



**Annual Report
On The Violations Committed
By The Occupying Power (Israel)
In The Occupied Palestinian Territories
During 2019**



January 2020



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Foreword

Proceeding from the Arab Parliament's role in defending the issues of the Arab Nation, in the forefront the first Arab cause, the Palestinian question; and from the escalation of the repeated and continuing crimes and violations committed by the occupying Power (Israel) against the Palestinians, which is the greatest witness to human rights' violations in the whole world.

The Arab Parliament prepared the annual report on the "Violations committed by the Occupying Power (Israel) in the Occupied Palestinian Territories during 2019", as a new approach, in collaboration with a number of Civil Society Organizations operating in the Palestinian territory, with the aim to contribute to defending the rights of the Palestinian people, to reinforce its ongoing efforts to support the Palestinian cause, and to help as a tool for monitoring and documenting these crimes and violations before the whole world.

The report monitors the most prominent violations and crimes against the defenseless Palestinian people on 2019 through six axes namely: Deaths and injuries; The continuing siege and restrictions on freedom of movement in the occupied Palestinian territory, Detention, torture and other forms of inhuman treatment; Acquisition of land for settlement; Houses and installations demolitions; and the continuing violation of the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Arab Parliament stresses that this report represents one of the documents that register the violations of the occupying Power (Israel), and an important tool that can be relied upon to claim the protection of the Palestinian people from the systematic human rights' violations committed by the occupation authority and to hold accountable the perpetrators of these heinous crimes.

This report has been translated into English and French Languages, and a copy has been transferred to all Regional and International Parliaments, Organizations and Bodies, notably those concerned with human rights.

Our sincere appreciation to the Arab Parliament's Committee on Legislative and Legal Affairs and Human Rights for its efforts in preparing this report; and particular thanks to Hon. M.P. Kayed al-Ghoul for his efforts in communicating with human rights organizations and centers operating in the occupied Palestinian territory to follow-up and monitoring Israeli violations.

Dr. Mishal Bin Fahm Al-Sulami
President of the Arab Parliament

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I- Deaths And Injuries

The Israeli occupation forces continued to use mortal force during the reporting period, in a flagrant and systematic violation to the rules of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.

The most notable figure of crimes committed by the occupation forces in violation to the Right to life, consist in the killing of Palestinian civilians and the excessive use of force against the peaceful demonstrations of Gaza's Great March of Return, in addition to field executions in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

It has been documented the killing conducted by the Israeli forces and settlers of (180) martyrs including (33) children and (15) women, among which (144) in the Gaza Strip and (36) in the West Bank and Jerusalem, in addition to (7200) casualties among Palestinians; in a blatant violation to the provisions of Article (6) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which stipulates that "every human being has the inherent right to life, this right shall be protected by law, no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life".

Total number of martyrs	180
Gaza Strip	144
West Bank including Jerusalem	36
Including	
Women	15
Children	33
Table: Numbers of martyrs during the reporting period. Human rights centers documented the intentional killing of most of these martyrs by firing live bullets in the upper part of the body.	

Detaining The Bodies Of The Martyrs:

The Israeli occupation Authorities continued during 2019 their inhuman historical crime of holding the bodies of the martyrs, by detaining dozens bodies of Palestinian martyrs as hostages in the tombs of numbers and impose conditions on their relatives in the event of their release.

In this context, Israel continues to detain the bodies of (57) Palestinian martyrs since 2016, and impose severe conditions on their relatives in the event of their release with regards to how the funeral and burial are conducted, notably in the occupied City of Jerusalem.

The act of detaining the bodies of the martyrs by the Israeli Government, clearly contradict with Article (130) of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article (34) of the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, affirming that the detaining authorities shall ensure that

the killed or the internees who die while interned are buried according to the rites of the religion to which they belonged, and that their graves are respected, properly maintained, and marked in such a way that they can always be recognized, and to facilitate access to the gravesites by relatives of the deceased, and to facilitate the return of the ashes and personal belongings of the deceased to their families.

II- The Continuing Siege And Restrictions On Freedom Of Movement In The Occupied Palestinian Territory

During the reporting period, the Israeli occupation authorities continued to impose severe siege and restrictions on the freedom of movement of people and goods in the occupied Palestinian territory.

In the Gaza Strip, the inhumane and illegal Israeli siege continues for the twelfth consecutive year, resulting a grave deterioration of the humanitarian, economic and social living conditions for two million Palestinians in Gaza, unemployment rate increased to 75% while poverty rate also reached 75% according to the Palestinian Central Agency for Statistics; and according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs more than 70% of the population in Gaza is classified food insecure.

In regard with the commercial crossings, the Israeli occupation authorities continued to prohibit exports from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank markets, Israel and the world; Israel also restricted the entrance of the dual-use goods, and listed 118 items as dual-use items.

The Israeli authorities issued consecutive decisions aimed at tightening the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and closed Karm Abu Salem, Gaza's sole commercial crossing, for several days, and prohibit the entry of all types of fuel, gas, commodities including the basic needs

for the Gaza Strip population, in respond to the peaceful March of Return.

In regard with the movement of individuals, the Israeli occupation authorities refused to allow most of the residents of the Gaza Strip to leave or return to it through Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing; however, it narrowly allow limited categories to travel via Beit Hanoun crossing: patients of serious conditions and their companions, Palestinians holding Israeli ID cards, international journalists, workers of international humanitarian organizations, businesspeople, relatives of prisoners in the Israeli jails, and persons travelling via al-Karama crossing.

In the occupied West Bank, during the reporting period, the Israeli occupation forces continued to impose arbitrary restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians and goods between the West Bank governorates.

The number of permanent checkpoints in the West Bank reached (103) these include internal checkpoints (59) deep inside the West Bank area, (18) located inside the H2 part of al-Khalil, and (39) entry-to-Israel checkpoints along the green line (armistice line).

In addition, Israel sets temporary flying checkpoints and physical obstacles including iron gates, dirt piles, concrete blocks, rocks, trenches and fences. The construction of the Israeli West Bank wall (separation barrier) increased the suffering of Palestinian civilians

who might be cut off from their agricultural lands, irrigation networks and water resources, as well as from West Bank workplaces, schools, health clinics and other social services. The Israeli occupation forces prevent Palestinian farmers from reaching their isolated lands behind the wall for harvesting, or limit their crossing and exit hours from the erected (104) gates.

These restrictions and procedures aim to deprive Palestinians of their only source of income as well as to force them to abandon their lands in preparation for their confiscation. The impacts of movement restrictions on the agricultural sector include also all aspects of life activities of the residents.

The Israeli occupation forces continued to impose a strict siege on the occupied City of Jerusalem and isolating it from its surrounding, and impose ban on the entry of Palestinian citizens from the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory to Jerusalem and give limited permissions under specific conditions.

Movement restrictions included electronic gates and police checkpoints within the neighborhoods of the Old City and at its entrances. These measures deprived the Palestinian citizens of their right to enter the occupied City, as well as depriving residents of the city from enjoying their normal life.

III- Detention, Torture and Other Forms of Inhuman Treatment

The Israeli occupation forces continued its various and repeated violations against Palestinian detainees in the occupied Palestinian Territory, which concentrated on legislative attempts in violation to the International Law and on the continued extended arbitrary detention of Palestinians; in addition to the violations committed by the administration of Israeli prisons against the Palestinians in the Israeli prisons and detention centers, in violation of all its legal obligations as an occupying power in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the International Human Rights Standards notably relating to the rights of detainees and detention regulations.

■ **Arbitrary Detention:**

The reporting period witnessed the continued arbitrary and widespread arrests of Palestinians by the occupation forces, in contradiction to the requirements of International Law for the lawfulness of detention; As during the year 2019, the occupation forces arrested at least (5500) citizens among which (880) children and (153) women.

Noting that the Israeli occupation forces continue to arrest about (6500) Palestinians including (6000) detainees from the West Bank, (370) from the Gaza Strip, (400) children and (64) women, while (700) detainees are under administrative detention without trial; these detainees are distributed in more than (20) prisons and detention centers most of them established

outside the occupied Palestinian territory 1967, in clear violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

▪ **Other Forms Of Israeli Violations:**

Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons are subject to various Israeli violations which impact their rights guaranteed under the International Law; among which depriving from family visits, depriving from receiving medical care which has extended to the policy of medical neglect, brutal incursions, naked inspection and physical and psychological torture.

The Prisoners are also deprived, in the first period of detention, of their right to be visited by a lawyer, for a period of up to (21 days), which violates the guarantees of a fair trial. Palestinian detainees also face torture policy such as their transportation in the "busta" from the prison to the court and back, having to sit on iron seats with both their hands and legs handcuffed which cause more pain and suffer.

Detainees complain of being deprived of their full right to education and to watch television which contradict with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners of 1955, Standards of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners, and the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners adopted by the UN General Assembly on 1990.

To the date of the current report, the Palestinian prisoner Ahmed Zahran, entered 105 days of hunger strike rejecting being arbitrary jailed under Israeli

administrative detention without charge or trial; while the International Committee of the Red Cross confirmed that he is suffering from a very difficult health condition. The occupation authorities, particularly the Israel Security Agency "Shabak", practice systematic torture against Palestinian prisoners and detainees. Human rights institutions have recently documented the Israeli investigators practices of physical and psychological torture against many Palestinian detainees in investigation centers without any form of protection. Human rights organizations declared that they have hard evidence on the crimes of torture and ill-treatment committed against a number of detainees held at interrogation centers but they were banned from publishing any of the details of torture due to a gag order issued by the Israeli Court of First Instance in Jerusalem. The "Shabak" and the Israel Police issued an order prohibiting publication in the cases of detainees in Al-Muskubīya investigation center.

The issuance of the non-publishing gag order was an attempt to hide crimes committed by "Shabak" investigators against the Palestinian detainees, and to prevent public and legal representatives from exposing the details of the crimes of torture and ill-treatment that were committed against the detainees.

▪ **Torture At Israeli Interrogation Centers:**

According to Israeli military orders, the Palestinian detainee can be held in interrogation for a total period of 75 days without receiving any official charges, and can be banned from meeting his lawyer for a total period of 60 days.

Detainees who were transferred to the Al-Muskubīya investigation center in recent months, were held for extremely long periods of interrogation and were banned from lawyers' visits and legal consultation for periods ranged from 30 to 45 days in some cases.

During the interrogations, the detainees suffered from different forms of both physical and psychological torture. The methods used against them included, but were not limited to harsh beating, sleep deprivation, solitary confinement, stress positions, the denial of basic hygiene needs, sexual harassment, threatening and intensive psychological torture including the use of family members and/or other detainees. The used threats included threats of rape, torture, and revocation of residency for the people of Jerusalem.

The severe torture and humiliation these detainees suffered from, led to injuries, broken bones, fainting, vomiting, and bleedings from different parts of the body (nose, mouth, hands, legs and genital area). In addition, the detainees also suffered from the false assessment made by doctors at the interrogation centers whom almost in all cases stated that the detainees are physically qualified for interrogations denying the clear signs of torture and ill health.

Among The Torture Techniques Committed Against Palestinian Detainees:

- **Positional Torture (Stress Positions):**

Israeli "Shabak" officers forced the detainees into a number of stress positions such as the banana position, the frog position, sitting on an imaginary chair, squatting and many other different positions. Almost in all of these stress positions the detainees would lose their balance and fall on the ground, which would lead to a harsh beating by the officers and then forcing the detainees back into the stress position. Other used stress positions included standing on their toes while their hands were shackled above their heads to a wall. Another position included sitting on a chair while handcuffed to the back where the hands were positioned on a table behind the detainee's chair. Another position involved the detainee laying on the ground with his hands chained to each other with iron cuffs and positioned behind his back, this position also includes officers sitting on the detainee to place pressure on his body while beat him ferociously.

- **Harsh Beatings:**

Israeli "Shabak" officers used extreme methods of beatings against the detainees using their hands, legs, knees and even their fingers. The officers hit, slapped, punched, poked (using their fingers) and kicked the detainees. These methods resulted in severe and life-threatening injuries that included broken ribs, inability to

walk, brutal bruises, swelling marks on the skin, ulcer wounds...etc. The officers, who exceeded five in number in some cases used to blindfold the detainees' eyes so they would not expect the beating or know where it is coming from. Several of those detainees appeared in their court sessions with marks on their bodies, expressed severe pain, and in some cases arrived on wheelchairs.

In one of the cases, the harsh beating was committed with the intention to kill the detainee, who was in fact transferred to the hospital in serious condition after around 30 hours of severe and extreme methods of beatings. In another case, the harsh beating aimed at injuries caused during the arrest, the interrogators intended to target those previously obtained injuries, which were mainly on the detainee's genital area causing the wounds to re-open twice. Also, in many other cases the method of pulling the facial hair from its roots was used causing injuries and swelling marks.

- **Sleep Deprivation:**

This technique was implemented through different methods, in some cases the detainees spent around two weeks allowed to sleep from one to three hours per day; even when those detainees were sent to their cells to sleep they would be disturbed with loud and eerie sounds made by the prison guards, the voices of other detainees being harshly beaten or the sound of knocking on their cell doors. In some cases sleep deprivation ranged from 30 to 60 continuous hours, where the detainee would be woken up if he falls asleep during the interrogation; some detainees were harshly slapped on their faces to

wake up, others were also splashed with water. Detainees described the slaps as extremely severe causing them to feel dizzy.

- **The Use Of Family Members (Emotional Blackmailing):**
Psychological torture and ill-treatment were used on the majority of these detainees, focusing on threats against their family members. Israeli occupation forces used the policy of collective punishment through arresting or bringing in some of the family members to interrogation centers; some family members were arrested, some of these relatives were kept for a number of days while others were kept for hours. In all the cases, family members were mainly brought in to pressure the detainees themselves. The interrogators made the detainees assume that their relatives got arrested and will be tortured as well. Relatives included fathers, mothers, brothers, daughters, wives...etc.
- **Interrogation At Israeli Secret Prisons:**
It has documented that at least one of the detainees was taken to secret unknown center; the detainee said that the interrogators at this center were all face-covered and wearing a different uniform than the known usual uniforms. It has been revealed in the past that Israel has secret prisons that are removed from maps and aerial photographs.
The detainees that were subject to torture and ill-treatment in the past months included male and female detainees, university students, union workers, human rights defenders, and a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

IV- Acquisition Of Land For Settlement

The most serious Israeli scheme since 1967 is the annexation of the Jordan Valley to the Israeli sovereignty by seizing a million and 260 thousand dunams.

Israel announced during 2019 many new settlement expansion projects, the most critical of which were: approving the establishment of a governing municipal body for settlers in the old city of Al-Khalil; transforming Qalandiya airport into a settlement city on an area of 10 thousand acres with a capacity for 50 thousand settlers in an attempt to change the demographic composition of the City of Jerusalem; constructing an industrial zone in Shufa and Jabara ins South Tulkarm, which is located on the street linking the Cities of Tulkarm and Qalqilya, and between Tulkarm and its southern countryside.

During 2019, the occupation authorities submitted 136 structural plans for settlements expansion, of which 85 were approved with 5 thousand new colonial units under implementation, and about 55 structural plans under study by the so-called supreme planning administration council.

For this aim, Israel has established a group of side roads linking the distant settlements with the major blocs, including Hawara Street which the occupation took over 1,300 acres in the vicinity of the street to establish it, where it is expected to link 34 settlements in the northern

West Bank with the major Israeli settlement bloc Ariel, and another side road in Al-Arroub that will connect the central and southern Al-Kalil settlements to the Gush Etzion complex. The occupying power aim from these side roads is to link the northern settlements with Ariel settlement, and the south settlement with Gush Etzion to establish a complete settlement linkage between the northern and the south of the West Bank, and to fragment and the Palestinian lands to be unconnected cantons.

It has been monitored the continuation of the Israeli occupation forces, during 2019, to seizure by force the lands and properties of Palestinians in the West Bank and the occupied Jerusalem, recording (15096) case of seizing land for settlement activities and (12643) case of building new settlement units within the plan of the Israeli Government for settlement expansion in the occupied territories.

The establishment of settlements in occupied territory and the transfer of the occupying power's population to the occupied territory are deemed illegal according to the Rules of International Law and contradict with all International Principles, the Charter of the United Nations and Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war; All of which states that the occupying Power shall not deport or transfer its own civilian population into the territory it occupies; which was reaffirmed by the Resolutions of the UN Security Council and General Assembly.

Since the year 1967, the International Legitimacy issued several Resolutions confirming the illegality of the Israeli settlement or annexation, and calling on Israel to cease settlement expansion in the West Bank and Jerusalem, nevertheless Israel doesn't abide by any of its International obligation.

V- Houses And Installations Demolitions

The Israeli occupying forces continued its method and policy of demolition against Palestinians during 2019 under various pretexts, the number of buildings demolitions reached (363) case, (620) case of destruction and confiscation of properties, (497) case of violations conducted by settlers with direct support of the occupation forces.

The occupation authorities invoke mainly the absence of a building permits to demolish hundreds of establishments annually, knowing that most of the demolished structures are located in Area C of the West Bank or in Occupied Jerusalem, which are under full administrative and security control of Israel.

The Israeli policy of demolitions moved in 2018 from individual to collective, as Israel ordered demolition of (7) Palestinian villages namely: Susya, Khan al-Ahmar, Khirbet Mak-hul, Ain al-Hilweh, Umm el-Jimal, Al Faresiya and Jabal Al-Baba.

The Commission against the Separation Wall and Settlements was able on 2019 to prevent the demolitions and evictions of the aforementioned villages, and to rebuild immediately what have been demolished in these areas within the mechanism of quick response to the urgent needs of Palestinians; adding that the Commission in cooperation with the Popular Resistance Committees and all the components of the Palestinian society succeeded to stop the forcible displacement after organizing sit-in for 6 months at Khan al-Ahmar.

VI- Violations In The Occupied City Of Jerusalem

The year 2019 witnessed large-scale incursions by settlers into the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque, accompanied by the occupation forces in civilian clothes, violating the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

The total number of attacks conducted by the occupation against Christian and Muslim places of worship reached (251) cases; the reports monitored the deportation of (130) citizens from praying in the Al-Aqsa Mosque or entering the old town or leaving homes.

During the reporting period, attacks have increased in the City of Jerusalem, this increase marked a prime example of the extent to which the occupying Power has targeted the Occupied City of Jerusalem, which has witnessed intense political moves to annex it once and for all to Israeli sovereignty by deepening the state of separation between it and the rest of the occupied West Bank.

The Israeli municipality decided to close the registration of students at Qadisiyah and Khalil Sakakini schools in the Old City. Israel's national infrastructure committee approved the project to build 1,400-meter cable-car route over Jerusalem's Old City.

The Israeli municipality implemented its plans to end the refugee issue by closing the schools and health centers affiliated to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

(UNRWA) in the occupied City of Jerusalem and abolishing the Palestinian refugees Shuafat camp.

For the first time, settlers stormed the Dome of the Rock mosque and wandered inside. The occupying Israeli municipality is planning to establish Judaization projects on the remaining lands of Mamilla Cemetery (currently 10 dunams); as the planning and building committee of occupying municipality in Jerusalem has rejected more than 20 requests for construction permits submitted by Jerusalemites. The occupation power began work to open a gap under the walls of the Old City in Jerusalem to enable tourists to enter the so-called "City of David" in Silwan; a joint plan was unveiled between the occupying municipality and the Israeli businessman Rami Levy to build a huge hotel in the area of the High Commissioner's palace.

The occupation police issued a decision to withdraw the Jerusalemite IDs from the Deputies of Jerusalem, under the pretext of "disloyalty to the state of occupation", as well as the withdrawal of residency from many citizens in the City.

Silwan, located south of Al-Aqsa Mosque, was the most targeted in Jerusalem governorate, which witnessed a dangerous landslide which led to the evacuation of a house at least and threaten other houses as result of the underground excavation works executed by Israeli authorities and settler organizations, digging tunnels under Al-Aqsa Mosque and Al-Buraq; in addition to the seizure of many homes and lands to expand settlement in the area and demolishing other houses on the pretext of not licensing.

The major demolition crime executed by the Israeli occupation forces on 22 July 2019, was the demolish of (16) residential buildings (including dozens of apartments), in the Wadi al-Homs area in the village of Sur Baher, as well as commercial stores and vehicles parkings, in implementation to the Israeli court's decision to demolish 16 residential buildings on the pretext of proximity to the separation wall. Most of the buildings that were demolished within Area A are under complete Palestinian sovereignty according to the Oslo Agreement, and are licensed by the Ministry of Local Government.

- **Incursions, Shooting And Aerial Bombing:**

During the year 2019, the Israeli occupation forces carried out than (3766) cases of shooting with multiple deadly military weapons, more than (897) aerial bombing caused killings and injuries of Palestinian citizens, damaged houses, farms, economic and commercial facilities and infrastructure, and more than (4356) incursions into the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Jerusalem.

- **Raiding Residential Areas:**

During the reporting period, the occupation forces registered (4887) case of raids to Palestinian residential areas in the West Bank and Jerusalem, including breaking in neighborhoods and houses, inspections and arrests, killing and wounding Palestinian citizens, with which a massive series of violations to the rights of the Palestinian citizens were associated.

- **Travel Ban For Treatment:**

During 2019, the occupation authorities prevented 35% of patients referred for medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip to travel through the crossing of Beit Hanoun (Erez). It has been documented that the occupation authorities obstructed the travel of 7 thousand and 794 patients from the Gaza Strip from the beginning of January to the end of November 2019, and registered the submission of 22 thousand and 144 requests for treatment permits. It has been monitored the travel obstruction of 51 thousand and 56 patients who were referred for treatment in Israeli hospitals or in the West Bank hospitals, including the occupied City of Jerusalem, out of 179 thousand and 746 requests for permission to treatment.

- **Attacks Against Fishermen In the Gaza Strip:**

The Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen continued in the Gaza Strip during 2019, it has been documented (921) cases of shooting towards fishing boats, resulting (15) fishermen were wounded, (40) were arrested, and (39) fishing boats were confiscated and damaged.

Cooperated Bodies With The Arab Parliament In Monitoring These Violations:

- Negotiations Affairs Department, monthly reports
<https://www.nad.ps/en/violations-reports/monthly-report>
- Palestinian News and Info Agency,
<http://www.wafa.ps/>
- Hadaf News , <http://hadfnews.ps/>
- Al-Haq Human Rights Organization,
<http://www.alhaq.org/>
- Palestinian Centre for Human Rights,
<https://www.pchrgaza.org/>
- Al Mezan Center for human rights,
<https://www.mezan.org>
- ABDULLAH Al-Hourani Center for Studies and Documentation, <http://www.plo.ps/>

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