

Addameer Prisoners' Support and Human Rights
Association

Al-Haq – Defending Human Rights

Huryyat- Centre for Defence of Liberties and Civil Rights

Defence for Children International – Palestine Section

Jerusalem Center for Legal Aid and Human Rights

مجلس منظمات حقوق الإنسان الفلسطينية
Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council



Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights

Aldameer Association for Human Rights

Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies

BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency
and Refugee Rights

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

Date: Feb 02, 2017

(PHROC) strongly condemns the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) special unit's violent attacks against Palestinian prisoners and detainees

The Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC) strongly condemns the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) special unit's violent attacks against Palestinian prisoners and detainees, and expresses its utmost support for and solidarity with Palestinian prisoners and detainees and their legitimate demands. These continuous and systematic attacks are just one part of Israel's oppressive policies and practices against Palestinian prisoners.

Over the last few days, IPS special unit forces, called the Metzada, have carried out violent raids in the Nafha and Naqab prisons, both located beyond the Green Line. On 30 January 2017, the Metzada raided section 1 of the Nafha prison, attacking the prisoners and destroying their belongings. The attacks escalated on 1 February when an estimated 400 officers entered sections 2 and 12 of the prison, and carried out a mass search raid and attacked prisoners with tear gas. The officers transferred some of the prisoners to other sections within the prison after one prisoner allegedly attempted an attack. These attacks continued on the morning of 2 February after the IPS closed off all sections of the prison.

The Metzada similarly raided and attacked prisoners in section 16 of the Naqab prison. These prisoners were also subjected to physical beatings and some were transferred to other sections within the prison. Violent attacks and searches continued on 2 February in section 13 of the Naqab prison.

Palestinian prisoners held in the Nafha and Naqab prisons have begun a civil disobedience campaign against the IPS administration to protest against their ill-treatment. In the past, prisoners in the Nafha prison have demanded putting an end to humiliating searches; returning prisoners to the sections they were held in before raids; and ending the punitive measures imposed on prisoners following these raids, which included isolation, denial of visitation rights, and fines.

PHROC also condemns recent legislation and discriminatory laws, including the force-feeding bill, which allows the IPS to force feed hunger striking prisoners and detainees. Force-feeding may amount to torture which is prohibited under international humanitarian law.

Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons suffer from a multitude of violations of their rights under international humanitarian law and international human rights law. They are routinely subjected to physical and psychological torture and other cruel, degrading and inhuman forms of treatment and punishment. The widespread ill-treatment that has been documented in Israeli prisons amounts to violations of the 1955 United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Body

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of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment adopted in 1988, the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilians in Times of War, and the 1948 International Convention Against Torture, which was ratified by Israel in 1991.

PHROC condemns the continued violations of the rights of Palestinian prisoners and detainees, particularly the right to freedom from degrading, inhumane treatment, and from torture and ill treatment.

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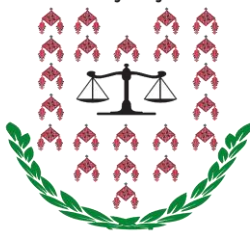
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