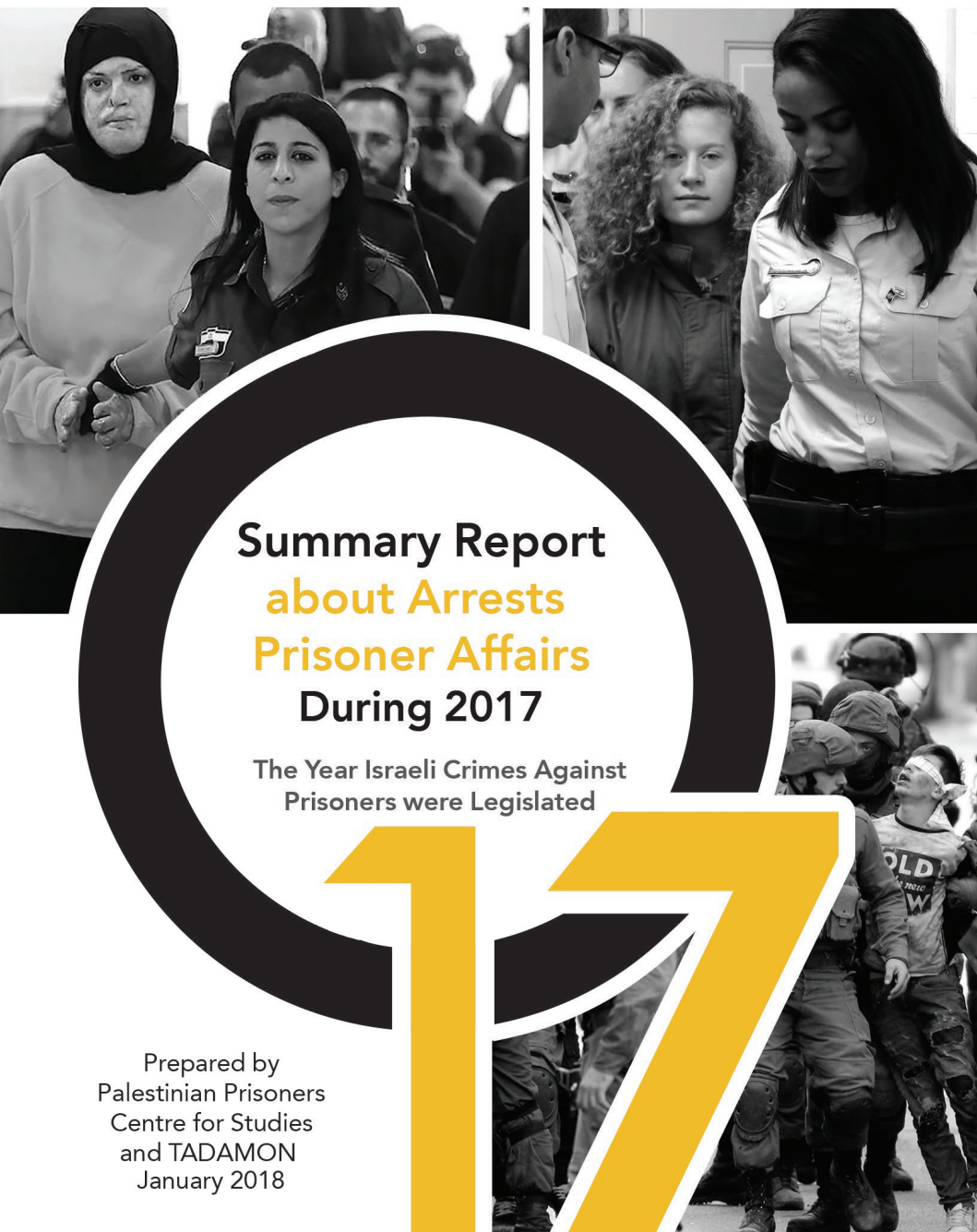




International Solidarity Campaign
Supporting Prisoners & Detainees
in the Israeli Occupation Jails

"TADAMON"



Summary Report about Arrests Prisoner Affairs During 2017

The Year Israeli Crimes Against
Prisoners were Legislated

Prepared by
Palestinian Prisoners
Centre for Studies
and TADAMON
January 2018

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Introduction

The occupation authorities continued to practice the policy of arrests during the year 2017, which the occupation considers a tool for daily oppression. It resorts to this tool in order to fight the Palestinian people and impact their resistance, and therefore, all branches of the occupation's government, including its security, military, political, and media institutions. In light of the outbreak of the Jerusalem uprising in October 2015 and the renewed wave of uprising following US President Donald Trump's decision to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, the Palestinian territories witnessed rabid and arbitrary arrest campaigns aiming to stifle the uprising and prevent its escalation.

The arrests have impacted all segments of the Palestinian society, including children, women, released prisoners, traders, the elderly, human rights activists, journalists, fishermen, PLC members, faction leaders, the ill, and the disabled.

The arrest process occurs in various forms, but the majority of these arrests occur after homes are raided late at night and the majority of its contents destroyed. The inhabitants of these homes are intimidated and the arrests are sometimes accompanied by beatings, assaults, insults, cursing, and gunfire.

According to the Palestinian Prisoners Centre for Studies' field research team, the year 2017 witnessed an escalation of arrests carried out in the cities, villages, and neighbourhoods of the occupied West Bank and occupied Jerusalem. The team recorded 6,500 arrests since the beginning of the year, over a third of which occurred in Jerusalem alone.

Over the last year, the occupation also continued to target prisoners with various forms of violations and abuse. They have been deprived of all basic needs of life, deprived of medical treatment, and deprived of visits. Their cells are raided and they are beat, they are detained in harsh conditions, and retaliatory sentences are issued against them.

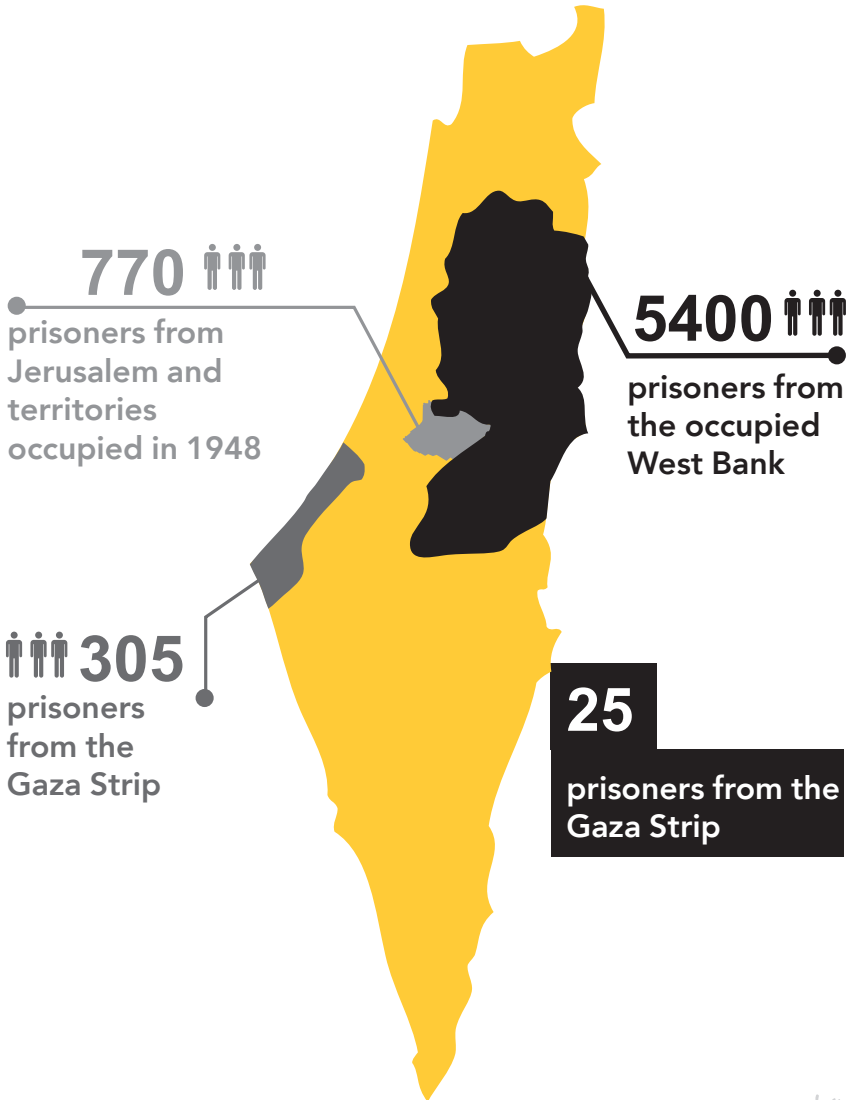
The famous Israeli journalist, Gideon Levy, described the state of Israel as one of the most brutal dictatorships in the world.

In addition to this, the year 2017 is considered the year during which war crimes, crimes against humanity, and systematic incitement against prisoners and their legal standing were legislated under the cover of a series of arbitrary legislations and laws. Such as decision to intensify punishments and decision to ban family visits to Hamas prisoners from Gaza. These legislations and laws aim to target Palestinian nationalism and identity.



Updated statistics regarding the number of prisoners in Israeli prisons

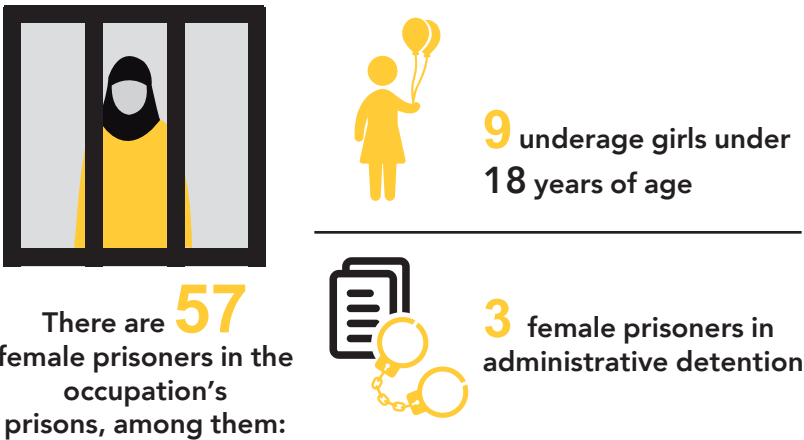
There are currently **6,500** Palestinian prisoners detained in Israeli prisons, distributed among **23** prisons and detention centres. This includes:



Distribution of Prisoners according to Legal Status



Distribution of Prisoners by Categories



24 women prisoners with different sentences. The oldest prisoner is Yasmin Shaaban, detained since November 2014, and sentenced to 5 years. The prisoner with the longest sentence is Shurouq Dwayyat, who has been sentenced to 16 years in prison. She was detained in 2015.



350

190

children under the age of 18 years

whom were sentenced, while the rest are awaiting trial



12

members of the Palestinian Legislative Council

9

of whom are under administrative detention



52

prisoners who were released as a part of the prisoner exchange deal between Hamas and the Israeli occupation. They were re-arrested by the occupation and imprisoned.

1,100

Ill Prisoners are Being Held in Israeli Prisons, among them:



17

prisoners are being permanently held in the so-called "Ramla Hospital". They suffer from the most serious diseases and wounds.



26 amputees

4 prisoners suffering from hepatitis



4 paraplegic prisoners confirmed to wheelchairs



2 blind prisoners



21 prisoners suffering from cancer

Veteran Prisoners



There are now **45** veteran prisoners who have spent over 20 years in prison, including:

10 prisoners over age of 30,
The oldest prisoner is Karim
Younis from the territories
occupied in 1948

22 prisoners have been
detained for more than a
quarter of a century.

29 of these veteran prisoners have been in prison since before the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1994. The Israeli occupation has refused to release them as part of the fourth batch released under the deal to revive negotiations in late 2013.

Killed from the Prisoners' Movement

The number of killed prisoners since **1967** has reached **212** prisoners amongst these prisoners:



72 were killed as a
result of torture



59 were killed as a
result of deliberate
medical negligence



74 were killed as a
result of deliberate
murder immediately
following their
arrest



7 prisoners were
killed after being shot
inside the prisons



3 prisoners were
killed in 2017



The accusations used by the occupation to justify its imprisonment of Jerusalemite women include the following:



First: incitement on social media and violation of privacy



Second: intention of carrying out stabbings and hit and runs



Third: being stationed in Al-Aqsa Mosque

Inhumane Laws and Decisions

Execution of Palestinian Prisoners

A racist draft law stipulating the execution of Palestinian prisoners involved in the killing of Israelis was proposed by the right-wing political party Yisrael Beiteinu in 2015. A ministerial committee was formed to discuss the draft before presenting it to the Knesset for approval.

Since then, this issue was not discussed until Lieberman became Defence Minister. The draft law was proposed once again in May 2016 and was not approved. In July 2017, Yisrael Beiteinu proposed it once more and it was approved during the first reading.

The draft law stipulates “in the event that a Palestinian residing in the occupied West Bank is convicted of murder, the Defence Minister has the right to demand they are handed the death sentence by the military court. This does not require the consensus of the judges, but rather a normal majority without the possibility of reducing the sentence.”

Law Decision to Intensify Punishments

Last June, the Israeli Supreme Court responded to a request filed by human rights organisations to reduce the crowding in prisons, as it is inhumane. According to the request, “the space allotted to prisoners today violates international human rights law and the basic laws of human dignity and



freedom,” which stipulate 4 square metres as the minimum area per prisoner.

The court approved the request and committed to increasing the average area allotted to each prisoner from 3 square metres to 4.5 square metres. This includes all prisoners being detained by Israel, including the Palestinians.

This ruling was not to the occupation leaders' liking, as Israel's Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan is seeking to pass a new law allowing the prison administration to exclude thousands of Palestinian prisoners and detainees from having this judicial order be applied to them and depriving them from benefitting from it. The law he seeks to pass stipulates that this order be applied only to “criminal prisoners”.

Erdan justified his objections to the ruling by saying that the Palestinian prisoners do not belong to the Israeli society and therefore, there is no use rehabilitating them by providing them with suitable and humane conditions inside prisons. He also claimed that based on the current budgets and timeframes, the judicial ruling could not be executed.

Erdan suggested that in order to expand the cells and security units, a large number of security prisoners needed to be moved to imprisonment in camps. He explained that a number of prisoners being held in Ktzi'ot Prison are actually being detained in tents.

Decision to Intensify Punishments

At the beginning of 2017, the Israeli Cabinet approved a series of “punitive” measures against Hamas prisoners in an attempt to pressure the movement to release soldiers captured in Gaza. These measures included intensifying the conditions of Hamas



prisoners' detention, reducing their visits, removing televisions from cells, and banning them from making purchases from the canteen.

Decision to Ban Family Visits to Hamas Prisoners from Gaza

In July 2017, Israel's Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan issued orders banning the families of Hamas prisoners held in Israeli prisons from visiting. This was an attempt to pressure Hamas to make concessions in the case of the missing soldiers and officers, in order to appease the families of those missing, who have continued to escalate their pressure on Netanyahu's government to return their loved ones.



Censoring Palestinian satellite channel



The Israeli prison administration decided not to allow the prisoners to watch the Palestine Mubasher satellite channel. This was at the time leading up to the open hunger strike that began in April, and was an attempt to isolate the prisoners from the world.

Conclusions and recommendations

First: Conclusions

1. The year 2017 witnessed a substantial increase in arrests, as it increased by 7 per cent compared to the prior year. The number of arrests in 2017 reached 6,500 arrests, compared to 6,100 in 2016.
2. During 2017, the occupation continued to practice the policy of issuing administrative rulings against prisoners. 1,086 administrative rulings were issued, including new administrative detentions and renewals that even impacted a number of PLC members.
3. The number of killed prisoners during 2017 reached 212, including three recently killed prisoners.
4. Clear escalated targeting of Palestinian children who are arrested and abused. The arrests of minors has reached 1,600 cases in 2017, which is a 30 per cent increase compared to the year before, which witnessed 1,250 arrests of minors.
5. The occupation increased the number of life sentences issued to prisoners, as it issued 15 new life sentences. The number of those sentenced to life in Israeli prisons has reached 510.
6. Israel continues to exercise the policy of oppression against prisoners in the past year, as 145 cases of oppression and raids, accompanied by harassment and attacks on prisoners, the isolation of some, and the imposition of punitive measures against prisoners were recorded.
7. Dozens of prisoners' health conditions have deteriorated as a result of the continued medical negligence and the failure to provide necessary medical attention.
8. The occupation's media institution is involved in incitement against the prisoners, which was very clear during the prisoners' hunger strike in April.
9. The Israel prison administration continues to impose solitary confinement on prisoners as a form of punishment for the slightest reasons.

10. Israeli courts continue to issue harsh and retaliatory sentences against Palestinian females and minors.
11. Palestinian journalists are increasingly targeted with arrest, detention, summoning, and interrogation.
12. Several unfair laws and decisions were issued that targeted prisoners. The most prominent of such laws is the Knesset's approval of a law to execute prisoners, as well as depriving Palestinian security prisoners from having the space allotted to them increased, which the occupation must increase from 3 square metres to 4.
13. The occupation continues to exploit the crossings needed by the people of Gaza to travel and receive treatment, particularly the Beit Hanoun crossing, and turning it into a trap to arrest Palestinian citizens or blackmail them into becoming involved with the occupation.
14. Increase in the arrest of children under 12 years of age.
15. Courts are imposing high fines on children, along with prison sentences.
16. Women and children are constantly held in administrative detention.
17. Elected PLC members are constantly arrested, as 14 cases of this were recorded this year.
18. There has been a noticeable increase in targeting families of prisoners and martyrs with arrests.
19. The health of female prisoners has deteriorated due to medical negligence towards them.
20. Over the past year, the Israeli occupation shut down several media institutions and local radio stations.

Second: Recommendations

After highlighting the conclusions reached by this report, we recommend the following:

1. The continuation of solidarity events and campaigns with the prisoners and keeping their cause alive at all times in a manner ensuring that their conditions remain a priority for officials.
2. The PA must take immediate action in international courts in order to file complaints and suits against the occupation due to its violation of all related international laws.
3. There must be a continuation of attempts to rally as much solidarity with our prisoners as possible and to convince the international community of the justice and humanity of their cause.
4. Arab embracers supporting the prisoner cause must be found and must, from time to time, organise international events shedding light on the suffering of prisoners and the occupation's crimes against them.
5. Human rights and legal organisations must carry out their responsibilities of exposing the occupation's repressive policies practiced against prisoners and reveal its violations of international humanitarian law.
6. There must be continuous contact with international human rights organisations and continuous pressure on them to perform their duties of defending our prisoners and putting an end on the fierce attacks they are subject to.
7. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) must push the occupation to put an end to its attacks on prisoners' families and to protect them from the occupation's attacks during their visitation with their imprisoned relatives, especially the families of prisoners from the Gaza Strip. This must be done in order to prevent a repeat of the incident involving an MK storming a bus carrying families of prisoners and threatening them.

8. New media outlets must be used to carry out widespread electronic campaigns in solidarity with prisoners and to shed light on their suffering. These media outlets and campaigns must also be used to try to attract legal and media support, as well as international sympathy with their cause.
9. Focus must not only be on the political aspect, but also the humanitarian aspect of the prisoners' when dealing with media outlets. By doing that we will gain the attention of the public opinion and their solidarity with the prisoners.
10. Increase and diversify media work in service of the prisoner cause.

