

Report On Conditions of Palestinian Detainees in Israeli Occupation Prisons

Since the beginning of Israeli occupation to Palestinian Territories on 1967, more than (850,000) of Palestinian citizens have been detained by Israel. Among them were (15,000) female detainees and Tens of Thousands from children.

Since year 2000 until this day, more than (85,000) cases of detention have been registered. Among them more than (10,000) are children (less than 18 years of age), and approximately (1,200) from Palestinian women, more than (65) minister or member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, more than (24,000) administrative detention which can be renewed several times.

The detention of Palestinian people is not restricted to a specific slice or category. It included all slices and categories of Palestinian society (children, youth, old, female, mothers, spouses, ill, handicapped, workers, academics, deputy in the legislative council, ministers, political professional and union leaders, school and university students, writers and artists).

The detention of cases is accompanied and followed by several violations to rules of humanitarian international law, like method of detention, conditions of detention, place of detention, torturing, methods used to extract confession. Those who experienced detention certified that they suffered from one form of physical or psychological torture, abuse and moral insult, and majority of them have suffered from several forms of torture.

During the last four years, it is noticed that Palestinian children are targeted for detention. More than (3,755) cases of child detention are registered, of which (1,266 during the last year 2014. During the first quarter of this current year, more than (200) cases of child detention are registered without consideration to their age or weak physical structure, and without meeting their basic needs. Those children were treated harshly, denied of basic humanitarian rights, sentenced and convicted in prison, fined and home confined. More than 95% of children released from jail certified that they suffered from torture and ill-treatment during interrogation and detention. These actions pose a real threat to Palestinian childhood and its future.

Detainees in Numbers

More than (6,500) Palestinian detainees are still in Israeli occupation prisons. Among these are:

478	Sentenced to life imprisonment for one time or several times.
21	Female detainee (2 are underage)
200	Children under 18 years of age
480	Administrative detention

16	Delegates in Parliament (2 ex-ministers)
1500	Sick and suffer from various diseases (80 in serious conditions)
30	Detained before Oslo Accords (spent more than 20 years in Israeli prisons)
16	Spent more than 25 years in jail like Kareem Younis and Maher Younis who spent 33 years in jail.
85	Released according to Shaleet Agreement and then re-detained. (65) of them are still in prison despite spending Twenty years in jail.

The Palestinian detainees are distributed in (22) Israeli prisons most notably are (Nafha, Remon, Asqalan, Beir Sabee, Hadareem, Jalbou, Shata, Ramlah, Damoun, Hasharoon, Hadarim, Naqab, Ofar and Majedo).

Female Detainees

During the process of detention, Palestinian female detainees are exposed to beating, insulting, humbling and contempt. During the transfer process to prison, they are not informed about the destination. During interrogation and investigation, they are exposed to threat, intimidation, harsh treatment and beating.

The suffering continues through isolation, depriving from relative visits, confiscation of Canteen allocated amount, provocative inspection, depriving from necessary treatment or education. Seven of the female detainees are deprived of meeting, visiting or communicating with their spouses or brothers who are jailed in other prisons.

Sick Detainees

More than 1,500 Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons suffer from various diseases because of harsh living conditions, contamination of the surrounding conditions, cruel treatment, poor health care and medical negligence. Sixteen of the sick detainees are permanently staying in the so called Al-Ramlah hospital prison in harsh conditions, suffering from serious illness (crippled, need medical and surgical operations, deprived from meeting private doctors or receiving due treatment). Twenty Five of the sick detainees are suffering from Cancer and dozens of disabled patients (physical and psychological).

Many of the detainees are infected with various physical and psychological diseases as a result of harsh living conditions, spread of insects, malnutrition, lack of hygiene, poor ventilation, moisture, weak lighting, overcrowding rooms, detention after injury, hitting on the place of injury during investigation to force confess. The most wide spread diseases in prisons are skin diseases, chest infections, ulcers, cancerous tumors, renal failure, disc and spine diseases, rheumatology, blood pressure, diabetes, visual impairment, dental pain and psychological diseases. The bodies of sick detainees become a testing ground for practicing Israeli doctors and drug companies.

Administrative Detention

Administrative detention is the unknown enemy to Palestinian detainees. It is punishment without charges. In administrative detention, detainees are detained without trial, without the right of detainee or advocate of detainee to self-defend, no incriminating evidence, is based on the so-called secret file provided by the occupation intelligence agency.

The period of imprisonment in administrative detention is ranging from one month to six months. It is issued by military leaders in occupied Palestinian territories arbitrarily based on military commands. In several cases, the administrative detention can be renewed several times and may reach Ten times, in this case the victims (men or women, young or old) may spend more than Five years in prison without charges and trial based on the secret file. Majority of Palestinian targeted for administrative detention are mostly doctors, engineers, university academics, journalists, delegates in the legislative council.

Martyrs Detainees

Many of the Palestinian detainees died in Israeli jails as a result of cruel and harsh conditions they lived like (torture, medical negligence, isolation, shooting, storming rooms at night with gas). According to documented cases registered in the Commission of Detainees and Ex-detainees, (206) of the detainees have been killed after detention since 1967. The last registered case of death was martyr Raed Aljabari from Hebron. The cause of death to these martyrs was as follows, (71) died as a result of torture, (54) died as a result of medical negligence, (74) died as a result of deliberate assassination after detention, (7) died as a result of direct shooting by soldiers and guards inside jail.

Israeli Judiciary

The Israeli judiciary implements the internal Israeli military laws and does not abide by and adhere to international laws. This affects the fairness of legal proceedings in Israeli courts. The Israeli legislatures do not include any laws convicting war crimes or crimes against humanity.

The Israeli judiciary practices discrimination in the sentences imposed on Palestinian citizens and sentences imposed on Israeli citizens. The Israeli high court of justice rejected thousands of complaints filed by lawyers on behalf of detainees who suffered from torture and cruel treatment during detention. The Israeli judiciary has not sentenced or convicted any Israeli officer from the intelligence agency who committed crimes against humanity and killed detainees during detention.

During the year 2014, the Israeli government focused on issuing and approving new laws, legislatives and arbitrary measures against prisoners in Israeli parliament like:

- Law of prisoners force feeding during hunger strikes
- Law of preventing amnesty for prisoners

- Illegal fighter law
- Increasing the punishment for children up to 20 years imprisonment
- Denial of secondary and tertiary education for prisoners
- Detention of children under 18 years of age
- The use of torture under the pretext of security risks
- Imposition of fines and financial compensation on prisoners

International Laws

Israel does not recognize the implementation of the third, fourth Geneva conventions on detainees. It deals with Palestinian prisoners as terrorists and criminals and implements its internal military laws on them. These laws deprived detainees of their basic rights, and removed the legitimacy of their struggle against occupation that has been approved by United Nations resolutions.

Contrary to the Fourth Geneva Convention, Israel is still holding Palestinian prisoners in prisons inside Israel and hinders the family visits to detainees in prisons. As a result, Hundreds of detainees are deprived from family visits, provision of clothes and blankets during cold season, provision of books, impose of individual and collective punishments like purchase of basic and personal needs.

Finally, Palestine as a state recognized by the United Nations has joined many international conventions and treaties. Most notably the four Geneva Conventions, and the International Criminal Court. This is why it has become necessary to call the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention for the meeting and compel Israel to implement these agreements on the occupied Palestinian territories and to the detainees in prisons. It is important to take the necessary legal action, and activate international justice tools to prosecute Israelis regarding the violations they committed against prisoners.

Israel cannot remain a state above the law, flouting the rights of prisoners and international humanitarian conventions. The issue of prisoners is a humanitarian issue of justice. There is an international responsibility to compel Israel to respect international humanitarian law in dealing with prisoners.

On the political level, the issue of Palestinian prisoners occupies a large and important place in Palestinian society, because it is the issue of rights and the issue of the legitimate struggle for freedom, dignity and self-determination. Any normal and genuine peace in the region must include the release of prisoners as part of any solution or a political settlement and stability in the region.

Government of Israel to take responsibility for stopping the political negotiations in late 2013 after it reneged on the release of the third batch of the prisoners detained before the Oslo Accords, and not adhering to the agreement on that, in addition to continuing to build settlements in the West Bank and Jerusalem.