until Wednesday; 22 December 2021. Three women prisoners, who had been on a hunger strike in a protest of the isolation of their inmates, ended their hunger strike upon the return of their isolated inmates. The occupation authorities did not settler for all these penalties and went on to impose collective punishment on all women prisoners, such as denying them access to the prison canteen for a month, banning family visits for a month, and imposing financial fines on some of the female prisoners.



Chapter X:

Child Prisoners

The Israeli occupation authorities continued its practices of arresting Palestinian children into the year 2021, as nearly 1,300 children were arrested, including children under the age of 16. These numbers reflect a sharp increase compared to the numbers of children arrested in previous years. For example, 545 children were arrested in 2020, 889 in 2019, and 1,080 in 2018. Hence, these figures are nothing but an indication that the policy of arresting and detaining children, as well as depriving them of a normal childhood life is a policy rooted in the occupation's approach and practices to persecute and dominate the Palestinian people, and destroying the childhood generation.

Child prisoners are incarcerated in three main prisons: Ofer prison for children from the south and central West Bank; Megiddo prison for children from the north of the West Bank; and Damon prison for children from Jerusalem. The occupation forces have arrested Palestinian children systematically, and within arrest campaigns for collective punishment. These children are subjected to different forms of psychological and physical torture, and are not afforded protection. The arrest of children has a destructive impact on the level of children's mental health, often leading to children's drop-out from schools. With such practices, the occupation authorities deny protection due to children by more than 27 international conventions, specifically the Convention on the Rights of the Child that stressed the need to provide protection for children, their lives and their opportunities for growth and development, and restricted children's deprivation of their liberty to being a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time.

According to Addameer documentation in 2021, the occupation authorities continued its arrest of Palestinian children, raiding their families' houses at night with large numbers of forces, physically assaulting them and their families, subjecting them to harsh and painful interrogation and detention conditions, and subjecting them to various forms of torture and cruel and degrading treatment, including beating, stress positions, sleep deprivation, sexual threats, pressure to extract confessions, and the violation of fair trial guarantees.

🕒 Children as part of the occupation's human shields and retaliatory measures

At approximately 5:00 p.m. on 11 September 2021, the occupation forces arrested Islam Banat, 16 years old from Al-Arrub refugee camp, Hebron, and his friend after raiding the friend's house. Upon withdrawal from the house, stones were thrown at the soldiers, who rushed to use Islam and his friend as human shields, which put both of their lives at risk. Moreover, one of the two children was hit with a stone in the chest area.

While using Islam and his friend as human shields, the occupation forces advanced a few meters until they reached the nearest military tower, where a number of soldiers brutally beat the two children. As a result, Islam fell to the ground and sustained a chest injury after slamming his body against concrete cubes. Islam and his friend were interrogated inside the military by a soldier about stone-throwing, and were kept handcuffed and blindfolded until around 10:00 p.m.

Both children were later transferred to the police station in Beitar Illit settlement, where Islam was slapped by soldiers on the face and head, and was beaten whenever he tried to sleep. At the break of the dawn, Islam was taken for interrogation and was allowed to speak over the phone with a lawyer for a few seconds. At the end of the interrogation session, Islam signed a statement that was written in Hebrew; a language that Islam does not understand at all. Islam indicated that the exhaustion he was feeling at the time prompted him to sign the statement, even though he did not understand it; with a view to evading further interrogation. He was later transferred to Etzion interrogation and detention center, where he was held in extreme detention conditions for 13 days, during which he and the rest of the prisoners were treated in an abusive manner. Soldiers deliberately threw soaps on the cell floor, verbally abused and mocked the prisoners, and provided them with food that was undercooked.

Such practices represent a flagrant violation of international standards protecting all children, and in particular a violation of the guarantees of a fair trial. The occupation forces force dozens of children to sign statements written in Hebrew language that most of them – if not all – do not understand. Children often sign such statement with a view to leaving the interrogation cells that lack human standards. These practices contradict in particular Article 71 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, Article 67 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as well as Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which stipulate that any accused person is entitled to be informed of the charge in a language he understands.

In addition, the use of Islam Banat and his friend as human shield by the occupation soldiers to protect themselves represents a violation of international law standards that prohibit the use of civilians as human shields, in particular Article 28 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 51(7) of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions. Moreover, Article 8(2)(b)(xxiii) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court stipulated that “Utilizing the presence of a civilian or other protected person to render certain points, areas or military forces immune from military operations” is a war crime in international

armed conflict.

It should be noted that in 2002, Adalah – the Legal Center for Arab Minority in Israel petitioned Israel’s High Court of Justice (HCJ) against the policy of using Palestinians as human shields on behalf of seven human rights organizations. Two days after the petition was filed, the occupation state informed the court that the IOF has decided to immediately issue an unequivocal order to all forces in the field, absolutely forbidding them to use any civilians at all as a ‘living shield’ against gunfire or attacks by the Palestinian side.

The battle continued against the use of Palestinians as human shields. In October 2005, the HCJ issued its judgment, ruling that any use of Palestinian civilians during military actions is forbidden. However, the occupation forces continue to occasionally use Palestinians as human shields even after the court ruling, especially during military operations.⁷⁹

🔗 Days in Al-Mascobiya interrogation and detention center

Palestinian children in Israeli detention are systematically subjected to torture and ill-treatment. The occupation forces leverage the vulnerability of these children, coercing them into giving confessions. Therefore, the arrest process is always accompanied by the use of intimidation tools, deception and false promises that aim at persuading children to confess to the charges against them – which oftentimes are related to stone-throwing – on the grounds that such a confession would end their torture and ill-treatment.

The Israeli occupation authorities hold children in inhuman conditions of detention that lack the minimum international standards for child rights. The cells in which they are held lack adequate lighting and ventilation. Child prisoners suffer from medical negligence and lack of clothes, food and hygiene item. They are subjected to beatings, isolation, abuse and intimidation, in addition to hefty fines imposed against them. The frequency of these practices increases when the children targeted are from Jerusalem, as Addameer documents every year the excessive violence that is used against Jerusalemite children, and the repeated targeting of them.⁸⁰

79 See: ‘Human Shields,’ B’Tselem – The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, 11 November 2017, https://www.btselem.org/human_shields.

.See Annex 3: Sworn affidavit of the Jerusalemite child Mohammad Dana

🔗 **Mohammad Natsheh – a Jerusalemite child abused**

Israeli occupation forces arrested Mohammad Natsheh, 17, at around 11:00 p.m. on 21 May 2021 on the street in Ras Al-Amoud, Jerusalem. Upon his arrest, an IOF soldier jumped Mohammad from behind, pulling him to the other side of the street, then tied his hands to the back with plastic straps, blindfolding him with a mask, and took him to a military jeep where a soldier sat next to him and ordered him not to move at all. Mohammad was taken to Salahuddin police station, then transferred to Al-Mascobiya interrogation and detention center. As he was walking upstairs, an Israeli police officer hit him in the face, causing him to fall on the stairs and injure his shoulder and knee, yet he was left without the necessary medical treatment. The police officer forced Mohammad to sit on the ground without moving, threatening to be beaten if he moved. Mohammad sat on his knees, during which he was hit in the face and deliberately trampled on his toes, even as he had lost his shoes during his previous fall from the stairs. Mohammad remained in this position for over two hours before being transferred to a cell in section 7.

Mohammad was held in a freezing and filthy cell containing a small and thin mattress and strong lights that did not turn off, in addition to a squat toilet. He was held in the cell for about 18 days, between rounds of interrogation, each of which lasted seven to eight hours, with more one interrogator present in the room. During interrogation sessions, he was tied to the chair in a stress position, with his hands and feet tied to the chair's back. Every time he moved to straighten his seat, an interrogator would scream at him. He was also hit on the face several times. The first time he was allowed to shower was a week following his detention, and then he was allowed to shower every two or three days, but he was not allowed to change his clothes even though his family went to Al-Mascobiya to send clothes for him.

On 9 November 2021, the Israeli District Court in occupied Jerusalem sentenced Mohammad to 14 months in prison and four months of prison suspended for two years.

🔗 **Medical negligence against child prisoners –Ahmad Falana; a wounded boy**

Israeli occupation forces arrested Ahmad Falana, 17 years old from Safa, west of Ramallah, on 26 February 2021, after they shot him with five bullets. Ahmad underwent multiple surgeries since his arrest, mostly at Hadassah Hospital without informing his family at the time. Despite his critical health condition and urgent need to stay in the hospital, he was

confined to the bed and was interrogated without the slightest regard for his critical health condition. In addition to that, Israel Prison Service transferred him to Megiddo prison four days after his injury.

Ahmad's transfer from the hospital to prison worsened his health condition, and thus he was transferred to Afula Hospital where he underwent another surgery before he was sent back to Megiddo prison. Ahmad is not the only case that embodies such practices implemented against wounded child prisoners by the occupation authorities, as there are dozens of wounded children languishing in prisons and suffering from extreme health conditions and medical neglect.⁸¹

🔗 **Children in administrative detention**

Throughout 2021, the occupation authorities continued to hold eight children in administrative detention, six of whom were still in administrative detention by the end of the year. Child arrests increased in general during the May uprising triggered by the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, as well as the seizure of homes and the forced displacement of families in Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood.

The eight children placed under administrative detention were Amal Nakhleh, 17 years old from Jalazone camp; Mohammad Mansour, 17 years old from Jenin camp, whose second administrative detention order expires in February 2022; Wadea Ihdavid, 17 years old from Tulkarm; Sami Al-Hraimi from Bethlehem, whose administrative detention order expires in January 2022; as well as Baraa Mohammad from Hebron and Ahmad Al-Bayed from Jericho's Aqbat Jaber camp, who were released upon the expiry of the first administrative detention order against them.

The seventh case was Abdullah Hammam from Bethlehem, who was issued four administrative detention orders, the last of which ends on 8 June 2022, and who suffers from health condition known as thrombocytopenia. The last case was Musa Hammam from Bethlehem, who was issued three administrative detention orders, the last of which ends on 8 June 2022.

81 For more on cases of wounded and sick children, see: 'Prisoners' institutions: Israel occupation forces arrested 438 Palestinians in March 2021,' 7 April 2021, <https://www.addameer.org/index.php/ar/node/4358>

As part of its endeavors to document the conditions of children placed under administrative detention, Addameer visited Musa Hammam, who reported that the occupation forces stormed his family's house on 11 June 2021, minutes after the fajr [dawn] prayer calls, when a special force arrived at the family's house, and tried to break the main door of the house. Musa was cuffed in front of his body with plastic cuffs, blindfolded and was later transferred to Etzion interrogation and detention center, where he was thoroughly searched and held in a very foul-smelling and dirty 4x2 cell, which had no mattresses, forcing him to sleep on a blanket.

One notable case that emerged this year was the case of Amal Nakhleh, a 17-year-old student from Ramallah's Al-Jalazone refugee camp, who was arrested on 21 January 2021. His case stood out due to his critical health condition, which did not deter the occupation forces from arresting and detaining him. Nakhleh suffers from myasthenia gravis; a neuromuscular disorder that causes weakness in the skeletal muscles, which are the muscles your body uses for movement. It occurs when communication between nerve cells and muscles becomes impaired. Because of that, Nakhleh requires special medical care. Also, he underwent surgery to remove a cancerous mass in his chest five months prior to his arrest, and as a result, suffers from severe headaches and shortness of breath.

Throughout the year 2021, the occupation military commander issued three administrative detention orders against Nakhleh, the first of which was for six months and was reduced to four months. The administrative detention order against him was renewed for four months, starting on May 20 and ending on September 19. Upon its expiry, the administrative detention was renewed for another four months, ending on 18 January 2022.

It should be noted that Amal was previously arrested on 2 November 2020, and the military prosecutor submitted a list of charges against him, but was released nearly 40 days later on 10 December 2020 by Ofer Military Court of Appeal due to his health condition and young age. Almost a month later, he was arrested again.

Annexes

Annex 1: A Prisoner Profile

Ruba Assi

Name:	Ruba Fahmi Mohammad Dar Assi
Date of Birth:	1 March 2000
Residence:	Beitunia, Ramallah
Marital Status:	Single
Occupation:	Third-year Sociology student at Birzeit University
Date of Arrest:	9 July 2020
Prison:	Damon prison
Legal Status:	Serving a 21-month sentence

Arrest and Interrogation

On 9 July 2020, Israeli occupation forces stormed Ruba's house in Beitunia at 2 in the morning, wherein they began shouting at her father and demanding Ruba. IOF searched Ruba and announced her arrest without providing any reason for the arrest. Ruba was not allowed to say goodbye to her family or to wear a jacket. She was then handcuffed in front of her body and blindfolded with a mask and taken on a military jeep for a long-distance until they reached an area that she could no longer recognize. A military officer of the area tried to provoke Ruba, taunting that, 'the handcuffs are big on your hands and very wide, and you are very small.'

Ruba was placed in the open air until she was transferred the next morning to Ofer military camp, where she was confined to a cell that lacked basic living conditions, with no ventilation, a bed made of bricks, and roughly textured walls.

After her interrogation, Ruba was transferred via the bosta to Hasharon prison and de-

tention center, where she was held in difficult conditions, due in part to the poor quality of the food, and the intentional delays by Israel Prison Services (IPS) in responding to her basic requests for water and food. The cell she was held in had no ventilation or fan, and Ruba was only allowed to the yard for a period of 1-1½ hours. The yard itself was a small courtyard with a closed ceiling.

Since her arrest, Ruba underwent three COVID-19 tests, without ever knowing the results of the tests. Moreover, Ruba was forced to use the same mask since her arrest without changing, despite asking several times for a change, for which she was refused.

Ruba was interrogated about her activities with the Progressive Democratic Student Pole, her alleged participation in rallies, community campaigns, and stone-throwing. The military officer in charge of her interrogation threatened to keep her in prison until 2025.

Legal Status

Ruba's detention was extended by Ofer military court on 12 July 2020, until 21 July 2020 when the military prosecution submitted an indictment against her that included charges relating to her student and union activism, as well as her membership in an 'illegal' association under Israeli military orders (the Progressive Democratic Student Pole), and charges of throwing stones. The indictment laid against Ruba goes into minute detail on her participation in activities such as a book supplies fair, the hanging of flags and pictures of martyrs, selling books at discounted prices, along with food and drink on behalf of the 'illegal' association.

Nearly one year following her arrest, and following the postponement of her court hearings on several occasions, Ofer military court sentenced Ruba to a 21-month prison term, in addition to 14-months suspended over five years on the charge of membership in an organization deemed 'illegal,' and a five-month suspended prison sentence for five years on the charge of attending a meeting of the 'illegal' association, a 12-month suspended prison sentence for five years on the charge of throwing stones, along with a fine of 3,000 shekels.

Addameer's lawyers filed an appeal against the ruling, for which Ofer military court of appeals issued a decision on 13 September 2021 rejecting the appeal and confirming Ruba's sentence of 21 months in prison, noting that the crimes for which she was convicted were 'extremely dangerous to the security and warranted severe punishment.' The appellate

judge emphasized that the court of the first instance, Ofer military court, greatly reduced the detainee's sentence, stating that there was no room for further mitigation of the sentence. The military judge notes that despite the detainee's clean past, with the seriousness of the acts she committed, there was no room for the Court of Appeals to interfere with the ruling of the court of the first instance.

Selling Books and Stationaries...Dangerous Crimes

Israeli occupation authorities target their repressive policies against Palestinian university students by arresting them, assaulting them, and imprisoning them on charges related to their legitimate student and union activities. Such practices deprive Palestinian students of their basic rights guaranteed under international laws, charters, and conventions, most notably the right to freedom of opinion, expression, and association.

Despite the fact that student and union activity is legitimate and protected around the world, Israeli occupation authorities systematically deny Palestinian students the right to engage in such activities. Rather, they work to ban student groups working in universities, prosecute their members, and charge them with allegations relating to their work, and try them before military courts that lack any semblance of justice and even the most basic of fair trial standards.

The military judge plays a significant complementary role with the military prosecution. For it is not enough for occupation authorities to file purely union and civil charges against the students, but rather they must further emphasize the alleged 'severity' of the charges that necessitate imprisonment for long months. Military judges fulfill this role by issuing long prison sentences with corresponding legal opinions for charges such as selling books and stationaries, participating in meetings, etc. The practice applied by military courts in convicting students for exercising their basic rights highlights the extent to which Israeli occupation authorities violate fundamental obligations and rights under international law. Moreover, it further signals the systematic and complementary nature of the Israeli occupation forces, military prosecution, and military judges, under the umbrella of the occupation authorities, which systematically suppress all civil acts by claiming that the seriousness of the activities impacts the security of the region.

The security-based justification serves to shift attention, deter, and eliminate any political, union, or social activity practiced by university students, amid the broader suppression of the Palestinian people, in all their different occupations, and preventing their right to self-determination and liberation from the occupation.

Ruba's Childhood and Detention

Ruba was only a little over two years old when her family was harassed and her father, Fahmi Assi, was arrested by the Israeli occupation forces. Her father, Fahmi, underwent the agony of arbitrary administrative detention for many years, and Ruba grew up at the doors of the Israeli occupation prisons waiting to visit her father. Now, she, too, is arbitrarily detained and deprived of her basic right to complete her education, which now postpones the joy of her graduation for another two years as she continues to be imprisoned in Damon prison.

Annex 2: A Sworn Affidavit

Mohammad Nasser Hussein Da'ana

*I the undersigned, **Mohammad Nasser Hussein Da'ana**, holder of ID No. 213587256, born on 10 August 2003, a resident of Silwan, Jerusalem, would like to declare the following after I was being warned to tell the truth, otherwise I will be liable to penal punishment:*

1. I live in Wadi Qaddum in the town of Silwan with my family of six; my parents and four siblings. I am the only child [below 18] in the family. I was working in a restaurant prior to my arrest.
2. At approximately 7:45 a.m. on Sunday; 16 May 2021, around 15 men in civilian clothes stormed the front yard of my family's house, accompanied by border policemen in olive-colored uniforms, whom I saw later standing at the entrance. I was asleep at the time and woke up to screaming inside the house. All my family members were in the house. When we went out to the front yard to clarify the reason for the screaming, one of the men in civilian clothes pointed a gun at me and my father, and I saw other men in civilian clothes physically assaulting my cousins – Zeyad, 26; Qusai, 22; Yasser, 18; and Zaki, 22 – and my uncle Abdul Karim, 46, with their feet, hands, handgun butts and sticks. They also verbally abused them and used dogs to intimidate them. The assault continued for about half an hour, and they eventually arrested my cousins and my uncle. I myself was threatened with a gun and was pushed when I tried to approach and help my cousins.
3. Then I left the house. At around 11:00 a.m., my father called me and asked me to come back to the house. As soon as I arrived, my father told me that the occupation police raided the house and handed him a summons for me for interrogation effective immediately, so my father and I went to Salahuddin police station to turn myself in. When we arrived, a policeman in a light blue uniform told me in Arabic to turn myself in at the police station near Al-Mascobiya interrogation and detention center, so I immediately went there with my father. Upon my arrival at around 12:00 p.m., I handed the summons to an officer in black clothes and he told me to wait. After a few minutes, a large, tall and bearded officer in civilian clothes and long black hair came downstairs, grabbed me by my left arm and took me up the stairs to the third floor. He handed me to an officer in civilian clothes who was among those who had raided my house that morning. He was bearded, and his hair was also long.
4. The officer took me to a square-shaped room, the area of which was about 30 square meters, and in which there were a large oval table in the middle, computer screens on the sides, a desk with a computer on it in the left corner. The officer showed me a photo on his mobile phone of a person spraying pepper gas, with only the edge of his face visible, and asked me in Hebrew, which I moderately understand, if I was the one in the photo, and I told him it was not me. He called out someone in words that I did not understand, and then another officer in civilian clothes came in. He was short, wearing a summer hat on his head, had a relatively blonde beard and freckles on his face. He asked me the same question about whether I knew the person in the photo, and I told him I did not. He shouted and called out, and then around

15 other officers in civilian clothes came in and closed the door. The second officer searched me and took out everything I was carrying in my pockets.

5. Then another officer asked me in fluent Arabic, yet with a threatening tone, about the person in the photo, and I assured him that I did not know the person in the photo. And then they all began assaulting me with their hands all over my body, and I tried to protect my face with my hands and shouted in Arabic that I would tell the judge everything that happened to me. They cuffed my hands behind my back with a single plastic cord, blindfolded me with a mask, threw me to the ground and started kicking and verbally abusing me in Arabic and Hebrew. They would stop kicking me for a few seconds to ask me again if I was the one in the photo, and whenever I denied knowing it, they would resume kicking me. After asking me twice, I heard one of them asking another one in Hebrew – as I assumed judging by the sound level of his voice – to bring the electricity device, so the other one electrocuted me in the chest near my heart for about four seconds, in the right arm for one second, and in the right leg below the knee for one second, and one last time in the left leg below the knee for one second. Every time he electrocuted me, my entire body shivered, and I felt a loss of control over my body, and I screamed. They electrocuted me for about a minute.
6. Then I was asked again about the person in the photo, and I told them it was not me and I did not know him, only to be kicked and punched all over my body for about 15 minutes, after which I was seated on my knees with my forehead placed against a wall. While I was in such a position, an officer would put his hand near my ear to give me the feeling that he would not hit me, but then he would slam my head against the wall, and he did that for almost two hours, as I assumed. Then an officer lifted my blindfold a little and started showing me photos of people on a mobile phone throwing stones and asking me who they were, but I told him I did not know them. “Don’t dream of getting out before telling us who the person spraying gas in the photo,” he said to me in Arabic. I told him I did not know.
7. As a result of that, the officers pulled me from my shoulder, threw me to the ground and started punching and kicking me all over again. My blindfold came down a little, and I saw the second officer, who entered the room earlier, pushing the officers away and kicking me on the chest more than once, after which he said to me in Arabic, ‘If you tell us about the person in the photo, you have my word no one will hit you again.’ I told him to take the mask off my eyes so I could talk to him, and he said he would not take it off. “I will not speak before you take it off,” I said to him, and he took it off and showed me the photo again. I told him that it was me in the photo, so he told me to apologize to the person who was sprayed with gas and lower my neck to slap me. I apologized to him and told him he could hit me all he wanted, but I would not lower my neck. So that officer, who claimed that he was sprayed with gas, slapped me on the neck, blindfolded me again with the mask and made me face the wall.
8. From time to time an officer would hit me on the head. There were officers in the room the entire time. I would hear them from time to time mocking the officer, whom I allegedly sprayed with gas, and telling him in Hebrew that ‘a little child sprayed you with pepper gas,’ so he would get angry and hit me two or three times. They did it a few times for about two hours, after which an old man with gray hair removed my blindfold and told me to go and sit on the floor in one of the corners. I asked him who he was, but he did not answer me and blindfolded me again. A few minutes later, an officer in civilian clothes removed my blindfold,

cut the plastic cord, handcuffed me in front of my body and took me downstairs. While I was walking down the stairs, one of the officers who assaulted me earlier in the room, approached me and told me in Arabic, ‘if you don’t tell the interrogator what you told us back in the room, I’ll split you’re a** in half.’

9. I was taken downstairs to a small room, about 15 square meters in area, in which there was a desk with a computer screen on it, but there were no surveillance cameras. I was seated in a chair. “I know that beating is prohibited during interrogation, so why did they beat me?” I said to the officer, and he said that those who beat me were not interrogators, but policemen from the border police. He asked me in Arabic if I had a lawyer, and I told him that I did not know if my family had appointed me a lawyer or not, so he called a lawyer named Mohammad Mahmoud and gave him my personal details. He then ended the call, informed me of my rights and told me that I was accused of five charges; namely racism, assault on a police officer with pepper gas, obstruction of police work, riots, and a fifth one that I do not remember at the moment. A few minutes later, lawyer Firas Al-Jabrini came, and I sat with him in another room for about 10 minutes, during which he gave me legal advice.
10. Then I was returned to the interrogation room, and the same interrogator started asking me questions about the person in the same photo that they were showing me earlier, and I told him it was me. He asked me why I did it – spraying a police officer with pepper gas, and I told him I was defending myself and my house and that I did not know they were police officers because they did not identify themselves. The interrogation session lasted about half an hour, at the end of which he told me to sign a statement that was written in Hebrew, but I refused because I did not understand what was written in it. I was then taken to the second floor to a room to take my fingerprints, but the machine was not working. I was taken outside to a corridor where I met my cousins and my uncle, but I was not allowed to talk to them.
11. After that I was held in a cell that smelled bad. Shortly after that, an officer in civilian clothes came and asked about the ages of those in the room, and when he knew that I was under the age of 18, he took me out to a narrow corridor of no more than half a meter wide. About 15 minutes later, I was transferred to Al-Mascobiya center, where I was seen by a doctor, who did not provide me with any treatment. I was never allowed to use the bathroom or have some water to drink, despite my repeated requests. After that, I was detained in a cell with five children and four beds, so I was given a thin mattress. I was hungry, so I asked for food from one of the jailers, but he told me that I must wait until the following morning at breakfast time at around 7.
12. I appeared in court at around 3:00 a.m. on Tuesday; May 18, and my detention was extended until the following day. Following the court hearing, I was transferred to Megiddo prison. I was then released to house arrest on a bail of 3,000 shekels and a financial guarantee of 40,000 shekels. The last court session was held early July, and to this day I am still under house arrest, as I am not allowed to leave the house unless to go to school or to work.

Signed by: Mohammad Nasser Hussein Da'ana

1 August 2021

Table 2: Detained members of the Palestinian Legislative Council 2011-2021

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2021	9	11	10	10	12	12	12	11	10	9	8	9
2020	7	7	6	7	7	7	5	7	8	8	8	8
2019	8	8	7	8	7	7	7	7	7	8	8	7
2018	11	11	7	6	6	6	5	5	5	6	6	8
2017	7	7	12	13	12	12	12	13	12	12	11	10
2016	7	6	6	6	7	6	6	6		6	6	6
2015	20	17	16	13	12	12	7	4	4	5	5	5
2014	12	11	11	11	11	11	23	38	29	28	25	22
2013	12	15	12	14	13	13	14	13	13	13	14	14
2012	27	27	27	27	27	27	26	20	13	10	8	13
2011	12	12	13	13	14	19	19	19	22	22	23	23

Annex 3: Facts and Figures

Table1: Number of Palestinian prisoners and detainees 2011-2021

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2021	4500	4400	4450	4400	5300	4850	4750	4650	4600	4650	4550	4600
2020	5000	5000	5000	4700	4600	4700	4500	4500	4400	4500	4400	4400
2019	5450	5440	5450	5400	5350	5250	5150	5100	5000	5050	5000	5000
2018	6141	6119	6050	6036	5941	5900	5820	5781	5640	5554	5554	5500
2017	6500		6200	6160	6200	6020	6128	6279	6098	6198	6154	6171
2016	6900	6600	6700	6650	6500	6350	6400	6300	6350	6400	6400	6500
2015	6200	6000	5820	5800	5750	5850	5700	5520	5621	6300	6700	6800
2014	5023	5142	5224	5265	5271			6500	6200	6500	6500	6200
2013	4743	4812	4936	4900	4979	5058	5071	5068	5007	5046	4996	5033
2012	4567	4489	4637	4610	4563	4659	4706	4660	4606	4596	4520	4656
2011	5935	5834	5777	5716	5604	5554		5573	5374	5434	4937	4970

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

Table 3: Prisoners' classifications at the start and end of 2011-2021

Year	Prisoners from 1948 occupied territories	Jerusalem prisoners	Gaza prisoners	Prisoners incarcerated before Oslo Accords	PLC members	Women prisoners
Start of 2021	70	300	250	26	9	37
End of 2021	70	350	230	25	9	34
Start of 2020	70	312	296	26	7	41
End of 2020	70	300	250	26	8	37
Start of 2019	70	353	298	27	8	35
End of 2019	70	308	308	26	7	41
Start of 2018	70	550	320	29	11	59
End of 2018	70	365	310	27	8	54
Start of 2017	70	510	350	30	7	53
End of 2017			320	30	10	58
Start of 2016	90	500	328	30	7	55
End of 2016	70	520	350	30	6	53
Start of 2015	100	380	371	30	20	22
End of 2015	90	520	352	30	5	60
Start of 2014	226	163	389	30	12	17
End of 2014	100	376	376	30	22	23
Start of 2013	191	167	437	111	12	10
End of 2013	216	169	395	53	14	16
Start of 2012	180	161	462	112	27	8
End of 2012	191	165	439	111	13	11
Start of 2011	187	197	684	300	10	37
End of 2011	165	152	443	112	23	5

Table 4: Number of administrative detainees 2011-2021

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2021	450	440	440	430	520	540	550	520	500	500	500	500
2020	461	430	432	400	373	365	360	340	350	370	380	440
2019	495	497	497	490	480	480	460	420	425	460	460	458
2018	450	450	427	431	426	442	446	456	456	482	482	480
2017	536		491	500	490	477	540	465	449	463	453	434
2016	650	700	700	750	715		700	700				536
2015	450	454	426	414	401	480	480	350	343	450	454	660
2014	155	175	183	186	192			480	500	500	530	465
2013	178	178	170	168	156	147	136	134	137	135	145	145
2012	309	309	320	322	308	303	285	250	112	184	156	178
2011	207	221	214	217	220	229	243	243	272	286	278	283

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2021	140	140	140	140	160	250	225	200	200	160	170	160
2020	186	180	183	185	170	160	160	140	155	170	170	160
2019	215	209	205	215	210	205	210	210	190	190	185	185
2018	330	330	356	304	304	291	270	270	270	230	230	230
2017	300		289	300	300	300	320	300	300	280	311	350
2016	450	406	438	438	414		350	340				300
2015	152	163	182	182	164	162	160	153	156	320	420	470
2014	154	183	210	202	196	200	192	200	201	182	163	156
2013	193	219	185	236	236	222	194	195	180	179	159	173
2012	166	166	183	203	218	192	220	210	194	189	164	177
2011	209	221	216	224	217	211		201	176	262	150	159

Table 5: Number of child prisoners 2011-2021

