

## Monthly Newsletter — February 2020



In February 2020, Addameer has documented systematic **human rights violations against Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including torture and ill-Treatment.**

### Detention in Numbers

Since January 2020, **967** Palestinians from the occupied territory were arrested including **162 children and 27 children**. For the month of February, the number of new arrests was **471**.

**As of the end of February 2020, there were:**

**5 000** Palestinian political prisoners

**430** of them administrative detainees

**180** child detainees

**43** female prisoners

**7** Palestinian Legislative Council members.

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### Graduated with a Suspending Sentence: the targeting and political detention of Palestinian university students

Addameer constantly and regularly documents and monitors human rights violations committed by the Palestinian authority, specifically political imprisonment and torture. Similar to previous years, in 2019, Addameer documented a number of cases of political prisoners, more specifically, the monitored cases reached 100, and the majority of them were university students. Those students are from different cities and university. The cases included students from Birzeit university in Ramallah, Khudury governmental university in Tulkarem, Polytechnic university in Hebron, ... etc.



A number of the student who were subjected to political imprisonment informed Addameer's researchers that they were also subjected to torture and ill-treatment. The methods they were subjected to included, long interrogation sessions, stress positions, harsh beating, and constant

threats, such as being threatened to of detention until the end of the university term or year. This is not a new phenomenon, as human rights organizations have documented a number of violations committed by the Palestinian authority security agencies.

### United Nations Human Rights Council 43rd Regular Session – Item 3

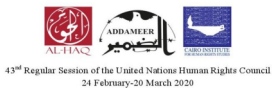
Addameer along with a number of human rights organizations including al-Haq, Cairo Institute for Human rights delivered an oral intervention in Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Furthermore, earlier this month, a number of human rights organizations submitted a joint written submission under item 3 in regards to the crime of torture an ill-treatment committed systematically against Palestinian prisoners. The statement called on the Human Rights Council and all UN Member States to:

Recognise Israel's widespread and systematic use of torture and other forms of ill-treatment against Palestinian detainees in Israeli interrogation centres;

Call for prompt, genuine, independent, and transparent investigations into all cases of torture and other ill-treatment, including cases of death in Israeli detention; and

Hold perpetrators to account for the crime of torture, including in their own jurisdictions and at the International Criminal Court.



43rd Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council  
24 February-20 March 2020  
Joint Oral Intervention  
Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man  
ADDAMEER, Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association  
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies  
Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment  
Date: 28 February 2020  
Speaker: Ms Nada Awad, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)

Madam President,

We welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur and its focus on psychological torture. Despite its absolute prohibition under international law, torture remains widespread and systematic in Israeli occupation prisons and interrogation centres.

In 2019, Israel's Security Agency subjected Palestinian detainees at al-Mascobiyya Interrogation Centre in Jerusalem to severe physical and psychological torture and ill-treatment. The victims, including students, human rights defenders, and political leaders, suffered harsh beatings, sleep deprivation, solitary confinement, stress positions, sexual harassment, and the pulling of facial and body hair, and were denied access to sanitary facilities. They were also subjected to intensive psychological torture, including threats to harm family members and other detainees.

Your Excellency,

When 23-year-old Palestinian student Mais Abu Gush informed the judge of the torture and dire conditions she experienced in detention, instead of receiving any redress, her statement was heavily redacted in the Israeli court hearing's protocol. Her 17-year-old brother, Suheman, was then also arrested and placed under administrative detention.

The torture inflicted upon Palestinians is sanctioned under Israeli law. In 1999, the Israeli High Court legitimized the use of torture in so-called "ticking bomb" scenarios, in breach of the absolute prohibition. As such, Israeli courts continue to sanction rather than prosecute the use of torture against Palestinian detainees. Israeli interrogators, doctors, and judges are complicit in masking the use of torture in Israeli detention.

We urge Member States and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to address Israel's widespread and systematic use of torture and ill-treatment against Palestinian detainees, to ensure prompt, independent, and transparent investigations, and to hold perpetrators accountable.

Thank you.

### Cases of Torture Committed at al-Mascobiyya Interrogation Center

The Israeli occupation authorities never stopped resorting to torture as the standard operating procedure in extracting confessions from Palestinian detainees. In point of fact, the crime of torture is systematic and widely-spread with the complicity of the Israeli judicial system. At the end of 2019, the intelligence agency "Shabak" subjected a number of detainees at al-Mascobiyya interrogation center to severe physical and psychological torture, without any form of monitoring and protection. Addameer is the legal representative for around 50 cases of the detainees in interrogations. Those detainees included university students, human rights defenders, and political leader, which were all subjected to severe physical and psychological torture and/or ill-treatment. Palestinian detainees suffer from the occupation forces inhuman and degrading treatment from the first moments of the arrest. Detainees suffer from invasive body searches, humiliation and harsh beating throughout the arrest and the transfer process to the prisons or the interrogation centers. During the interrogations, the detainees were subjected to different forms of both physical and psychological torture. The used methods against them included, but were not limited to harsh beating, severe sleep deprivation, solitary confinement, stress positions, the denial of basic hygiene needs, which for example was used against the detainees Ahmad Kharouf and Nael Halabi among others. Furthermore, several detainees were kept in cold air-conditioned cells for long periods of time, such as Mamdouh Amara. Also, intimidation and threatening and intensive psychological torture including the use of family members and/or other detainees, such as what Samah Jaradat and Hassan Hashem were subjected to. Many other detainees were subjected to continuous and lengthy interrogation sessions, and were not presented with any list of charges. For example, the detainee, Islam Bargouthi was already under administrative detention when he was taken to al-Mascobiyya, where he spent around 20 days in interrogation, then be taken back to prison, without receiving any list of charges. As for the detainee Carmel Bargouthi, he was subjected to a long and extremely difficult interrogation period, but was only provided a list of charges that included incitement through "facebook".

Addameer's lawyer have started collecting hard evidence of the crime of torture and ill-treatment, committed against these detainees from the very first day, in which the lawyers were permitted to meet with the detainees.

This paper provides a description of the cruel physical and physiological torture and ill-treatment 15 of detainees were subjected to.



### The Systematic use of Torture and Ill-Treatment at Israeli Interrogation Centers

### Cases of Torture Committed at al-Mascobiyya Interrogation Center

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### Short Film Regarding the Human Rights Violations Az-zun Suffers from

On 18 February 2020, Addameer produced and published a short video about the human rights violations the Palestinian village of Azzun suffers from. This village is one of many Palestinian villages that are highly targeted by the Israeli occupation forces. The arrest, and night-raids rate is high and residents suffer from a number of violations that affects their daily lives.



[A Link to the film can be found here](#)

### Al-Dam'er

As a part of the Training and Awareness Unit: Addameer raises local awareness of prisoners' rights on different levels, one of them is by a program called al-Dam'er. The program focuses on Palestinian youth and on specifically reviving grassroots human rights activism and volunteerism and working closely with community activists to increase their knowledge of civil and political rights from an international humanitarian law and international human rights perspective.

As part of the new Dam'er group, which is from the north of the West Bank, Addameer organizes a three-day camp which focused on equipping the youth with different skills. The last camp was from 27-29 February 2020.



### Addameer provides a training to Birzeit University law students

Addameer continued providing a training course on Israeli military courts to law students at Berzeit University. The course ended in February 2020. This course included a session on military courts, a session on documenting violations at the military court, and a visit to Ofer military court.



### Addameer's actions in numbers

**10** international groups (179 people) were briefed by the Advocacy office since January.

**5** visits to military courts were coordinated and organized since January.

### Keep in touch!



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