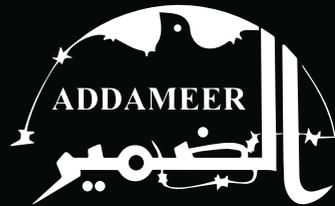
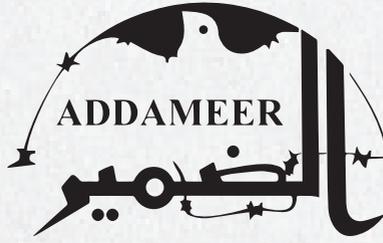


Torture Positions in Israeli Occupation Prisons



Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association

2020



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Appreciation and Gratitude

to the photographer, journalist Isam al-Rimawi,
and Watan studio.

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Torture Positions in Israeli Occupation Prisons

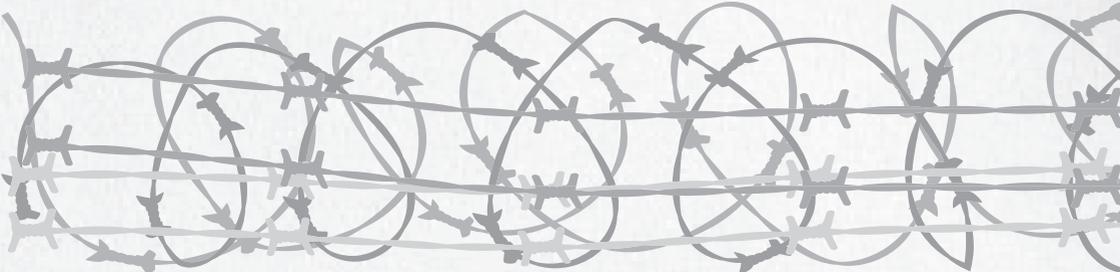
Since its creation, the occupying state enforced and developed laws and practices that led to both the systematic use of torture and to absolute impunity for the perpetrator of this crime. Historically speaking, several torture methods were used against Palestinians, that included but were not limited to shaking, the baby chair, covering the head with a bag, forced listening to loud music, the closet, ripping of nails, and many other methods that were used to extract confessions from Palestinian detainees. In fact, since the beginning of the occupation in 1967, 73 Palestinian detainees were killed in Israeli interrogations.

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 leaders, which were all subjected to severe physical and psychological torture and/or ill-treatment.

This brochure includes pictures of several stress positions used recently against Palestinian detainees at al-Mascobiyya interrogation center along with a description of each picture.

The brochure shows pictures taken with the help of Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association’s staff. The pictures are stimulated by the testimonies of Palestinian detainees who were subjected to different forms of torture and ill-treatment.

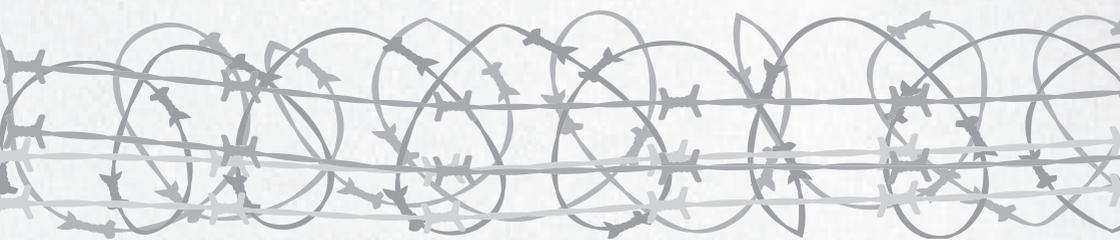




» The Banana Position

The detainee's legs cuffed to the lower part of a chair (the back of the chair is positioned to the side) and his/her hands cuffed to each other and pressured by the interrogators to the lower part of the chair. Interrogators keep pushing the cuffed hands until they reach to beneath the chair. This position would mean that the detainee's body forms an arch extremely harming the detainee's chest and stomach. The detainees are forced into this position for more than the body can handle, thus, the body falls to the back on the floor or on the knees of an interrogator sitting behind the chair.





In some cases, the interrogators sit on the detainee's legs while being in the banana position and harshly beat the detainee on her/his chest and thighs.



» The Squatting Position

In this position, the detainee is forced to stand on his/her toes and squat, his/her hands would be cuffed to each other and positioned in-front or behind him/herself. Two interrogators would be standing, one in-front of the detainee and another behind him to prevent the detainee from falling down on the ground, causing extreme pressure on the detainee's toes.

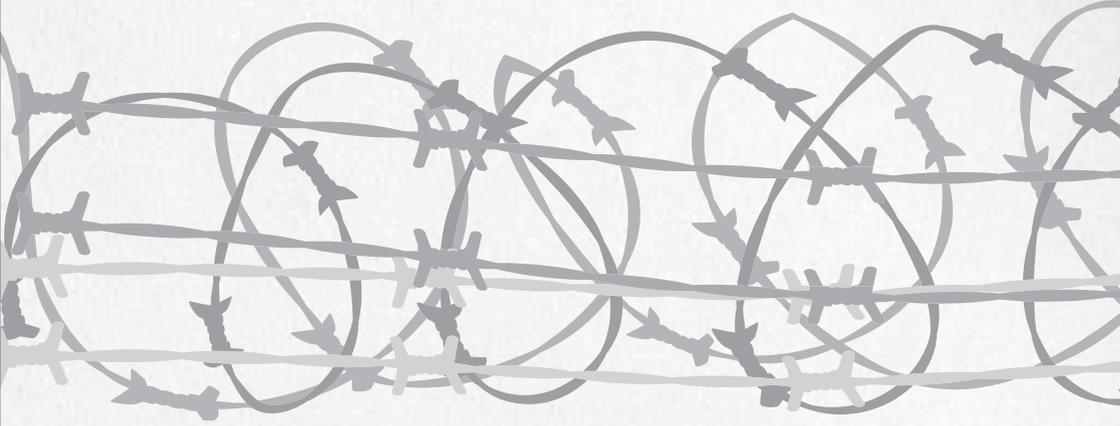






In other cases, while being in the squatting chair position, interrogators would be standing on each side of the detainee to pressure the detainee from his/her shoulders and legs until he/she falls on the ground.





» The Rounded Chains / Ball of Chains Position

The detainee is forced into lying on the ground with the hands cuffed to each other with iron chains (a rounded half a meter of chains) and positioned behind the detainee's back. This position also includes officers sitting on the detainee to exert pressure on the body causing severe pain to the chest and stomach. Interrogators would also put their knees on the detainee's shoulders and at the same time other interrogators would sit on the detainee's legs.

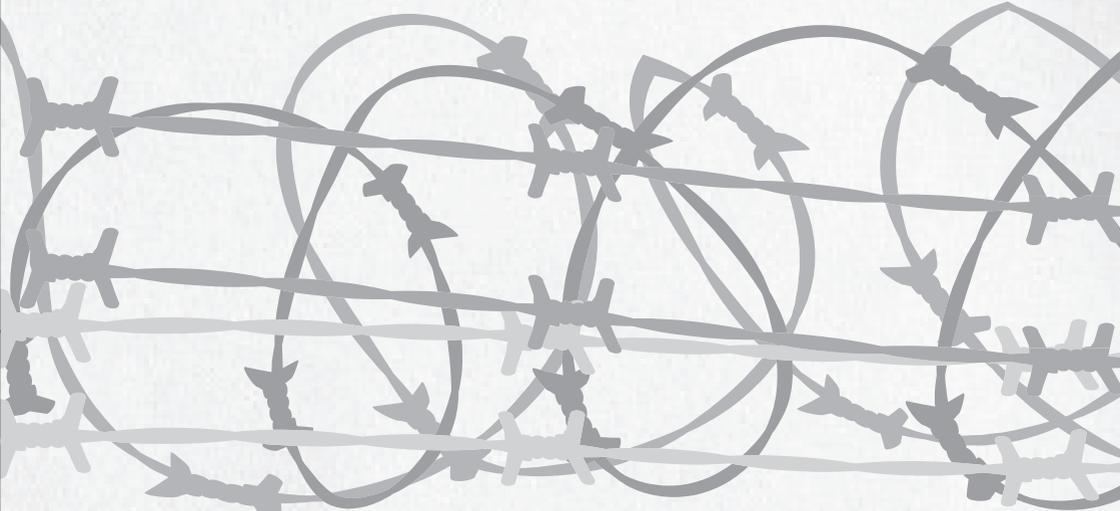


» The Imaginary Chair Position

In this position, the detainee is forced to stand in the middle of the interrogation room and squat at a 45-degree angle. Two interrogators would be standing each on one side of the detainee to pressure the detainee from his/her shoulders and make sure the detainee stays still in the same position.







In other cases, while being in the imaginary chair position, interrogators would be standing on each side of the detainee to pressure the detainee from his/her shoulders and harshly beat the detainee on the thighs causing severe pain and swelling.



» Threatening, Yelling and Beating

Several interrogators would surround the detainee from all sides, they would loudly yell, threaten and beat him/her all over the body while blindfolded and cuffed to a chair, unable to even foresee the hit or know where would it come from.

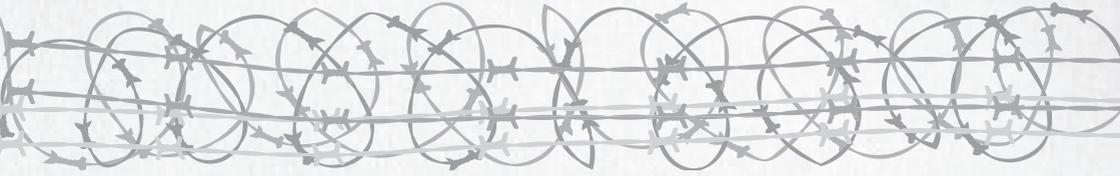


» Suffocate



While being interrogated, and cuffed in different stress positions, interrogators would attempt to suffocate the detainee through exerting pressure on the neck.



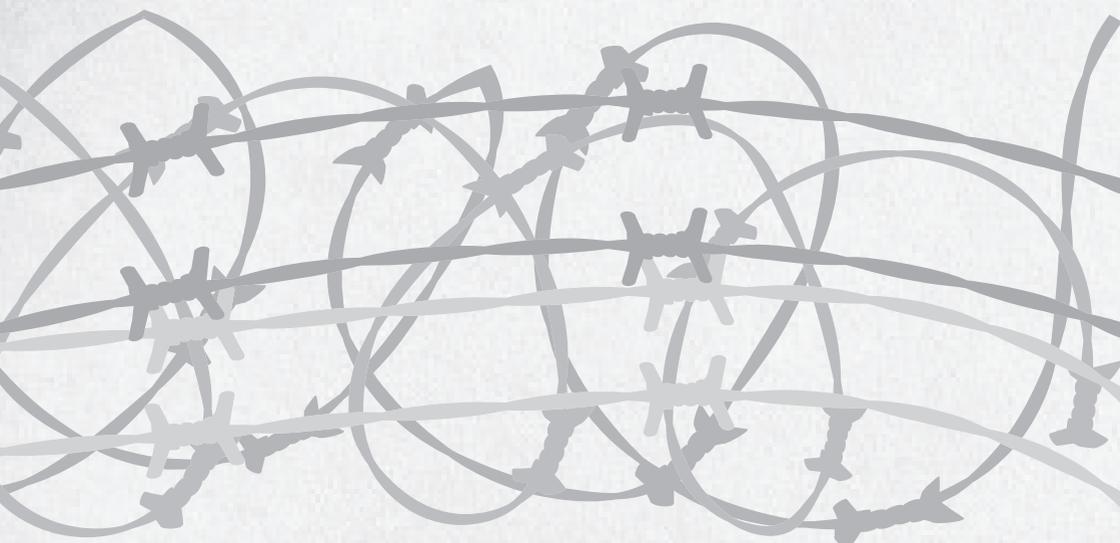


» Pulling Facial and Head Hair from its Roots

Interrogators would pull the detainee's facial and head hair from its roots during the interrogation sessions while the detainee is cuffed in different stress positions, thus causing bruises and injuries on the detainee's face and head.







» Cuffed in-front of a Wall

In this position the detainee is forced to stand in front of a wall and squat at a 45-degree angle. Two interrogators would be standing each on one side of the detainee to pressure the detainee from his/her shoulders in order to increase the pressure placed on the detainee's body.









» Cuffed to a Table

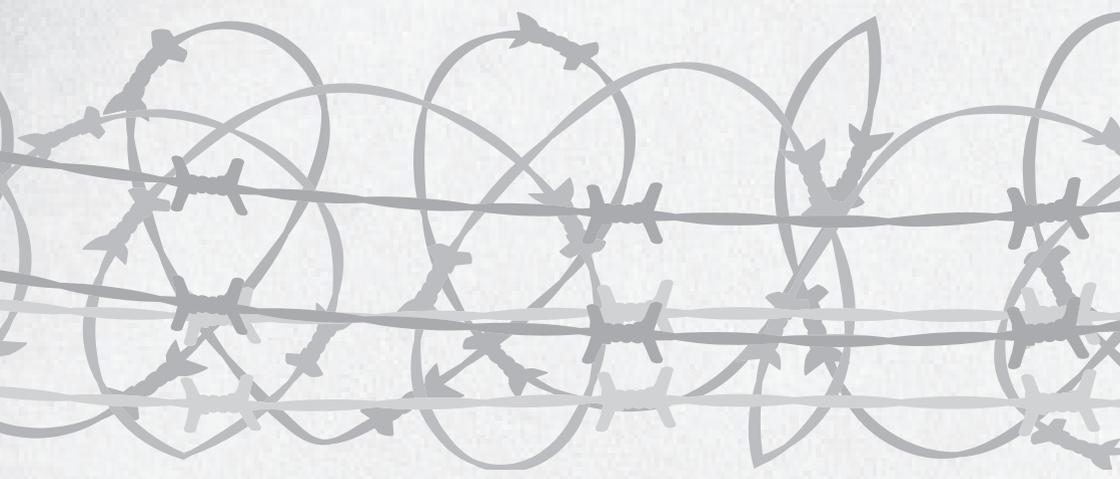
Sitting on a chair while handcuffed to the back where the hands are positioned on the table behind the detainee's chair. In this position, the pressure would be mainly on the detainee's shoulders. In some cases, interrogators would sit on the detainee's knees to pressure their chest to the back, and/or interrogators would pull their hands to the back to inflict further pressure on their shoulders, at the same time other interrogators would forcefully push their head (face) to the back.



» Pulling Hair

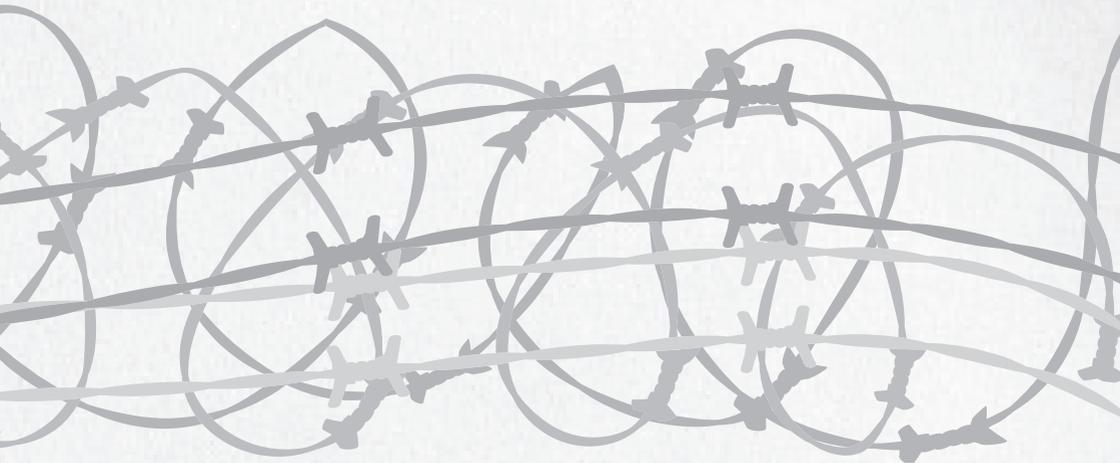
Interrogators would pull the detainee's hair during the interrogation sessions and while being cuffed in certain stress positions. This method is further used with female detainees causing pain and swelling of the scalp.





» Thighs Subjected to Harsh Beating

Interrogators would harshly beat the detainees using their legs and knees until the detainee falls on the ground. After a detainee falls on the ground the interrogators would force him/her to stand up and continue the harsh beating on the detainee's thighs. This specific kind of beating is also used in the different stress positions detainees are forced into causing severe pain, swelling, and bruises.



» The Small Chair Position

The interrogators at the Israeli interrogation centers use the small chair position against all Palestinian detainees where they force them into sitting on a small chair for long periods of time while their hands and legs are cuffed.



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ADDAMEER Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association:

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. Established in 1992 by a group of human rights activists, 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'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:

- End torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment inflicted upon Palestinian prisoners;
- Abolish the death penalty;
- End arbitrary detentions and arrests;
- 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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