



PALESTINIAN STUDENTS

Under Suspended Detention

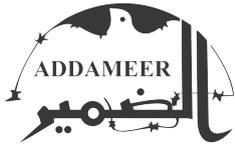
ADDAMEER, Prisoners Support and Human Rights Association



Under Suspended Detention

PALESTINIAN STUDENTS

The Targeting and Political Detention
of Palestinian University Students



PAZ
CON DIGNIDAD



**Ajuntament
de Barcelona**

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Transfers from the prison to the interrogation centre are carried out by **'Bosta'**.



Introduction

The Israeli occupation authorities systematically and persistently target Palestinian university students for arbitrary arrest and detention. This practice, amounting to a form of **collective punishment**, violates Palestinian students' rights both to education and to freedom of association, assembly, and expression, all protected under international legal standards. Each year, the Israeli occupation authorities viciously arrest and detain dozens of Palestinian students, often under the pretext of involvement with student groups deemed "illegal" under Israeli military orders. Though the Israeli occupation authorities target students and student groups across Palestine, students at Birzeit University have been subjected to the most consistent, systematic attacks, raids on campus, arbitrary detention orders, and torture and ill-treatment.

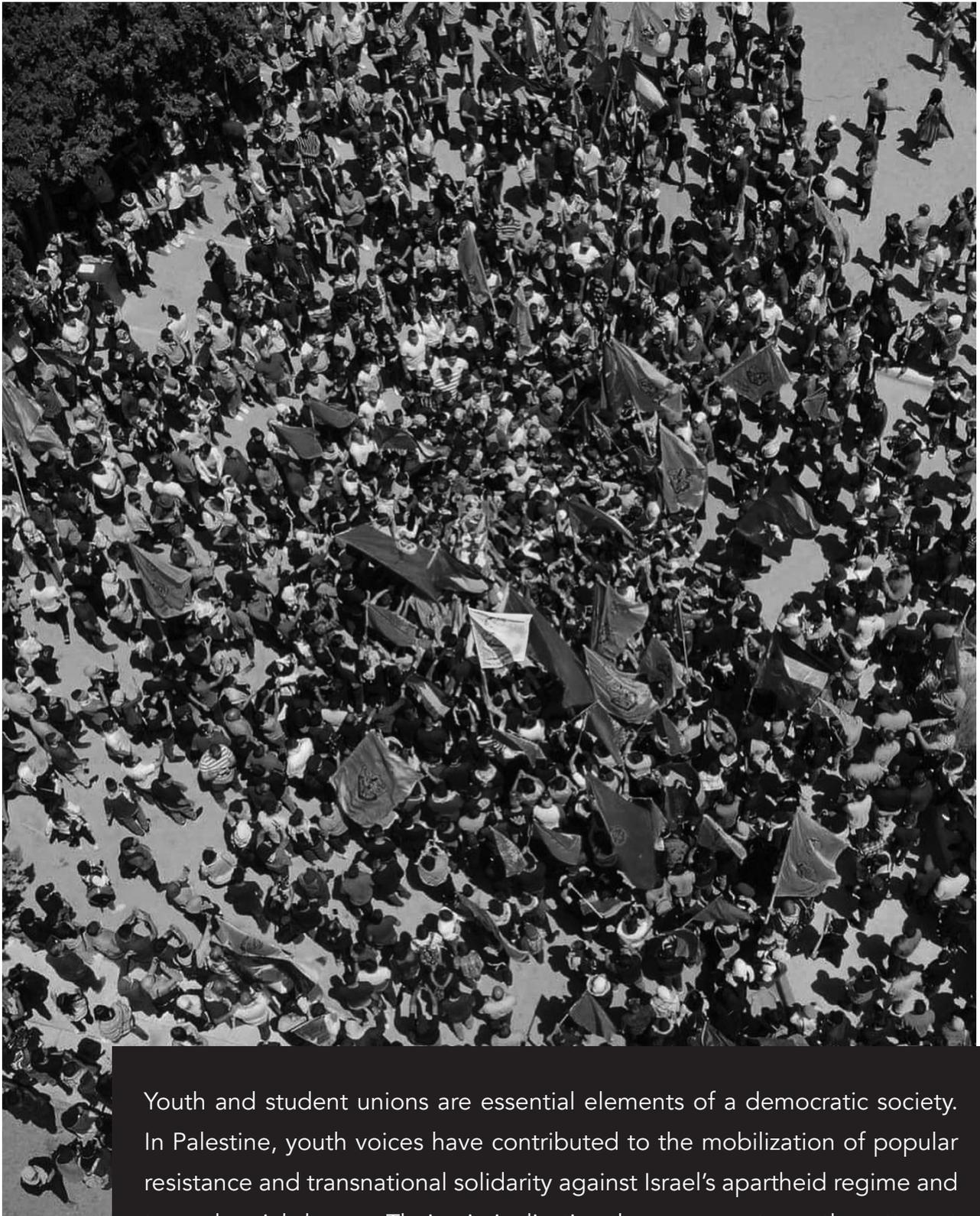
Over recent years, these attacks and arbitrary arrests have only increased. Currently, **more than 70 Palestinian students are held in Israeli occupation prisons**. Further, in both 2021 and 2022, Birzeit University students experienced military raids and mass arbitrary arrest campaigns on campus. The 2021 incident, which saw over 45 Palestinian students detained and arrested for participating in a solidarity visit to a recently demolished Palestinian home, came on the heels of the Israel occupation forces' mass arrest and detention campaigns amid the Palestinian Unity Uprising happening that summer.¹ Similarly, in 2022, undercover Israeli occupation forces raided Birzeit to target a student council meeting with over a dozen students, including the heads of various student blocs, arresting five Palestinian students and indiscriminately firing live ammunition, wounding at least one student.²

The Israeli occupation forces' continuous attacks against Palestinian universities and students violate Israel's obligation as an Occupying Power to protect educational institutions. Further, targeting students through these attacks directly impedes Palestinians' right to education, as provided in **Article 26** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and **Article 13** of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).



¹ Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, "IOF Launch Mass Arrest Campaign Against Birzeit University Students Visiting Site of Israeli Home Demolition," 18 July 2021, <https://www.addameer.org/news/4458>.

² Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, "Undercover Israeli Occupation Force Storm Birzeit University, Arresting Five Palestinian Students and Shot Live Ammunition," 12 January 2022, <https://www.addameer.org/news/4652>.



Youth and student unions are essential elements of a democratic society. In Palestine, youth voices have contributed to the mobilization of popular resistance and transnational solidarity against Israel's apartheid regime and toward social change. Their criminalization thus represents another attempt by Israel's apartheid regime to suppress youth self-determination.

Common charges

The Israeli occupation authorities use all means at their disposal to criminalize and imprison Palestinian students — including fabricating charges and blatantly transferring the language of an indictment from one student to another. The occupation’s military courts issue long prison sentences to Palestinian students for small charges, wherein they are consistently subjected to inhumane conditions, severe ill-treatment, and torture, often justified under the pretext of the “**ticking time bomb scenario**” legalized by Israeli courts.³

Mass raids and arrests often target students involved in on-campus organizing activities through student groups, which the occupation authorities consider these groups to be “illegal” under Israeli military orders. Since 1967, the so-called Israeli Ministry of “Defense” has banned over 411 Palestinian groups and associations, including all the main Palestinian political parties, considering them “**hostile,**” “**unlawful,**” or “**terrorists**”.⁴ The definition of a “hostile” or “**unlawful organization**” is intentionally left broad to ensure the occupation’s ability to broadly suppress Palestinians and infringe on their freedom of expression and association.

For example, attending a rally of an “**unlawful association**” or an association “**with ties**” to an “**unlawful association**”; putting up posters of such an association; and writing, producing, printing, and distributing publications related to an “**unlawful association**” are all activities that are considered to “**endanger the security of the state of Israel**”. These activities are then prosecuted as crimes under the banner of “hostile and terrorist activities”. In some cases, students were indicted with charges as unreasonable and far-fetched as “**dancing Dabke**”, a traditional Palestinian folkloric dance, at an event organized by a student union “with ties to an unlawful organization”, or attending a film screening at an “**illegal rally**”. The nature of charges against students —no matter how frivolous— is never of interest to the prosecution and hardly ever examined by the military judge.

The Israeli occupation authorities first outlawed Shabiba Youth Bloc—a student union commonly associated with Fatah—through an Israeli military order on 13 March 1988. The Israeli authorities continue to consider **Shabiba Youth Bloc** as an “**unlawful association**” until today. On 19 May 1998, the Islamic Bloc was the next student group to be declared unlawful. Most recently, the Israeli occupation authorities designated the **Democratic Progressive Student Pole (DPSP)** —a leftist student bloc at Birzeit University— an “**unlawful association**”

³ The Association for the Prevention of Torture, “Defusing the Ticking Bomb Scenario,” 2007, <https://www.apt.ch/sites/default/files/publications/tickingbombscenario.pdf>

⁴ Human Rights Watch, “Born without Civil Rights: Israel’s Use of Draconian Military Orders to Repress Palestinians in the West Bank” at 32, November 2019, https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/palestine1219_web_0.pdf

in 2020.⁵ Subsequently, the occupation forces arrested and detained several students for their participation with DPSP. On June 7th, 2021, the **UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention** published an opinion finding that three of the students arrested for involvement with DPSP were arbitrarily detained merely for “their legitimate exercise of the freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association.”⁶

Such practices exemplify gross violations of both basic international law standards and core fair trial guarantees. Nonetheless, these arrests continue to occur and can be situated within a broader framework of the Israeli occupation’s control and repression of Palestinians. The occupation authorities fear Palestinian resistance to the point that they strive **to prevent any action against the occupation**, even if it is just involvement in an on-campus student union. Their **security-based justifications** serve to shift attention and eliminate all political, union, and social activity practiced by students as a method to prevent Palestinians from actualizing their right to self-determination and liberation from the occupation.

The Number of Palestinian Students Arrested by the Israeli Occupation Forces

2019	59
2020	46
2021	55
2022	54

Currently, there are around 70 Palestinian students in Israeli prisons

The cases detailed below highlight specific examples of these inhumane arrest and detention strategies in practice. They showcase the systematic targeting of Palestinian university students for merely engaging in their right to education and association. The harassment and violation of rights these students are subjected to illustrate a prominent strategy utilized by the Israeli occupation regime to silence Palestinians and criminalize the expression and cultivation of Palestinian identity.

⁵ Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, “Israel’s Designation of the Democratic Progressive Student Pole an ‘Unlawful Association’ Is Another Manifestation of Its Apartheid Regime,” 12 August 2020, <https://www.addameer.org/news/4259>
⁶ UN Human Rights Council, “Opinions adopted by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention,” 7 June 2021, A/HRC/WGAD/2021/8, https://lphr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/A_HRC_WGAD_2021_8.pdf

Student Cases





Omar Kisswani

Date of Birth: 21 December 1993

Age: 29 years

Residence: Jerusalem

Occupation: Student

Date of Arrest: 7 March 2018

Prison: Ofer

Legal Status: Sentenced to four years and two months imprisonment

Arrest and Interrogation:

On 7 March 2018, at about 4:00 pm, the president of the student council at Birzeit University, Omar Kisswani, was arrested on campus when a group approached him claiming to be journalists. After conducting a fake press interview with him, the journalists, who were Israeli soldiers disguised in civilian clothing, suddenly exposed their weapons and pointed them at Kisswani and other students.

During the arrest process, Kisswani was attacked, beaten, slapped, and electrocuted with taser guns for 3 to 5 minutes. The disguised unit arrested Omar and withdrew from campus under the protection of a group of Israeli soldiers who were riding a civilian vehicle. The soldiers continued to beat Kisswani inside the vehicle, cursed at him, and insulted his family. They shackled his hands behind his back, blindfolded him, and forced his head against the floor of the vehicle, where they kept him for 15 minutes before transferring him to an unknown military camp. He stayed outside the camp on a chair until 9:00 pm in the cold weather. He was later taken to Bet El military camp before transferring him to Moskobiyyeh Interrogation Center.

This was Kisswani's second arrest. His first arrest was in June 2015 when he received a one-year sentence and a suspended sentence for five years based on charges of affiliation with the Islamic bloc student group, which is considered an "illegal" group by the Israeli occupation forces. This also was not the first attempt to arrest him in 2018. Two weeks before this arrest, an Israeli special unit targeted Kisswani, waiting for him in disguise at the university gate to arrest him. However, he was able to escape even though they fired gunshots at the vehicle

he was in. They also went to his home in Beit Iksa village several times.

Following his arrival at the Moskobiyya Interrogation Center at around 10:00 pm, Kiswani was transferred to a 2x2 cell after a short interrogation. The cell contained a mattress on the floor with a blanket and a hole in the ground for a toilet. The cell had a horrible smell and the AC was set to a very low temperature. Kiswani's interrogation lasted nearly 63 days, and was denied access to his lawyer for 28 days. During the first ten days of interrogation, the interrogator asked Kiswani about his personal information and threatened to detain his family members. The interrogators accused him of transferring money and belonging to an illegal organization.

They also pressured him by arresting his mother and bringing her to the interrogation center on 14 March 2018, holding her for two and a half hours, before she was released. Knowing his mother was being interrogated, Kiswani was pressured to confess to the charges against him. At this point, the interrogation sessions became longer, and he was denied sleep. His hands were shackled to the chair behind his back during all the interrogation sessions, each lasting for 20 hours, deprived of sleep and rest, which caused him severe back and joint pain. After the interrogation ended, he was transferred to Ofer prison near Ramallah. Kiswani launched a 13-day open hunger strike in protest of the conditions he was forced to endure.

Legal Status:

The Israeli military prosecutor submitted a six page indictment against Kiswani that included 11 clauses related to his position as the he president of the student council at Birzeit University, his student activism at the university and providing financial assistance to students. His trial lasted nearly 26 months, until, he was sentenced to 50 months imprisonment and fined 25,000 NIS.

Kiswani's legal counsel appealed the decision, however the court of appeal affirmed the first instant court's decision in addition to a suspended sentence for one to five years based on charges of affiliation to an "unlawful" organization and six months to five years based on charges of attending gatherings or meetings of an "unlawful" organizations.

The occupation authorities released Kiswani on 1 May 2022, after finishing his sentence: 4 years and 2 months.



Mais Abu Ghosh

Date of Birth: 11 August 1997

Age: 25 years

Residence: Qalandia Palestinian Refugee Camp, Jerusalem

Occupation: Journalism Student at Birzeit University

Date of Arrest: 29 August 2019

Prison: Damon

Legal Status: Sentenced to 16 months imprisonment

Arrest and Interrogation:

On Monday, 29 August 2020, the Israeli Occupation Forces, accompanied by military dogs, broke into Mais Abu Ghosh's house at dawn. The soldiers ordered her father to wake up his wife and children and gather them in the living room. Abu Ghosh was then held in a separate room and ordered to open her laptop and mobile, which she refused. She was only permitted to change her clothes in the presence of female soldiers. The Israeli occupation soldiers searched her and her parents' rooms, vandalizing them and turning them upside down. The soldiers tightly handcuffed her hands behind her back with plastic shackles, which caused her severe pain. On foot, Abu Ghosh was transferred from her home to the entrance of Qalandia Refugee Camp while blindfolded. There, a military jeep transferred her from the camp to the Qalandia military checkpoint, where the soldiers violently forced her out of the jeep into a room. Abu Ghosh was cursed at and degraded by male and female soldiers before being transferred. She also underwent an attempt at a bare-body search. Upon her outright refusal, the soldiers threatened to search her by force and rape her. Abu Ghosh was then transferred to Al Moscobiye Prison, where she was physically and mentally tortured for over a month.

At Al Moscobiye Interrogation Centre, Abu Ghosh was thrown into a small airless cell without a mattress, forcing her to sleep on the floor. After an exhaustive body search, she was moved to the interrogation room, where her hands and legs were shackled to a chair. Her interrogation lasted for long hours, without sleep or rest. She was threatened with the arrest of her family, expulsion from her university, and demolishing her home for a second time. The occupation authorities used personal information from her phone and social media

accounts to threaten her and subjected her to a lie detector test several times. The IOF also arrested her younger brother and brought him, along with her mother and father, to her interrogation to further pressure her. The interrogators threatened to use military interrogation techniques unless she confessed to what they wanted her to. Later, Abu Ghosh was moved to the military interrogation chamber where she was subject to brutal physical torture for three days at a time. There, they threatened that she would go back home, either paralyzed or mentally incapable.

Blindfolded, Abu Ghosh was subject to continuous, severe slapping and various stress positions. For example, she was forced into the banana position, where a female interrogator forced her to sit on a stool with her back bent in a banana shape while another interrogator holds her head to maximize the pressure on her abdominal muscles. Every time she dropped her head, the interrogator would lift it back up and threaten to slap her if she fell again.

Furthermore, Abu Ghosh was subject to a Shabah stress position, where female interrogators blindfolded her and forced her to squat against a wall with pressure on her shoulders. Every time she fell, they would violently pull her up, leaving marks on her body. She was also forced to squat without leaning on a wall. Although she lost consciousness and fell to the floor, the interrogator forced her back into the same position. She was further subjected to the table stress position, where her cuffed hands were placed on a table higher than her shoulders behind her. To exacerbate her suffering, interrogators would pull her hands further back.

These positions were repeated over the duration of three days of interrogation. Tightly cuffed with iron shackles, Abu Ghosh's hands and legs badly bled. The interrogators also pressured her by deliberately making her listen to the cries, howls, and groans of other detainees under interrogation while in her cell for two nights. Abu Ghosh still suffers from pain in different parts of her body, especially her back, feet, and head, caused by her torture. She also experienced medical negligence as the IOF never took any measures to diagnose and treat her.

Legal Status:

For 25 days after her arrest, Abu Ghosh was denied her right to consult her lawyer as a result of seven consecutive ban orders. The orders created a major obstacle to her defense lawyer's ability to monitor and document the torture she was subjected to. Addameer's lawyers filed two petitions to the Israeli High Court against the ban orders, but both were overruled. The lawyers also submitted several appeals against the extension of Abu Ghosh's detention

between her arrest and the end of her interrogation, which were also all dismissed under the pretext of further interrogation.

At one of her detention extension hearings, held without her defence lawyer, Abu Ghosh informed the military judge of the harsh interrogation conditions and torture she endured. However, this part of Abu Ghosh's statement was erased from the hearing transcript, and the judge nonetheless approved the extension of her detention. At the appeal hearing of the extension, the military judge claimed that the intelligence service had the right to keep the statement of the detainee confidential for security purposes. This concealment of her statement about the torture, the infringement on her right to consult her lawyer, and the endeavors to prevent her lawyer from monitoring and documenting these violations, together unmask the Israeli intelligence's attempts to hide the crimes they committed against her.

On Thursday, 24 October 2019, the Israeli occupation authorities issued an indictment against Abu Ghosh for her student activities and membership of the Democratic Progressive Student Pole, a banned student bloc per Israeli military orders. In addition, the indictment charged her with "communicating with an enemy," participating in a conference on the Palestinian right of return, and submitting writing to an allegedly Hezbollah-affiliated news agency.

Abu Ghosh's trial lasted for over eight months. On 3 May 2020, she was sentenced to 16-month imprisonment and fined NIS 2,000. In the verdict, the military judge acknowledged the serious difficulty in establishing the sentence based on the conditions of her interrogation, referring to the torture, and their legal implications for the evidence. The judge nonetheless argued that, although the core of the activities she was charged for are of civilian nature, such acts cannot be tolerated as they cement the status of banned factions in the society and reinforce the military activities that threaten security. Such allegations shed light on the Israeli occupation's effort to oppress the Palestinian people by criminalising basic human rights, such as freedom of association and expression. The Israeli military courts use orders to connect armed resistance with political participation and union activism. This showcases the Israeli occupation authorities' policy aimed to control Palestinians by banning political parties and their affiliated student blocs, contrary to relevant international treaties and conventions.

Furthermore, by covering up the torture committed against Abu Gosh, the Israeli occupation authorities violated her fair trial rights as well as her right to be free from torture and ill-treatment. The military prosecution even accepted a lesser sentence of 16 months, as compared to rulings in similar cases, after they acknowledged the difficulty of considering the evidence taken under torture.



Rebki Karajah

Date of Birth: 4 May 1996

Age: 24 years

Residence: Saffa

Occupation: Final-Year Social and Behavioural Science Student at Birzeit University

Date of Arrest: 26 August 2019

Prison: Ofer

Legal Status: Under-Trial Detainee

Arrest and Interrogation:

Rebki Karajah was arrested for the first time on 16 May 2017. The military prosecutor submitted a list of several charges against him related to his student activism. Karajah was sentenced to eight months in prison and fined one thousand shekels. He was released on 27 December 2017.

Most recently, on 26 August 2019, the Israeli Occupation Forces, accompanied by military dogs, broke into Karajah's house and detained him at 2:00 am. After breaking down the door of his house, the IOF barged into Karajah's room, tied his hands with plastic zip ties, blindfolded him, and proceeded to search his room. The dogs accompanying the forces attacked Karajah's father and bit his hands. This excessive use of violence terrorized Karajah's family, especially his five-year-old sister. The occupation forces then conducted a field investigation with Karajah before beating and shoving him forcefully to a military jeep. He sat on the floor as the speedy driving jostled his body around until they reached a nearby military camp. Later, Karajah was cuffed, blindfolded, and transferred to Al-Moskobiyeh Detention and Interrogation Centre.

Karajah was immediately moved to an interrogation chamber without even being handed the standard Shabas (Israeli Prison Service) uniform. His hands were tied to the interrogation chair, and he was questioned for five days straight without rest or sleep. The interrogators threatened to detain Karajah's family and friends if he did not cooperate. Then, he was moved to a larger chamber and informed that the interrogators received permission to use military interrogation tactics on him. Israeli interrogators often rely on "the ticking time

bomb” scenario to justify the abuse used to extract information from Palestinian detainees. However, Karajah’s case refutes these claims since his interrogation was only related to past actions, not future operations.

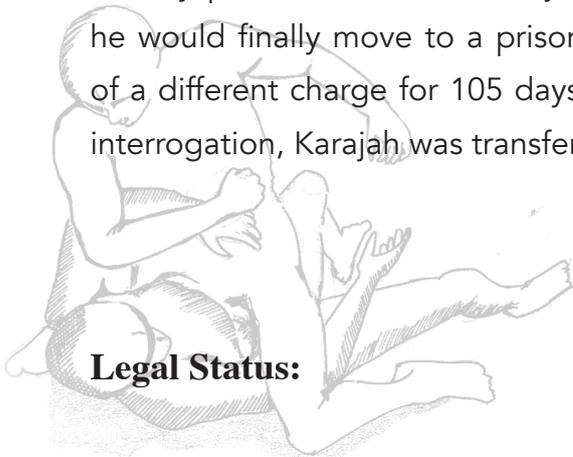
For two whole days, Karajah was mentally and physically tortured with harsh kicks, slaps, punches, and other forms of beating. He was also forced into many positional torture positions, including sitting on a stool with a blanket behind him on the ground as one interrogator sat on his legs and another forced his body backwards into an arch. Maintaining this position for long periods of time caused severe pain in the abdominal muscles and lower back. Whenever Karajah collapsed due to the pain, the interrogators shouted obscenities at him calling him a ‘terrorist’ and promising to leave him paralyzed or killed after the torture. Karajah was also forced into another stressful position wherein he had to stand against a wall while two interrogators stood on either side of him and pushed on his shoulders to bend his knees at a 45-degree angle. Another interrogator would stand in front of Karajah and put pressure on his knees to make sure he held the 45-degree angle. Any time Karajah fell to the ground, the interrogators forced him upright again by digging their fingers beneath his jaw and chin.

Karajah was also forced to hold a squatting position on his tiptoes with his knees bent for prolonged periods of time. His hands were forcefully lifted upwards to inflict more pain. Karajah was forced into another stress position where he sat on a low stool with his bound hands and was placed on a raised table behind him. A chain connecting the cuffs on his hands was continuously pulled backward and upwards to apply pressure on his shoulders as one interrogator pulled his arms back and another pinned his body in place. The interrogators also formed a coil from metal chains and pushed Karajah to lie on his back as the chains dug into his spine. An interrogator would sit on his chest while he was in the position to inflict severe back pain.

After this military interrogation, Karajah was questioned for an additional five days. During that time, he was subjected to more psychological torture in the form of threats of a life sentence and promises to demolish his family’s house. The interrogators forced Karajah to witness the interrogation of other detainees in order to break his spirit. Later, the interrogators subjected him to another round of military interrogation with the same tactics and stress positions that lasted two full days. Thereafter, Karajah was interrogated for two more weeks, with his only reprieve being two hours of sleep daily and fleeting moments back in his cell for a meal.

Following those two weeks, Karajah was subjected to the third round of military interrogation and physical torture that lasted two days. He was put in solitary confinement for almost 20

days before the occupation forces concluded his interrogation and referred his case to the military prosecution. However, just when Karajah thought his interrogation was over, and he would finally move to a prison cell, he was once again interrogated under the pretext of a different charge for 105 days, 50 of which he spent in solitary confinement. After this interrogation, Karajah was transferred to Ofer prison, where he is still detained now.



Legal Status:

Right after he was detained, an order banning Karajah from meeting with his lawyer was issued and renewed at least eight times. For 35 days, Karajah's lawyer was not allowed to visit him or speak with him at the court sessions extending his detainment. His lawyer was also unable to document the brutal torture Karajah endured during the long interrogation period. Addameer lawyers filed two petitions to the Israeli High Court against these orders, but both were dismissed, also lodging multiple appeals against the extension of Karajah's detention, but they were all overruled except for one appeal shortening his detention period by four days.

After the end of Karajah's preliminary interrogation period, the Israeli occupation authorities brought charges against him on 3 November 2019. These charges were later revised after he was interrogated for the second time. The list of charges includes affiliation with an unlawful association, student activism with the Progressive Student Front at Birzeit University, and "failing to prevent a crime" by not informing the occupation authorities about the intention of one of his friends to execute a military operation. The last of these charges illustrates the consistent practice of Israeli occupation authorities punishing Palestinians if they do not observe and analyze the intentions of their friends and acquaintances and then report back to the Israeli authorities. There is no proof that Karajah had first-hand knowledge about the alleged operation or that he had been involved in the planning, yet he still was punished for failing to prevent it.



Samah Jaradat

Date of Birth: 17 September 1997

Age: 25 years

Residence: Al-Bireh

Occupation: Sociology Graduate from Birzeit University

Date of Arrest: 7 September 2019

Prison: Damon

Legal Status: Sentenced to nine months imprisonment

Arrest and Interrogation:

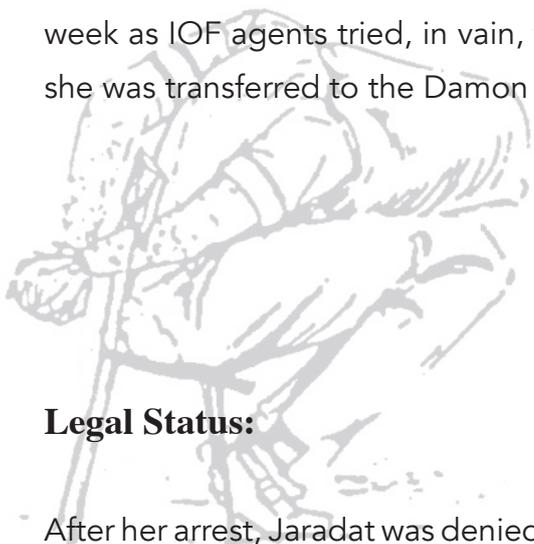
On 7 September 2019, the Israeli Occupation Forces raided Samah Jaradat's house around 03:00 am. After identifying her, they confiscated her phone, searched the house, and arrested her. The occupation forces cuffed her hands in front of her body and put a hood over her head to cover her eyes. They then transported her by a military jeep, while soldiers held her head down, to a military compound in the early morning cold hours. She was forced to sit outside on the ground for 20 minutes until she was searched and taken for a medical examination. For about five hours, she was held in a room while handcuffed and blindfolded. Following threats and shouting, Jaradat was transported in the Bosta, where the air conditioning was set to a very cold temperature. Her requests for drinking water were denied.

Jaradat was transferred to Al Moscobiyyeh Interrogation Center, where she was detained for about 22 days and subjected to torture and ill-treatment. Immediately after the transfer, she was thoroughly searched by female soldiers and given an Israeli Prison Service uniform that was too large. Then, she was handcuffed and blindfolded a second time and brought to an interrogation room. Interrogators cuffed her hands behind her back to the chair, only removing the cuffs for meals. Jaradat reported that the interrogation room was very cold and that she was initially not allowed to use the bathroom when she asked.

Jaradat was subjected to psychological torture during the interrogation in an attempt to pressure her. She was threatened with a military interrogation and told that if she did not confess, she would suffer the same fate as her friend Mais Abu Ghosh. Jaradat was deprived of sleep and rest during the interrogation period. Even when she was in her cell, she was

unable to sleep as there were knocks on her door approximately every 15 minutes for various reasons throughout the night. The interrogators even showed Jaradat other detainees who were being interrogated from behind glass partitions. In a further attempt to pressure and insult her, interrogators played songs and danced around the interrogation chair she was tied to. They also subjected her to shouting and insults, and examined the contents of her personal phone while she was tied to the interrogation chair. Parts of private conversations and photos were extracted from her phone, in clear violation of her right to privacy.

The interrogators threatened that, if she did not confess, she would be pursued after her release, be re-arrested repeatedly, and be continuously subjected to more psychological torture. She was transferred to the collaborators' rooms (Asafir), where she stayed there for a week as IOF agents tried, in vain, to extract a confession from her. On 28 September 2019, she was transferred to the Damon Prison.



Legal Status:

After her arrest, Jaradat was denied access to her lawyer for nearly 20 days. Seven consecutive orders were issued banning her from meeting with a lawyer, each a renewal of the previous one. Addameer's lawyers filed two appeals during her detention, up until the end of her interrogation, but both were rejected on the pretext that the interrogation was not yet complete.

On 24 October 2019, the Israeli occupation authorities submitted an indictment against Jaradat that included two clauses related to her student activism at the university and membership to the Democratic Progressive Student Pole, deemed unlawful by military orders. Her trial lasted for nearly 6 months, until, on 30 March 2020, she was sentenced to 9 months imprisonment and fined 3,000 NIS.

The occupation authorities released Jaradat on 4 June 2020.



Ameer Hazboun

Date of Birth: 14 February 1998

Age: 24 years

Residence: Bethlehem

Occupation: Fourth-Year Mechanical Engineering Student at Birzeit University

Date of Arrest: 10 September 2019

Prison: Ofer

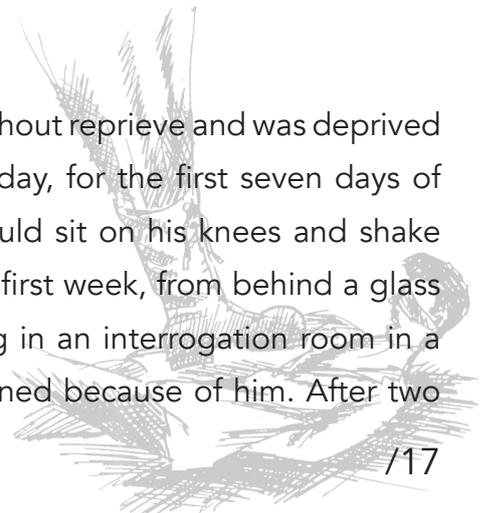
Legal Status: Sentenced to 16 months imprisonment

Arrest and Interrogation:

On 10 September 2020 around 1:00 am, the Israeli Occupation Forces, accompanied by military dogs, broke into Ameer Hazboun's dorm at Birzeit University and arrested him. After breaking into the dorm, the soldiers used dogs to attack Hazboun and beat him on his chest before handcuffing and blindfolding him. Afterward, they steered him toward a special forces vehicle and pushed him roughly to the floor. Hazboun was continuously kicked and beaten as he was transferred to a nearby military checkpoint. After noticing his forehead was bleeding from being hit, the IOF sent him to a medical center in an Israeli settlement to check and clean his wound.

He was then blindfolded again and transferred to another military camp before he finally reached Ofer prison. During his transportation, Israeli soldiers relentlessly beat Hazboun all over his body using their rifles. At Ofer Prison, he was placed in a room with another detainee and kicked on the back while lying on the ground. Hazboun was then transferred to Al-Moskobiyeh Detention and Interrogation Centre in Jerusalem, where he was physically and mentally tortured for almost 50 days.

In the beginning, Hazboun was interrogated for long hours without reprieve and was deprived of sleep and rest. Hazboun was questioned for 22 hours a day, for the first seven days of interrogation, Whenever he dozed off, the interrogators would sit on his knees and shake his body violently while hurling obscenities at him. After the first week, from behind a glass window, the interrogators showed Hazboun his father sitting in an interrogation room in a ploy to pressure him into thinking his father had been detained because of him. After two



weeks of interrogation, the occupation forces threatened Hazboun with military interrogation and threatened him that “his guts will be ripped out of his body and his jaw will be broken.” Later, Hazboun was moved to a larger chamber where he was brutally tortured for two days using military interrogation tactics.

During the military interrogation, Hazboun’s face was slapped harshly and his outer thighs were beaten heavily. He was forced into various stress positions including the banana torture position, where interrogators shackled his legs to a chair, tied his hands behind his back, and then pushed his chest backward until his body formed an arch. With only a blanket to catch his fall, Hazboun had to hold this position for a long time, causing severe back and abdomen pain. Hazboun was forced into another stress position where he had to stand on his tiptoes while his arms were pulled backward and upwards and shackled to a high point on the wall. This position puts immense pressure on the muscles of the shoulders and arms, forcing him to keep standing on his tiptoes or risk excruciating pain in the shoulders and arms. Additionally, before his arrest, Hazboun had broken his arm and underwent surgery for it. The interrogators used Hazboun’s injury against him by putting pressure on his injured arm to exacerbate the suffering.

After the military interrogation, Hazboun was interrogated for five more consecutive days, during which he was forced to eat inside the chamber. He was then transferred to the collaborators’ cells (asafir) for four days before going back to al-Moskobiyeh Detention and Interrogation Center for more interrogation. During his last week of questioning, Hazboun was placed in solitary confinement and then transferred to the prisoner cells at Ofer Prison. Looking at Hazboun’s case, from the first moments of arrest through the interrogation process, it is obvious that the excessive use of torture was disproportional and did not align with the charges listed against him. Despite the occupation authorities’ reliance on it to justify Hazboun’s torture, the “ticking time bomb scenario” clearly does not apply in this case. Hazboun was not convicted of any militant activity and his charges were limited to student activism, which is protected under all international conventions, rendering his torture in violation of both international law and Israeli law itself.

Situación legal:

Immediately after his arrest, a ban order was issued to prevent Hazboun from meeting with his lawyer for five days. The order was renewed six times for a total of 22 days. Hazboun was not even allowed to consult his lawyer during the hearings to extend his detention. His lawyer

was also not able to document the brutal torture Hazbon endured during his interrogation. Despite the fact that Hazboun informed the military judge that he was tortured and interrogated ceaselessly, the military judge continued to extend his detention. Addameer's lawyer representing Hazboun lodged multiple appeals against the extension, but all were dismissed under the pretext of needing further interrogation because the results were still inconclusive, and the alleged charges against Hazboun were of extreme gravity.

On 3 November 2019, the Israeli occupation authorities brought charges against Hazboun related to his student activism at Birzeit University. They claimed that Hazboun is a member of the Progressive Student Front— an unlawful association according to Israeli military orders— and that he attended meetings and participated in student activities organized by the association.

After more than a year of military trial, on 2 November 2020, Ofer military court sentenced Ameer to 16 months in prison and fined him 3,000 shekels.

The occupation authorities released Ameer after serving his sentence on 13 December 2020: one year and 4 months.



Shatha Hasan

Date of Birth: 17 May 1998

Age: 25 years

Residence: Deir as-Sudan, Ramallah

Occupation: Fourth-Year Student at Birzeit University

Date of Arrest: 12 December 2019

Prison: Damon Prison

Legal Status: Spent five months under administrative detention

Arrest and Interrogation:

Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) broke into Shatha Hasan's home in Ramallah around 2:00 am on Thursday, 12 December 2019. Once they recognized her, Hasan was subjected to a thorough body search, had her hands cuffed in front of her body with iron shackles, and was transferred to the Benjamin military camp. As Hasan set foot in the military facility, she was thrown into a chamber for hours while blindfolded and handcuffed. Thereafter, she was transferred to the Ofer Detention Center and confined in a poorly lighted, bitterly cold, airless, coarse-walled cell without a bathroom.

For two-hour stretches, Hasan was interrogated about her student union activities. She then was transferred again by Bosta to Hasharon Prison. There, she suffered harsh internment conditions, including the bathrooms flooding the cells every time an inmate took a bath. Additionally, the room next to hers housed civilian prisoners who never stopped making noises.

After a month of detention, an IOF special squad raided Hasan's family home in Deir as-Sudan. They arrested her brother Abdulmajid, leaving the family to deal with the involuntary absence of two beloved family members.

When her sister got the chance to speak with Hasan on her trial day, she said, *"I asked her if she felt cold, with a hand gesture and a glimmer of a smile, we understood how bitterly cold she was. 'Have you eaten?' my mother asked her. 'A little', Shatha answered. She often eats crumbs of food; 'a little' wouldn't be more than a bite. 'Have they given you your jacket?' I*

wondered. 'No, because it has a hoodie,' she responded. 'The prison is cold, isn't it?' I asked. 'biting' she said."

Legal Status:

On 15 December 2020, Hasan was tried before the Ofer Military Court, and her incarceration was extended for another 72 hours. The Military Commander issued an administrative detention order against her for three months, to end by 11 March 2020. This order can be indefinitely renewed on the grounds of her student union activities with the Islamic Bloc at Birzeit University.

During the confirmation of charges session, the military judge claimed that Hasan had been an active student unionist and connected to financial matters related to the Islamic Resistance Movement– Hamas. The claim was further asserted by highlighting the inseparability of organizational and military activities of unlawful associations, citing the Israeli High Court verdict 6404/08 stating that "*the organizational and military activities of a terrorist organizational shall be regarded as integral and indivisible.*" On these grounds, the judge confirmed the sentence for the entire internment period.

Once Hasan served her term, the Israeli occupation authorities extended her detention for another three months until June 2020, as the incarceration can be renewed sine die (indefinitely). However, she was released after five months of arbitrary detention on 21 May 2020.



Layan Kayed

Date of Birth: 26 April 1998

Age: 24 years

Residence: Sebastia – Nablus

Occupation: Sociology Graduate from Birzeit University

Date of Arrest: 8 June 2020

Prison: Damon

Legal Status: Sentenced to 16 -month imprisonment

Arrest and Interrogation:

Layan Kayed was arrested on 8 June 2020 while crossing Za'tara military checkpoint with her mother. The Israeli Occupation Forces stopped her mother's car and asked Layan for her ID. Once she handed it to them, they ordered her to step out of the vehicle and searched her on the spot. Layan was informed that she was under arrest through a phone call with an Israeli Security Agency (Shabak) officer. The Israeli soldiers cuffed her hands in front of her, shackled her legs, and seated her on a chair in an open area.

After a while, she was transferred to a nearby military compound for a medical examination. Afterward, she was transferred back to the checkpoint, where the soldiers gave her food and water. She remained handcuffed throughout even when she had to use the toilet. From the checkpoint, Layan was transferred again by Bosta to HaSharon detention center on a three-hour ride without water, under the excuse that no water was available.

Whilst at HaSharon, Layan endured harsh conditions in a section shared with "security" and civilian prisoners. The latter kept screaming and breaking things, creating a continuous source of stress. Moreover, even though the prison guards were able to hear the cursing she endured for four days, they did not interfere to prevent the ill-treatment. Layan was then moved to another chamber brimming with cameras before being moved yet again. She was not provided with a new or clean uniform and thus had to borrow clothes from a civilian inmate, clean them, and put them on. She was only given low-quality blankets that the prison officers refused to clean despite her requests. The food she was given also was poor in quality and quantity and the toilet had neither a ceiling nor a door.

Layan was interrogated twice. For each, she was transferred while shackled from HaSharon detention center to Ofer prison by Bosta – a process that started in the early morning and lasted up to evening. Both times she was interrogated with her hands and legs cuffed. The questions she was asked focused on her activism as a student unionist at the university. After one of the rounds of questioning, Layan was detained in a cell for long hours. Her repeated requests for water were denied and, when allowed to use the bathroom, a female soldier refused to remove the cuffs.

At the end of the interrogation, as Layan was inching her way to climb the Bosta back to the HaSharon Prison, she fell due to the cuffs hindering her movement. None of the male and female soldiers offered her help, and instead mocked and made fun of her.



Legal Status:

Layan was brought before Ofer Military Court two days after her arrest in order to extend her detention for five days and again to extend it to four days. On Thursday, 18 June 2020, the indictment was submitted against her with charges relating to her activism as a student unionist at the university. It also charged her with establishing an unlawful association, holding social and cultural activities, and throwing stones at the IOF.

On 3 March 2021, Ofer Military Court sentenced Layan to 16 months imprisonment and another 12 months suspended over five years, in addition to a fine of 6,000 shekels. In the ruling, the military judge cited a previous ruling by the military appeals court stating that student arms of organizations deemed unlawful should not be underestimated, referring to the prosecution of students who belong to student groups in universities as they constitute a threat to “security.”

Israeli occupation authorities released Layan on 9 September 2021, following the length of her sentence: one year and 4 months.



Elyaa Abu Hijleh

Date of Birth: 12 December 1999

Age: 22 years

Residence: Ramallah

Occupation: Law Student at Birzeit University

Date of Arrest: 1 July 2020

Prison: Damon

Legal Status: Sentenced to 11 months imprisonment

Arrest and Interrogation:

On 1 July 2020, the Israeli Occupying Forces raided Elyaa Abu Hijleh's house in Al-Tira, demanding proof of identity. After identifying her, an officer informed her that she would be taken to Ofer Prison. Elyaa was blindfolded with a medical mask, along with another mask placed over her nose and mouth, and transported in a military jeep to the prison, where she was left on the floor of a room for an hour and a half. When she requested a chair, she was denied. Later, Elyaa was held in a room near the watchtower for four hours in the hot weather.

After being searched, Elyaa was transferred to interrogation, with her feet bound so tightly she almost fell on her face. She was placed in a small room with no windows or bathroom, brightly lit by strong white light, and was not allowed to have her feet shackles removed. The interrogator questioned her about her student and union work at the university for an hour and a half. She was then interrogated for a second time when the interrogator claimed there were new questions.

After the interrogation was complete, Elyaa was transferred by the Bosta to a medical center for a check-up before being transferred to Hasharon detention center, culminating in a journey of suffering that lasted seven hours. At Hasharon prison, an Israeli prison officer threatened Elyaa and other fellow female prisoners by tying them to their beds and placing them in a room with surveillance cameras. Elyaa was not allowed any change of clothes while at Hasharon, and was insulted and harassed by civilian prisoners who were in the same section.

Legal Status:

Elyaa Abu Hijleh was brought before Ofer military court, which extended her detention. She was then presented with a list of charges related to her student and union work in Birzeit University, her responsibilities in the academic committee, belonging to an organization deemed unlawful under Israeli military orders, and throwing stones.

After nearly six months since her arrest, Ofer Military Court sentenced Elyaa to 11 months in prison and a fine of 1,500 shekels. She was also sentenced to ten months of prison suspended over five years on the charge of belonging to an unlawful organization, four months of prison suspended over five years for participating in marches, and 12 months suspended over five years for throwing stones.

During the court session, the military prosecutor stated that he accepted the deal for the imprisonment of Elyaa for 11 months on the basis of her short membership period with the organization, her clean past, and due to the "difficulty of evidence." The military prosecution relies on the phrase "the existence of difficulty in the evidence" to refer to the fact that the statements of witnesses in Elyaa's file were extracted illegally, but categorically rejects the explicit reference to torture in an attempt to evade the legal responsibility of Israeli interrogators who committed torture.

Israeli occupation authorities released Elyaa on 10 May 2021, following the length of her sentence: eleven months.



Ruba Assi

Date of Birth: 1 March 2000

Age: 22 years

Residence: Beitunya, Ramallah

Occupation: Third-year Sociology student at Birzeit University

Date of Arrest: 9 July 2020

Prison: Damon

Legal Status: Sentenced to 21-month imprisonment

Arrest and Interrogation:

On 9 July 2020, Israeli Occupation Forces stormed Ruba's home in Beituniya at 2 am, shouting at her father and demanding Ruba. The IOF searched Ruba and announced her arrest without explanation. She was not allowed to say goodbye to her family or even wear a jacket. Her hands were then cuffed to her front and she was blindfolded with a mask. Ruba was driven like this in a military jeep for a long distance until they reached an area she no longer recognized. A military officer tried to provoke Ruba, taunting that "the handcuffs are big on your hands and very wide, and you are very small." Ruba was then placed in the open air until she was transferred the next morning to Ofer military camp. There 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 detention center, where she was held in difficult conditions, including poor quality of food and intentional delays by Israeli 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 she was only allowed into the prison yard, a small courtyard with a closed ceiling, for a period of 1-1½ hours. Furthermore, since her arrest, Ruba was given three COVID-19 tests but was never informed of the results. She was forced to use the same mask since her arrest, despite asking several times for a change.

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 including charges related to her student and union activism, her membership in an "illegal" association under Israeli military orders (the Progressive Democratic Student Pole), and throwing stones. The indictment goes into minute detail about her participation in activities such as a book supplies fair, the hanging of flags and pictures of martyrs, selling books at discounted prices, and supplying food and drink on behalf of the "illegal" association.

Nearly one year after her arrest, following the postponement of her court hearings on several occasions, Ofer Military Court sentenced Ruba to a 21-month prison term and 14 months suspended over 5 years on the charge of membership in an organization deemed "illegal." They also gave her a 5-month suspended prison sentence over 5 years on the charge of attending a meeting of the "illegal" association, a 12-month suspended prison sentence over 5 years on the charge of throwing stones, and a fine of 3,000 shekels.

Addameer's lawyers filed an appeal against the ruling, which the Ofer Military Court of Appeals rejected on 13 September 2021, confirming Ruba's sentence of 21 months in prison and 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, and therefore there was no room for further mitigation of the sentence. The military judge also noted that, despite the detainee's clean past, because of the "seriousness" of the acts she committed, there was no room to interfere with the ruling of the court of the first instance.

Israeli occupation authorities released Ruba on 6 March 2022, following the length of her sentence: one year and 9 months.



Shatha Taweel

Date of Birth: 5 September 1999

Age: 23 years

Residence: Al Bireh

Occupation: Fourth Year Birzeit University Student in Computer Science

Date of Arrest: 2 November 2020

Prison: Damon Prison

Legal Status: Sentenced to 14 months imprisonment

Arrest and Interrogation:

Israeli Occupation Forces stormed Shatha's home in Al-Bireh on 2 November 2020 and, after verifying her identity, told her she was called for interrogation. Two female soldiers accompanied her to her room while she changed her clothes. A male officer then came and commenced a field interrogation, telling her, "it's clear that the 'Pole' raised you well." The female soldiers handcuffed and masked Shatha, taking her to the military jeep where a female soldier pushed her to enter and kept her sitting on the jeep floor for the duration of the transportation.

Shatha was then taken to a place she did not recognize, where she was asked medical questions and had her temperature taken. She then arrived at another location, where she was put in a "container," blindfolded, and soldiers began shouting and singing around her while blasting music. A female soldier put a mask over her eyes and kept her sitting in the yard for some time before taking her to the military jeep for transport again. Another female soldier grabbed Shatha's hair and kept moving it left and right during her transfer. According to her lawyer, Shatha felt she'd also been photographed against her will while her eyes were masked. Shatha was also subjected to violence and humiliation while being taken to the bathroom handcuffed. A female soldier pushed her forward and hit her against the wall while the other female soldiers laughed and mocked her, refusing to let her close the bathroom door.

In the early morning, Shatha was retaken to a dirty yard in Ofer prison, thoroughly searched in a deserted room, and transferred to a cell. After an hour, Shatha was transferred to

interrogation, where she was asked about her student and union activities for about an hour before being taken back to her cell. Later, she was transferred again to interrogation, and this time a district officer questioned her. When he did not receive the answer he wanted, he threatened her with torture and ill-treatment, which she knew they had done to other female prisoners.

Afterward, Shatha was transferred via the 'Bosta' to Hasharon detention center, where she was isolated under 'quarantine' for 12 days, before being transferred to Damon prison, where she remained during her detention and imprisonment period.

Legal Status:

On 5 November 2020, Ofer military court ruled to extend Shatha's detention for seven days to allow the prosecution to file an indictment. On 11 November 2020, the military prosecution submitted an indictment against Shatha that included charges relating to her student and union activities. Shockingly, the indictment submitted against Shatha was identical to the indictment submitted against another detainee who is a student at the same university. It charged Shatha with affiliation to the same "banned" student union and holding the same positions and responsibilities as the former detainee held prior to his detention.

Most notably, the indictment had the name of the other detainee instead of Shatha's. Further, the indictment mentioned activities that only the other detainee had participated in, despite Shatha denying holding the same position throughout her interrogation. After arduous efforts by Addameer's lawyer, the military prosecution amended the indictment and submitted a new list of charges relating to her membership in the banned, leftist "Progressive Democratic Student Pole," her contribution to its management, as well as her attendance of meetings with the organization.

On 20 May 2021, after nearly seven months of detention and trial procedures, Ofer military court ruled that Shatha be sentenced to 14 months in prison and 12 months of suspended imprisonment for five years on the charge of membership in a "banned" organization. In addition, she was sentenced to four months of suspended imprisonment for five years and a fine of 3,000NIS on charges of attending a meeting of the "banned" organization.

The military judge justified his rule by citing Shatha's continued activity in the banned organization despite the arrest of her colleagues on similar charges, which means that Shatha

is “fully aware of the seriousness of her actions” and that she continued despite knowing that her actions constitute a “crime” that may lead to her arrest. Addameer’s lawyers submitted an appeal, which was rejected on 19 July 2021, confirming Shatha’s sentence.



ADDAMEER Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association is a Palestinian non-governmental, civil institution that works to support Palestinian political prisoners held in Israeli and Palestinian prisons in Human Rights. Established in 1992 by a group of activists interested in human rights, the center offers free legal aid to political prisoners, advocates their rights at the national and international level, and works to end torture and other violations of prisoners' rights through monitoring, legal procedures and solidarity campaigns.

Addameer enjoys the support of a volunteer body called "**Addama'er**," which believes in Addameer's goals and participates in the activities held by the association. They also work in supporting its message.

Addameer is an executive member of the [Palestinian Non-Governmental Organization Network](#) (PNGO), the [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council](#) (PHROC), [World Organization Against Torture](#) (OMCT), the [International Coalition against torture](#) and many other regional and international coalitions.

Addameer's Vision:

Addameer believes in the importance of building a free and democratic Palestinian society based on justice, equality, rule of law, and respect for human rights within the larger framework of the right to self-determination. Addameer's work is based on a belief in the universality of human rights as enshrined in international law.

Addameer's Goals:

- Put an end to torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment inflicted upon Palestinian prisoners and work on abolish the death penalty;
- Put an end to arbitrary detentions and arrests and guarantee fair, impartial and public trials;
- Support political prisoners and their families by providing them with legal aid and social and moral assistance and undertaking advocacy on their behalf;
- Push for legislations that guarantee human rights and basic freedoms and ensure their implementation on the ground;
- Raise awareness of human rights and rule of law issues in the local community;
- Ensure respect for democratic values in the local community, based on political diversity and freedom of opinion and expression;
- Lobby for international support and solidarity for Palestinians' legitimate rights.

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