

*In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate*

**Palestinian Legislative Council**

**Extraordinary Session**

**Session I - Eighty-seventh Meeting**

**Held in Gaza - Wednesday, 15/04/2015**

Education and Social Affairs Committee Report

Conditions of Political Prisoners and Detainees in  
The Zionist Occupation's Prisons

*1. Introduction:*

On this occasion, allow us to convey our gratitude and appreciation to every male and female detainee languishing in the Occupation and its cronies' prisons; it is these who embody deep patience, loyalty, and who are an example of steadfastness and challenge, in every sense of the word, in the face of an arrogant, unjust, brutal, and tyrannical Occupation and its proxies.

In addition to the suffering of prisoners in Israeli jails, this report details the arrests, persecution, and rejected political attacks and practices which are unfortunately conducted by some of the Palestinian Authority's security apparatuses.

This report is an extension of all previous reports, and complementary thereof, where focus has been only on the most prominent emerging issues since April 2014 to date - in 2015.

*2. Upsurge in Detention:*

The Occupation authorities persist with their policy of arrests, which has become a daily occurrence in the public life of Palestinians in general, and those in the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem in particular. Arrests in 2014 have risen to more than 7,000. In the first quarter of this year, the Occupation arrested/detained/questioned more than 1,000 citizens of all facets of the Palestinian society, and the arrests excluded neither children, nor women, academics, liberated detainees, the sick, the elderly, human rights activists, the media, or journalists.

These operations included the arrest and detention of (150) children and (60) women, among them (54) residents of the Gaza Strip who were fishermen, or escorts of patients, while others were arrested after they approached or snuck in from the eastern border of the Strip. Thirteen merchants from Gaza Strip were also arrested at the Beyt Hanoun crossing earlier this year.

Through a comparison of detainees' numbers between the first quarter of this year, 2015, with statistics of arrests made in 2014, it represents only 10%. The reason for this decline in arrests compared to last year is the relentless acceleration in arrests after the disappearance incident of the three settlers in Hebron.

The Israeli Occupation also rearrested (74) of those liberated in the deal brokered by Egypt. Only (8) of those have been released, while (66) remain in detention. The Israeli Occupation has reinstated past rulings against (35) of them, the latest of which was the reinstatement of Life Imprisonment on (Ibrahim al-Masri, Ramallah) which is in contradiction to the deal.

In January 2015, the Israeli Occupation arrested (244) citizens, including (58) children, (3) liberated detainees, and two women from different governorates in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Whereas during February it arrested (178) citizens, including (35) children, (3) liberated detainees and one woman.

In March 2015, the Israeli Occupation arrested (21) Palestinians in the West Bank and Jerusalem, and its courts issued a ruling against Imad al-Fahl (26) on the charge of attempting to kidnap settlers.

In short: The Occupation forces ransack the cities and villages of the West Bank day and night through raids, attacks, and arrests on a daily basis. It is as if the Palestinian Authority neither exists nor can protect its citizens. The starkest contradiction yet is the complicity of its security apparatus with those in Israel!

### *3. Prisoner Statistics:*

The number of prisoners has been on the increase till the drafting of this report as there are nearly (6500) Palestinian and Arab prisoners from all walks of life being held in (23) prisons and detention centers.

Among these prisoners are (600) from Jerusalem and the occupied territories of 1948, (5400) prisoners from the West Bank, (390) prisoners from the Gaza Strip, and (40) prisoners from Arab countries.

As for the legal status of prisoners, there are (3600) 'convicted' prisoners, (2450) detainees, and 500 Administrative detainees, including (300) children under 18. Twenty-two women are also held captive, (9) of whom have been 'convicted'.

### *4. Abduction of Representatives (MPs):*

The second half of last year witnessed an unprecedented campaign against members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, where (28) members were abducted, and a number of them thereafter released after having served different periods of Administrative detention. The Israeli Occupation has postponed the trial of (President of the Legislative Council, Dr. Aziz Dweik) for the thirteenth consecutive time. Elderly MP (Ahmed al-Haj Ali, 72) is at large and still being pursued by Israel, whose forces have raided his home more than once to arrest him. Israel has threatened to assassinate him once found.

During April 2015, Occupation authorities have released three MPs from Hebron: Dr. Hatem Kufaisheh, Bassem al-Za'areer, and Nizar Ramadan.

Israel is still detaining (14) MPs, including (11) from the Change and Reform Bloc, as well as leading MP of the Fatah Movement (Marwan Barghouti) who has been detained since April 2002 and who was sentenced to life imprisonment. Leading MP of the Popular Front (Ahmed Sa'adat) is also in detention and has been sentenced to (30) years, and the recent kidnapping and detention of MP Khalida Jarrar who has been sentenced to (4) months of Administrative detention.

#### *5. Martyrs of the Movement in Captivity:*

During the report period, the list of martyrs of the national movement in captivity reached (206) since 1967. Detainee (Raed Abdul Salam Abdul Ghaffar al-Ja'abari, 35) of al-Ras in Hebron died in (Eshel Prison) after his health deteriorated, where autopsy at the Forensic Medicine Institute in Abu Dees documented a severe blow to his head, causing a concussion in the brain cells and severe bleeding which led to his death. Captive (Jihad Abdul Rahman al-Taweel, 47) of Ras al-Amud in Silwan, Jerusalem, died of his injuries after he was attacked while in prison (Beer Sheva).

#### *6. Medical Negligence:*

The number of sick prisoners in the Occupation prisons rose during the reporting period to (1200) patients with conditions requiring medical intervention, including (130) conditions of chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and total or partial disability - in need of extensive medical care. Yet the Occupation continues with its methodical policy of medical neglect towards the prisoners so that disease would penetrate their bodies and the hope in healing would be futile.

- The latest example: Young liberated detainee (Jaafar Ibrahim Awad, 22, Beyt Amir, Hebron, Islamic Jihad), who died a few days ago, and who was in good health when detained, but caught many diseases while in prison after being injected with an unknown substance – claimed to be a wrongly administered Insulin shot, in “Eshel, Beersheba” prison. Severe complications due to

medical negligence ensued, and his condition deteriorated rapidly during eight months of bitter suffering.

- Well aware of his inevitable fate, and in an attempt to evade responsibility, the Israeli Occupation decided to release him in late 2014 under the pretense of satisfactory period of imprisonment, and fined him a hefty 40,000 shekels. He exited only to spend 3 months of hospitalization in Hebron and Jerusalem until he succumbed to death on Friday 04/10/2015. During his funeral procession from Beyt Amir grand mosque, Occupation forces clashed with mourners and shot dead his cousin (Ziad Omar Mosleh Awad, 29.)

#### *7. Administrative Detention:*

In a clear escalation in its policy of administrative detention, Occupation forces issued (251) administrative orders during the first quarter of this year, including (42) first instance administrative orders, while the rest were renewal of detention. The Administrative orders ranged between 2-6 months.

The Occupation had issued (1046) orders last year, and the number of Administrative detainees rose in recent months to reach more than (500) - the highest since 2008.

Among the prisoners who had their sentences renewed: MP in the Palestinian Legislative Council (Azzam No'man Salhab) of Hebron for (4) months for the second time, MP (Bassem Za'arir) for a period of (4) months for the second time, MP (Hatem Rabah Kufaisheh, Hebron), MP (Nayef Rajoub, Hebron), and MP (Mohammed Abu Eid, Hebron), all for another (4) months.

#### *8. Solitary Confinement:*

The Israeli Occupation has once again reverted to its policy of solitary confinement of prisoners, at an escalating pace, after it was frozen due to al-Karamah Strike. This is in violation of the Agreement by the prison authority and (30) detainees are currently held in such confinement.

The harsh isolation has led (Nahaar al-Sa'adi) to undergo a 28-day hunger strike where he was joined for 8 days by 100 prisoners of al-Jihad Movement. The strike ended with an agreement that provides better terms of confinement for (al-Saadi) and transferring him from the Criminal Confinement of al-Ramlah to that of Raymoun prison, and the gradual phasal removal of (12) other prisoners from such confinement.

The latest cases of solitary confinement were carried out by (Raymoun) prison authorities against (4) prisoners in the aftermath of the violent events following the stabbing of a security officer at the prison by detainee (Abu Hamza Soaween).

### *9. Persecution of Prisoners:*

Storming operations and maltreatment of prisoners numbered (65). The prisons that underwent this the most were (Negev and Raymoun). Raiding troops included Special Forces armed to the teeth with machineguns, poison gas, and wild police dogs. They destroyed the personal effects of the prisoners, confiscated all electrical appliances, isolated some wards, banned visitation and mingling with other inmates for unlimited periods, imposed monetary fines on prisoners, denied them canteen rights, and installed sophisticated signal-jamming equipment in some wards.

Storming operations have always been coupled with other provocative measures against prisoners such as verbal abuse, deliberate sabotage, and losses of prisoner items in the thousands of Shekels.

This is in addition to the introduction of new laws and punitive measures such as force-feeding of prisoners on hunger strike, and a bill to prevent the Head of State from pardoning Palestinian prisoners or commuting their sentences.

February was a month of fierce attacks on the prisoners, and witnessed a surge in storming operations, numbering (25), and abuse of prisoners. Special Forces also attacked prisoners in Raymoun prison and transferred a number of prisoner leaders, and isolated others. Three prisoners from Jerusalem were injured and (4) received severe beatings.

### *10. Female Prisoners:*

Twenty-two female prisoners are in Israeli prisons, among whom are (9) held on different charges, while the rest are detainees. The Occupation forces had arrested young girl (Malaak al-Khateeb, 14) while leaving school and she was released after spending 2 months in Hesharon Prison.

In recent times, the conditions of female prisoners have deteriorated severely due to harsh prison terms, particularly in winter, and maltreatment on all levels

### *11. Prisoner Strikes:*

Contrary to the events of 2014 where Administrative detainees underwent the longest mass hunger strike in history, which continued for (63) days, no mass strikes of detainees have been recorded in the reporting period, notwithstanding individual strikes conducted by a number of individual detainees for the improvement of their living conditions and meeting their just

demands. We highlight here the case of detainee (Khader Adnan) who began a hunger strike to protest against extending his period of Administrative detention.

#### 12. *Trial of Children:*

The Zionist Occupation authorities are still detaining nearly (300) minor prisoners (under eighteen years of age), including three minor females.

The Occupation has arrested thousands of Palestinian children, and continues to arrest them on a daily basis. These undergo torture, persecution, and abuse in dungeons, in flagrant violation of international law and the Geneva Convention.

International laws and the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989, have granted children basic rights, and do not allow any infringement upon them under any circumstances; most notably among these rights is the non-deprivation of child liberty or prejudice to their life in any way.

#### 13. *Smuggled Sperm:*

Since 2012, in defiance of the Occupation and in continuance of the will to live, Palestinian prisoners inside Israeli jails continue to have children through smuggling their sperm. A number of sentenced prisoners, some of whom with life imprisonment, have succeeded in smuggling sperm beyond prison walls through secret means that ensure their safe and intact delivery to fertilization health centers. Thirty-five artificial insemination and successful fertilization cases have occurred within the report period.

#### 14. *Political Detention:*

Political detention has become a prominent feature of a complex political scene in the occupied West Bank in spite of the existence of a national consensus government. Political arrests have increased exponentially in abhorrent contravention of the law and of the political and civil rights of Palestinian citizens.

During 2014, the Palestinian Authority's security apparatuses conducted raids against resistance supporters in the West Bank, arresting (1064) citizens on political charges. The most recent detainee is liberated prisoner (Hamaam Khadir Samreen) who was detained after being called in for an alleged job interview. The PA also conducted (307) beatings, raids on homes, and suppression of demonstrations. Hebron received the brunt of the attacks and witnessed arrests

and attacks on liberated detainees, as well as university students, journalists, Imams, and others. It also extended the arrest of (106) citizens.

The crackdown increased during the first quarter of 2015. For example in January, the PA's security arms arrested (65) resistance supporters from all West Bank governorates. It also summoned (43) citizens, including a female reporter and a wife of a prisoner held by Israel; it also extended the detention period of (12) others.

In February, the PA arrested (82) citizens, summoned (20) – including the sister of political detainee (Oudeh Breyjeh) – and extended the arrest of (14) others.

In March, the PA arrested (123) citizens, including (20) children, summoned (31) citizens, and extended the detention of (8) others. The most recent detainee is the son of MP (Mohammed Abu Gehisheh) after raiding his home and tampering with the scene.

#### 15. *Recommendations:*

1. We call upon the leadership of the Palestinian Authority to take all measures that enable the filing of individual and class action suits on behalf of prisoners and their families against the Israeli government and its leaders before international courts, and to prosecute them for their crimes against prisoners, especially before the International Criminal Court which the PA has recently joined.

2. We call upon international bodies, particularly the United Nations Human Rights Council, to appoint an international commission to report on the conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails so that it may witness, firsthand, the flagrant violations of international law, including the Geneva Convention.

3. We call upon the International Committee of the Red Cross to bear its duty of intervening for the protection of Palestinian prisoners against Zionist violations and ensuring the respect of the prisoners' human rights and dignity.

4. We call for the formation of a global coalition of human rights organizations tasked with launching a global campaign against the policy of administrative detention, solitary confinement, and medical negligence that is conducted against the prisoners by the Zionist Occupation, and to shed light on the suffering of child, female, and sick prisoners, particularly the disabled, and those with cancer.

5. We call upon the Egyptian government - as sponsor of the *Allegiance of the Free* deal – to actively intervene and to pressure the Occupation to release the detainees who were covered in that deal, whom the Occupation has rearrested afterwards.

6. We call upon all Parliaments of the world to hold a special session to discuss the tragic conditions of Palestinian prisoners in general, and the abducted MPs in particular, and the formation of Parliamentary committees for summoning the Israeli Occupation before international tribunals.

7. We call upon Arab and Muslim embassies to organize sit-ins in solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners, and the issuance of bulletins to explain their just cause, suffering, and the crimes of the Occupation against them, and to demand their release and the improvement of their living conditions.

8. We call upon the Parliaments of the world to assume their legal, moral, and humanitarian responsibilities in alleviating the suffering of their fellow Palestinian MPs who are being abducted, detained, insulted, and tried in sham political courts in Zionist Occupation jails.

9. We call upon the Arab League, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Arab and European Parliaments, and the International Council of Human Rights to convene a special session to discuss the issue of ordinary and MP Palestinian detainees held in Zionist Occupation's jails.

10. We call upon the leadership of the Palestinian Authority to abide by the law and cease the arrest and persecution of Palestinians on political grounds.

11. We call upon the Palestinian resistance factions to leave all options open and take all measures towards liberating prisoners from Zionist Occupation jails.

16. *In conclusion:*

Allow us to thank and convey gratitude to all who have stood up for our brave prisoners' cause through word or deed in support of thereof and in honor of their sacrifices and steadfastness.

In this vein, we offer our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the valiant factions of the Palestinian resistance, especially the al-Qassam Brigades, for their relentless pursuit and ongoing efforts towards freeing the detainees.

On this occasion too, we are grateful to the Qatari people and their Highness the Prince on their commencement of launching work on His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani City for Detainees and Liberated Prisoners.

We also appreciate the statement of the Algerian Parliament in support of our prisoners' cause; a matter that reflects the authenticity of the great Algerian people and their free MPs towards the Palestinian cause. We call upon all Arab and international Parliaments to follow the example of Algeria regarding the cause of prisoners and abducted MPs.



*Thank you, and may peace be upon you.*

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