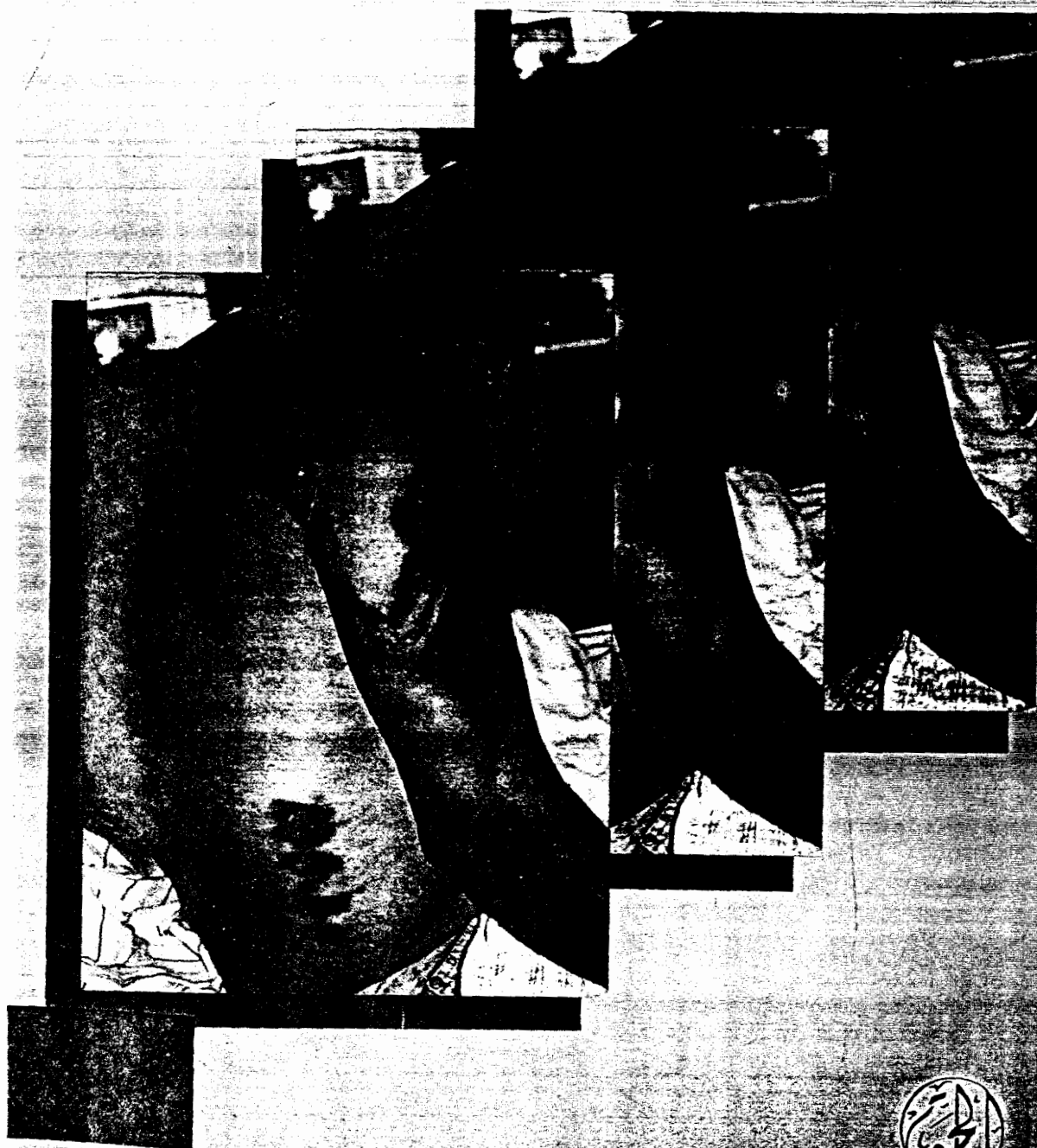


# **Palestinian Victims of Torture Speak Out**

Thirteen Accounts of Torture During Interrogation  
in Israeli Prisons



**Al-Haq 1993**

# **Palestinian Victims of Torture Speak Out**

Thirteen Accounts of Torture During Interrogation  
in Israeli Prisons

Al-Haq fieldworkers documented 234 cases of torture through affidavits from victims. Researcher Riziq Shuqair compiled and edited the 13 affidavits published in this report, and wrote the introduction for the Arabic version, published in 1992. Volunteer researcher Tom Taylor edited the affidavits and contributed to the introduction for the English version.

---

Copyright (c) 1993 by Al-Haq. All rights reserved.

Any quotation of up to 500 words may be used without permission provided that full attribution is given. Longer quotations or entire chapters or sections of this study may not be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, or stored in any retrieval system of any nature, without the express written permission of al-Haq.

**Al-Haq, West Bank Affiliate, International Commission of Jurists  
P. O. Box 1413, Ramallah, West Bank  
Tel: 972 2 956421**

# CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION

- What is Torture?	2
- Torture in the Occupied Palestinian Territories	3
- The Landau Commission	4
- The Official Concealment of Torture	6
- Increasing concern with Torture	7
- Prohibitions of Torture contained in International Legal Documents Applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territories	7

## AFFIDAVITS

- Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3395	10
- Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3216	12
- Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3384	14
- Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3435	17
- Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3212	20
- Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3429	22
- Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3181	25
- Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3275	27
- Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3328	30
- Al-Haq Affidavit No. 2100	35
- Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3336	40
- Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3234	43
- Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3414	46

## Introduction

For many years, and especially over the past four years, al-Haq has been studying the practice of torture inflicted upon Palestinians held in Israeli prisons and detention facilities. This reader presents, after explaining the issue of torture in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the testimonies of 13 Palestinians tortured or ill-treated during detention. Their cases were selected, from over 200 affidavits collected during the fall of 1991, to illustrate:

1. The major methods of physical and psychological torture used against Palestinian detainees. These methods include: confinement in tiny cells/closets; forcing the body to adopt painful and unnatural postures, often for long periods of time, sometimes called shabeh; pulling out body hair; deprivation of sleep and food and medical care; beating and kicking of the body often with particular emphasis on the genitals; scalding the body with hot water; asphyxiation; the use of electric shocks; prolonged exposure to extreme temperatures; and threats against the well-being or life of family members and the detainee.
2. The wide scale practice of torture. Cases include those from many Israeli prisons and detention facilities in which Palestinians are held, in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (Toulkarem, Nablus, Fara'a, Jenin, Ramallah, Hebron, Dhahariyyeh and Gaza Central Prison) as well as two inside Israel (Petah Tikva and Ashkelon); and
3. The involvement of different branches of the Israeli security organs in the use of torture, including the General Security Service (GSS), also called the Shin Bet; army personnel; police; and collaborators. The practices of the GSS are the greatest cause for concern and major focus is placed upon their actions in this reader.

All 234 affidavits originally collected were taken from Palestinians tortured and ill-treated in the time period after the Israeli cabinet's endorsement and vote, in November 1987, to implement the recommendations of the Landau Commission of Inquiry into the interrogation methods and practices of the GSS.<sup>1</sup>

---

1. The Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Methods of Interrogation of the General Security Service Regarding Hostile Terrorist Activity, popularly known as the Landau Commission Report, was published on 30 October 1987. The Israeli cabinet voted in early November 1987 to endorse the Report and implement its recommendations. (Full English text translation available at al-Haq's library).

## What is Torture?

Although no absolute definition of torture exists in international law, torture has been described for the purposes of the United Nations Convention Against Torture<sup>2</sup> as:

1. ...any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to lawful sanctions.
2. This article is without prejudice to any international instrument or national legislation which does or may contain provisions of wider application. (Article 1)

Following this description, torture can be inflicted by psychological or emotional pressure, by acts of omission, and by physical means. The pain or suffering must be intentionally inflicted, for a purpose such as those listed above (a nonexhaustive list), and the pain or suffering must be severe. Whether the pain or suffering is severe will be a matter that must be decided having regard to all the circumstances of each individual case. Some cases will clearly involve acts amounting to torture; other cases may be more difficult to evaluate, but may, nevertheless, fall into the category of cases equally prohibited under international law as being treatment or punishment that is cruel, inhuman, or degrading.<sup>3</sup>

Although the above description distinguishes between pain or suffering intentionally inflicted and pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in, or incidental to lawful sanctions, such sanctions must be consistent with applicable international human rights and humanitarian law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention.<sup>4</sup> Applicable international law should be interpreted to take full account of important international

---

2. The Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1984 (resolution 39/46), came into force on 26 June 1987 and was ratified by Israel on 3 October 1991. Israel's first State report to the Committee Against Torture was due on 1 November 1992 but as of 8 January 1993 had not been received by the United Nations.

3. See, for example, Article 16 of The Convention Against Torture.

4. IV Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of August 12, 1949, ratified by Israel on 6 July 1951.

instruments containing humanitarian standards and principles, such as the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.<sup>5</sup> Article 2 of the Convention Against Torture makes it clear that the prohibition against torture is absolute and without exception.

## Torture in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Palestinian detainees have routinely suffered torture and ill-treatment since the Israeli occupation began in 1967, particularly while under interrogation by the GSS. After the outbreak of the civilian uprising or intifada in December 1987, such treatment reached new proportions affecting thousands of detainees and leading to a number of deaths in detention. These issues have been highlighted by al-Haq on numerous occasions.<sup>6</sup>

Al-Haq is currently in the final stages of a comprehensive study of the use of torture upon Palestinians after the Israeli cabinet's adoption of the Landau Commission's Report in November 1987. Our study has revealed that of a randomly selected sample of 474 former detainees, 85 percent were subjected to torture or ill-treatment, especially during interrogation. The prevalence of torture in the Occupied Palestinian Territories has also been asserted by a number of international human rights organizations. Recently, Amnesty International stated:

[T]he Israeli authorities in the Occupied Territories systematically use interrogation practices which clearly amount to torture or ill-treatment. Methods include beatings all over the body, often concentrated on sensitive areas such as the genitals; hooding with dirty sacks; sleep and food deprivation while held in solitary confinement; prolonged shackling in painful positions; and confinement in small, dark cells known as "closets" or, when cold, "refrigerators."<sup>7</sup>

On 21 May 1992 the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) took the unusual step of releasing a public statement on the treatment of Palestinians in detention which concluded that:

to obtain confessions from the detainees, means of physical and psychological pressure are being used that constitute a violation of the Geneva Convention. Confessions obtained under duress moreover preclude any fair trial, ... [and stressed that] ... [t]he ICRC deeply regrets that the numerous and detailed

---

5. The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, adopted by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders on 30 August 1955 and approved by the United Nations Economic and Social Council on 31 July 1957 and modified on 13 May 1977.

6. See, for example: International Commission of Jurists and al-Haq, *Torture and Intimidation in the West Bank: the Case of al-Fara'a Prison* (1984); al-Haq, *Punishing a Nation* (1988) Chapter Six; al-Haq, *A Nation Under Siege* (1989) Chapter Five.

7. Amnesty International, *Israel and the Occupied Territories: Fear of Torture or Ill-treatment* (London: March 1992) AI index: MDE 15/05/92, re-iterated at 1993 UN Commission of Human Rights Session.

reports it has regularly submitted to the Israeli authorities and its repeated representations at high government level have been to no avail.<sup>8</sup>

## The Landau Commission<sup>9</sup>

On 31 May 1987, the Israeli government decided, following the so-called Nafsu case,<sup>10</sup> and the earlier Bus #300 affair,<sup>11</sup> "to establish a commission of inquiry...[to investigate] the interrogation methods and procedures of the GSS in regard to [persons suspected of] hostile terrorist activities, and testimony presented in court in connection with these interrogations."<sup>12</sup> The Commission, headed by retired Supreme Court Judge Moshe Landau, issued its Report on 30 October 1987. Its recommendations were endorsed by the Israeli cabinet in November 1987, which voted to implement them.<sup>13</sup>

Although the Report was published, an important appendix remains unpublished, classified as secret on grounds of state security. The public portion of the Report revealed that heads of the GSS, their legal advisors, and interrogators had all been involved in the illegal practice, since 1971, of committing perjury, whereby interrogators lied under oath during court proceedings at which Palestinian detainees had alleged that they had been tortured and ill-treated by interrogators."<sup>14</sup> The Commission explained why:

[T]he reason why the service's operatives lied to the courts...and denied exerting physical pressure against men under interrogation, stems from their need to avoid any exposure of their methods of interrogation.<sup>15</sup>

The Report revealed that among the cases they had looked into "...there were cases of criminal assault, blackmail and threats...."<sup>16</sup>

However, the Commission recommended that no criminal prosecutions be brought

---

8. ICRC, Press Release No.1717, 21 May 1992.

9. See *supra*, note 1.

10. Criminal Appeal 124/87 (*Nafsu*). This case revealed some of the GSS interrogation practices and that GSS interrogators had committed perjury in court regarding the methods of interrogation employed against Mr. Nafsu (under oath, interrogators had falsely denied committing violent acts against Mr. Nafsu to obtain a confession). These revelations precipitated a grave crisis of public confidence in the GSS.

11. In which GSS employees, including some of its senior directors, had criminally conspired to subvert justice and mislead the commissions of inquiry set up to probe into the case.

12. See *supra*, note 1.

13. It is not known to what extent the recommendations were implemented. Many are supposed to be contained in the secret appendix. At least one recommendation in the public portion of the Report, to shorten the time period for which a person may be detained before the matter of his detention is brought before a judge, has not been fully implemented. The Landau Report recommended eight days (an improvement but still in breach of international law). At present for the vast majority of detainees the period is, as it was in 1987, 18 days.

14. Chapter Two of the Report, para. 52.

15. Chapter Two para. 37.

16. Chapter Four para. 20.



against any interrogator or member of the GSS and that there should be no voluntary retirements. In fact the Commission provided detailed justifications and legal defenses for the interrogators' violent behavior.<sup>17</sup> Many of these interrogators must still be working in the Gss.

The Commission stated that detailed guidelines on the levels of force allowed during interrogations had been laid out in the classified appendix to the Report. This makes it impossible for those not privy to that section to evaluate whether such guidelines are in accordance with international law, or to monitor their implementation. However, the public portion of the Report recommended that:

pressure should principally take the form of non-violent psychological pressure via a vigorous and lengthy interrogation, with the use of stratagems, including acts of deception. However, when these do not attain their purpose, the exertion of a moderate measure of physical pressure is not to be avoided.<sup>18</sup>

We have no way of judging exactly what is meant by the phrase "moderate measure of physical pressure" (or "non-violent psychological pressure") or how interrogators are to be encouraged to change long standing methods of interrogation that had proved most effective in obtaining convictions on the basis of forced confessions; one interrogator reported to the Commission, in regard to committing perjury, that such behavior had been "passed down from father to son."<sup>19</sup> However, the Commission's examination and interpretation of selected cases of international law points to a distorted view of the limits set by international law for interrogations of detainees.<sup>20</sup> The Commission's interpretation which included no detailed analysis of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention,<sup>21</sup> condoned, in the public portion of the Report, a level of physical violence that includes slaps and blows on the hands, head, or face.<sup>22</sup>

The Government endorsement of and vote to implement the recommendations of the Landau Commission's Report officially legalized the use of force and condoned violent interrogation methods. This is one of the primary reasons for the continued torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian detainees. Interrogators who committed acts of criminal assault were, in effect, told: your past conduct was not unlawful; no action will be taken against you and in the future you can use physical force when needed. Since 1987 there have been further investigations and court cases, which as yet, have produced no change in the practices inflicted on Palestinians under interrogation.

---

17. Chapter Four paras. 20, 26, and 27.

18. Chapter Four para. 7.

19. Chapter Two para. 30.

20. See Professor John Quigley, "International Limits on the Use of Force to Elicit Confessions: A Critique of Israel's Policy on Interrogation," Brooklyn J. INT'L L. (1988) p. 485.

21. For example Article 31 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 states: "No physical or moral coercion shall be exercised against protected persons, in particular to obtain information from them ... ." See also Articles 27 and 32.

22. Chapter Three para. 23.

## The Official Concealment of Torture

A number of other Israeli laws and practices facilitate the use of torture, making it difficult to prove and prevent:

1. Detainees, in many cases, cannot meet with their lawyer or be examined by independent doctors during the interrogation period. By Military Order 378 as amended by Military Order 1220 (issued early in 1988) the GSS is absolutely empowered to order that a person be detained incommunicado, without being allowed to meet a lawyer or family members, for a period of up to 30 days. Additionally the GSS may detain any person without bringing that person before the judicial authorities for 18 days. There is no procedure to challenge the legality of a detention.<sup>23</sup> A military judge can also order, on application by the GSS, that an arrest be kept totally secret for up to 12 days. The military justice system therefore allows the GSS to totally isolate a detainee for torture during interrogation preventing lawyers or doctors from seeing the detainee for the purposes of giving legal advice, ensuring the detainee's wellbeing, and obtaining proof, such as by medical examination, of torture where such has occurred. The detainee is even isolated from the normal fundamental guarantees of judicial scrutiny. Despite the fact that these measures are meant to be used on an exceptional basis for security cases they are widely employed.
2. Military judges routinely accede to GSS applications to extend detainees' detention periods and do not investigate allegations of torture. It should be stressed that even with the implementation of basic rights, such as the right to challenge the legality of the arrest or the right to be brought promptly before a judge, such rights will have little impact unless there is also an independent judiciary. It is an independent judiciary which normally plays the key role in all matters concerning arrest and detention pending trial.
3. The difficulty in obtaining full and accurate information on the identity of the interrogators using torture is another obstacle in the campaign to prevent torture. Prisoners are usually hooded during interrogation, and interrogators use false names. The only witness apart from the perpetrators is the victim, whom the authorities claim is only interested in falsely accusing Israel of torture and discrediting his own confession as coerced. The Landau Report itself revealed that this claim is untrue.
4. The time lapse between the detainee's experience of torture and his trial or release at which time the detainee can make contact with the outside world also makes torture difficult to prove. This is often a long period as a military court can order detention without charge for up to six months.
5. Proof of torture is also difficult due to the employment of torture techniques that: do

---

23. The military courts refuse to hear applications of the nature of habeas corpus or amparo.

not leave visible physical marks; leave only lesions that disappear within a period of up to 18 days, i.e. before the detainee can meet his lawyer or be brought before a military court; or leave marks which, from a medical perspective, cannot unequivocally be determined to have been the result of torture.

## **Increasing Concern with Torture**

Even though torture has been used in the Occupied Palestinian Territories since the beginning of the Israeli occupation, for a long time it was not a major focus of attention among the international community. Over the past few years, individuals, governments, and human rights organizations worldwide have become increasingly concerned with human rights violations in the Occupied Territories and the torture practices of Israeli security forces in particular. However, concern will need to be translated into far more effective action if the practice of torture is to be suppressed in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

## **Prohibitions of Torture Contained in International Legal Documents Applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territories**

### **A. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948:<sup>24</sup>**

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. (Article 5)

### **B. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966:<sup>25</sup>**

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his free consent to medical or scientific experimentation. (Article 7)

### **C. The United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 1984:<sup>26</sup>**

1. Each State Party shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction.
2. No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture.

---

24. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted and proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948.

25. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted and opened for signature, ratification, and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966. Ratified by Israel on 3 October 1991.

3. An order from a superior officer or a public authority may not be invoked as a justification of torture. (Article 2)

D. The IV Geneva Convention of 1949;<sup>27</sup>

...the following acts are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever...violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture. (Article 3);<sup>28</sup>

No physical or moral coercion shall be exercised against protected persons, in particular to obtain information from them or from third parties. (Article 31);

The High Contracting Parties specifically agree that each of them is prohibited from taking any measure of such a character as to cause the physical suffering or extermination of protected persons in their hands. This prohibition applies not only to murder, torture, corporal punishments, mutilation...but also to any other measures of brutality whether applied by civilian or military agents. (Article 32);

and

Grave Breaches [of the Convention]...shall be those involving...torture or inhuman treatment,...wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health. (Article 147)<sup>29</sup>

Further important principles are contained in the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners,<sup>30</sup> Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials,<sup>31</sup> Principles of Medical Ethics Relevant to the Role of Health Personnel, Particularly Physicians, in the Protection of Prisoners and Detainees Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,<sup>32</sup> The Body of Principles for the Protection of All

---

26. See *supra*, note 2.

27. See *supra*, note 4.

28. Common Article 3 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 constitutes a "minimum standard" of international humanitarian law applicable in all armed conflicts. See *Military and Paramilitary Activities In and Against Nicaragua*, ICJ Rep. 1986.

29. Torture is a grave breach of the Convention and also a war crime under the definition of Article 6 (b) of the Charter of the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal of 1947. All States have jurisdiction to try persons, of whatever nationality, for such acts. Under Article 146 of the IV Geneva Convention the State Parties to the Convention are "under the obligation to search for persons alleged to have committed, or to have ordered to be committed, such Grave breaches, and shall bring such persons, regardless of their nationality, before its own courts."

30. See *supra*, note 5.

31. Adopted by United Nations General Assembly on 17 Dec. 1979 (GA res. 34/169).

32. Adopted by United Nations General Assembly on 18 Dec. 1982 (GA res. 37/194).

Persons Under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment,<sup>33</sup> and United Nations Principles on the Role of Lawyers.<sup>34</sup>

---

33. Adopted by United Nations General Assembly on 9 Dec. 1988 (GA res. 43/173).

34. See United Nations General Assembly res. 45/121 of 14 Dec. 1990.

## Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3395

'Abdallah Salim Yousef Abu-Zeid: Qabatiya village, Jenin district, born in 1967, grocer. He was detained for two days without interrogation at the end of May 1982, and for 13 days without interrogation in February and March of 1983. On 17 April 1983, he was sentenced to four years and five months imprisonment for throwing molotov cocktails, belonging to an illegal organization, and beating a collaborator while inside the prison. In the following affidavit he recounts the events of his last detention subsequent to his arrest on 6 June 1988; he was later sentenced to two-and-a-half years imprisonment for throwing an empty bottle at the house of a collaborator.

On the morning of 6 June 1988, I went to the military governor's headquarters in Jenin to give myself up, since I was wanted by the Israeli authorities. The next day I was transferred to al-Far'a Detention Center, where I was detained in a tent.

On 23 June I was taken for interrogation and met five interrogators, three of whom I later identified as "James," "Abu-Jabal," and "Ofar." As soon as I entered the interrogation room, one of them took hold of my neck and exerted pressure on it for a few seconds. They asked me many questions and charged me with various activities in the intifada, with belonging to Fatah, and killing a collaborator. Over a period of almost two hours three of them beat and kicked me all over my body, particularly on the genitals. They threw me against the wall several times and strangled me by pressing on my throat and directing a number of swing punches at my neck. They also threw me onto the floor and stepped on me, while my hands were tied behind my back. I lost consciousness several times.

They then took me out into a corridor where "Ofar" and "James" started beating and kicking me, the latter using a small stick, which caused my head to bleed. Ten minutes later, I was taken back into the interrogation room where I was beaten, kicked, and thrown to the floor again by the same interrogators. They also forced me, with my hands tied behind my back, to sit sideways on a chair to which I was tied. My legs were tied to the legs of the chair, and they forced my torso backwards. In the meantime, one of them was sitting in front of me and pressed on my genitals with his feet. I fell backwards on to the floor several times while still tied to the chair, and each time they would beat and kick me for a few minutes. The chair technique was used during most of this interrogation session, which lasted for almost two hours.

Towards evening, they took me out of the interrogation room and led me to an open place known as the shabeh yard. There, my hands were tied behind my back, a sack was placed over my head, and I was forced to remain standing until the following morning. When I asked for food, the guard brought me a small piece of bread spread with some jam. I also asked the guard to allow me to go to the toilet, but he refused, saying: "You are not allowed to go out." During that night I heard two people talking in Hebrew close by, and I understood a few words. One of them said "Pee on him." When I lifted my head towards the direction of the sound I could see from inside the sack two

soldiers standing in the watch tower overlooking the shabeh yard, and I saw one of them urinate in my direction. Some of the urine splashed on my body.

The next morning, someone led me back to the interrogation room where I saw "James," "Ofar," and a third interrogator. They began by threatening me with deportation and with murder saying that they would leave no trace on my body to prove that I had been killed. I was then beaten and kicked and thrown against the wall as on the previous day. "James" hit me in my stomach with a chair. Then they ordered me to alternately stand up and sit down dozens of times. They beat me a lot on my testicles, saying: "We want to end your breed." These methods continued until I could no longer talk or walk. When they had finished, two guards carried me to a cell.

In the afternoon, someone opened the cell door and ordered me to take off my trousers. He examined my testicles, which, due to the beating, had swollen to double their normal size, and I saw that I was bleeding from the right side of my genitals. Blood was coming out of my head as a result of the beating. That person then left without saying a word. I lost consciousness and woke up to find myself lying in a bed inside a room, surrounded by people who looked like doctors. It was morning and the sun was about to rise. When I asked them where I was they told me that I was in the Tel Hashomer Hospital in Tel Aviv. One of them told me that I would remain in the hospital because I had some problems with my sexual organs. They took a sample of my urine and I could see that it was mixed with blood.

At about 6:00 in the evening, a military ambulance took me back to al-Far'a Detention Center. On the way the ambulance stopped at a military camp and I saw one of the interrogators bringing various medicines to the ambulance. As soon as I reached al-Far'a Detention Center, I was taken to see the director of the facility. He asked me who had beaten me, and I pointed at the interrogators, who were present in the director's office. One of the interrogators said, "You fell, we did not beat you." I asked the director to investigate the issue, and told the interrogators that I would sue them and the prison director. As I was carried out of the room by two policemen, the interrogator called "James" said: "We beat you alright, if you want to sue us, sue us to God. Fuck the court, and even if you die we're going to nail you with a charge." Following this episode, I was called for interrogation three more times but I was not beaten or assaulted. The interrogators only threatened me with deportation. The interrogation ended on 16 July 1988.

I was tried on the basis of other peoples' testimonies against me and was sentenced to two-and-a-half years imprisonment for throwing an empty bottle at the house of a collaborator.

*Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3395, taken on 3 October 1991*

## Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3216

Shafiq Salim 'Odtallah al-Hawamda: Al-Sammou' village, Hebron district, born in 1967, student at Bir-Zeit University. He was arrested on 28 July 1989 and interrogated in Dahriyya Detention Center by Israeli interrogators and in Hebron Prison by local collaborators during a period of 40 days in detention. After the interrogation was completed he was ordered to serve six months administrative detention. Following his release he was given a green ID card, which prohibits him from entering Israel. In the following statement he describes his experiences during detention.

On 28 July 1989, I gave myself up at the Hebron military governor's headquarters after soldiers had repeatedly come to my house looking for me, and had threatened to kill my family unless I turned myself in. I was detained at the military headquarters for two days and then transferred to the Dahriyya Detention Center. I was taken to a room where someone wearing a military uniform asked me my name and about my activities in the intifada. I denied having been involved in any activities. He tied my hands, with iron cuffs, behind my back and ordered me to lie down on my back. This position was extremely painful as the weight of my body made the cuffs press into my hands; I felt as if my bones were breaking. In addition, he sat on my chest and held my throat with two fingers and started pressing hard, saying: "If you want to cooperate [confess] you can move your head." I felt I was suffocating and death was closing in on me. I moved my head, and he released his fingers and asked for my statement. I answered that nothing had changed and that I had nothing to confess. He repeated this procedure five times and each time, for a few seconds, I felt that I was suffocating. He then placed a thick piece of cloth over my mouth and nose and asked me, as before, to move my head if I wanted to confess. He started pressing that piece of cloth over my mouth and nose, closing both breathing passageways. I moved my head when I felt that I was suffocating. He stopped and asked me if I was going to confess, but I refused. He repeated this five more times during that interrogation session. These methods of asphyxiation were used on me over the next 25 days of interrogation on average four to five times daily.

On the third day of interrogation, the same interrogator made me sit in his office in front of a big deviative mirror which distorted the image of my face. He then left the office, saying: "I am leaving the office and you have to consider confessing, and do not allow anyone to enter the office while I am away." A few minutes later another man in military uniform entered and started beating me with his fists without saying a word. The moment he left, the original interrogator re-entered, saying: "Since you did not guard the office I'm going to beat you." He started beating me with his fists and then called for two others. The three of them ordered me to lie down on my back, while my hands remained tied behind my back. They sat on my chest and started laughing. This lasted for about five minutes until I could hardly breathe and felt as if my ribs were breaking.

On the fourth day, the same interrogator confronted me with someone who had testified against me. When I rejected his testimony, the interrogator said: "We can put



you on trial, based on the testimony of other people, but I want to be creative in torturing you." After every interrogation session, which usually lasted between one and two hours, I was taken out to an open yard where I was forced to stand up for hours until late at night, with my eyes blindfolded and my hands cuffed behind my back. Eventually, a guard would untie my hands, remove the blindfold and take me into a cell measuring four meters square.

On the seventh day, as I recall, the same interrogator, whose name I guessed to be "Yoni" from what others called him, ordered me to stand up in the room with my face very close to the wall. Then he started pulling my feet from behind me until I fell to the floor, my head knocking against the wall. This was repeated during the next week on average four times daily.

On the 25th day, I was transferred to Hebron Prison where I was placed in a closet-like cell which was 1.5 meters high and 80 cm wide. There was a chair inside on which I sat blindfolded, and with my hands cuffed. Five hours later a soldier removed the blindfold and took me to a room where there were two people in civilian clothes. One of them asked about my case, and why I had not confessed. After I answered his questions, he beat me with his fists on various parts of my body for about a quarter of an hour. Then he sent me back to the "closet." I remained there for three consecutive days, during which I was only allowed to go out for a few minutes, to eat. After those three days, I was detained in the cell for another week without being interrogated before the guard on duty came to take me into the prison rooms.

I was brought into a room with nine Palestinians in prison clothes, who greeted me warmly. One of them took me aside and said: "You are among fellow freedom fighters." He explained to me the prison rules and regulations and my duties in the cell that we were sharing, adding: "You will sleep on one of the beds here and tomorrow, or the day after, the detainee in charge of the security of the detainees will come and talk to you about your case."

The next morning, a Palestinian with a long beard, wearing prisoner clothes came to the room. After shaking hands with me he took me aside and asked me to tell him what had happened to me during interrogation, and also about my history in the struggle. He said that his name was "Abu-Khalil." When I told him that I had no history in the struggle, he repeated his question more than once, always receiving the same answer from me. He slapped me on the face a number of times, and then started jumping in the air and kicking me until I started bleeding from the mouth and face. Then he said: "You have to confess and write down everything, or else you will be considered a collaborator." He brought me a pen and paper, I tore up the paper and he started beating me again. The beating went on for two hours at the end of which I fell to the floor from fatigue and pain. At that point, he asked the guard to allow him to leave, opened the cell door, and left. Ten minutes later, the guard took me out to another cell where I was met by the interrogator "Yoni" who asked me how the prisoners had treated me.

I remained in the cell for a week, after which I was again taken into the prison rooms. I was issued with a six month administrative detention order.

*Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3216, taken on 5 September 1991*

## Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3384

Bilal Hamdan Mithqal 'Amer. Kufr Qalil village, Nablus district, born in 1966, married. He was arrested three times: in 1986, for 18 days of interrogation; in 1989, for 21 days of interrogation; and on 3 December 1989. During his last detention, which he describes in the affidavit below, he was interrogated and tortured while detained for 45 days in the Petah Tikva Detention Center, and Jenin and Nablus Prisons. He was released without trial, conviction, or charge.

On the night of 3 December 1989, I was arrested at my house in the village of Kufr Qalil by a number of soldiers and Shin Bet officials. I was taken to the military headquarters in Nablus where I spent the rest of the night in a tent blindfolded and with my hands cuffed. In the morning, before I had been given anything to eat, my hands were untied and the blindfold removed from my eyes. After I had finished eating I was handcuffed and blindfolded and transferred by military vehicle to the Petah Tikva Detention Center. On the way, the soldiers used abusive language, kicked me, and stepped on my body. At the detention center the blindfold was removed and I found myself among five interrogators. After they had welcomed me sarcastically, I was taken to a room where I was made to sit, handcuffed, on a chair. Ten minutes later an interrogator entered, placed a sack over my head, and left. He returned half an hour later and, after removing the sack from my head, spoke to me quietly for about half an hour, asking me to confess to my activities in the intifada. When I did not respond favorably, he threatened to bring a "crazy and violent" officer to interrogate me. In the meantime a fat man of average height walked in, whom I later got to know as "Mickey." The first interrogator told me that this was the man he meant.

"Mickey" asked me to confess to unspecified intifada-related activities. I answered that I was not involved in anything. He grabbed my head while I was still sitting on the chair, punched me in the face a number of times and kicked me in the testicles. He went on interrogating me, beating and kicking me in this manner until almost midnight, stopping only when the other interrogator would make him ask me if I was going to confess.

After midnight, he placed a sack over my head before I was taken some- where and made to sit on a chair with my hands tied behind my back by means of a pipe. After one detainee had helped me remove the sack from my head, I realized that I was in an open yard. It was raining very hard and the weather was extremely cold. I was drenched by the rain and began to shiver.

In the morning an interrogator arrived whom I identified later as "Na'im." He put the sack back over my head, and took me to the interrogation room, saying that I would definitely confess to dangerous activities and that the charges against me were serious, otherwise the interrogation would have taken place in al-Far'a Detention Center. In the meantime, another interrogator called "Steve" entered the room and ordered me to sit sideways on the chair in such a way that its back was next to my side, leaving my back

without support. Then he put my feet behind the front legs of the chair, making it difficult to remove them. Sitting in front of me, he started pressing hard on my stomach with both hands until the chair overturned and I fell off it. In the meantime "Mickey" had arrived and they both started beating and kicking me while I was lying on the ground. After a few minutes they put me on the chair in the same position and repeated the process four times during that session, which lasted for almost two hours. At some stage, someone placed a sack over my head and everyone left the room.

A few hours later, someone took me out to the yard, as before, for shabeh. During shabeh, I asked "Mickey" to allow me to go to the toilet, but he refused, saying that I would only be granted permission if I confessed. I could not hold myself and urinated on my clothes. In the morning of the third day, I was taken back to the interrogation room where "Rami," "Mickey," and "Steve" were waiting for me. They ordered me to take off my clothes except for my underpants. Once I was undressed, they made me sit on a chair and started kicking and punching me all over my body, with particular concentration on my testicles, until I almost lost consciousness. This went on continuously for almost one hour, except for a few moments now and then when they stopped to ask me if I wanted to confess. I was then taken back to the yard for shabeh, but this time I had no clothes on except for my underpants. Two days later someone took me to meet a number of interrogators, who asked me if I wanted to eat; I had not been offered any food since I entered the Petah Tikva Detention Center and was very hungry. They brought me a plate with one leaf of lettuce, a boiled egg, and some white cheese. After I had eaten, they told me again to confess, but I refused. The interrogator "Na'im" stood up and tightened the cuffs which held my hands behind my back, causing me immense pain. Someone brought another prisoner's clothes for me to wear since I was still naked. I remained in the interrogation room all night long, sitting on the chair with my hands cuffed behind my back. An air conditioner in the room remained turned on all night, which made the temperature in the room close to that of a refrigerator. My teeth were chattering all night due to the cold.

After a week of interrogation, I was accused of specific actions, such as shooting at the army and acquisition of firearms. On the eighth day "Mickey" came into the room, where I was sitting on a chair, holding a small radio in his hand. He slapped me fiercely on the ear, making me feel as if it was going to explode, and then turned the radio on to a low humming sound that was very painful to the ear. He went out and came back half an hour later to turn the sound off. When he asked me if I was going to confess, I refused as usual. He then brought a coffee pot and a small spoon, held the pot near my ear and started tapping on it with the spoon for about fifteen minutes before leaving the room. I remained sitting on the chair with my hands cuffed behind my back and my head covered by the sack, until the next morning. I was given no food. I was not allowed to go to the toilet and urinated in my clothes more than ten times.

The following morning "Na'im" lifted the sack from my head, threw me down on the floor, and sat on one of my legs while another interrogator, called "Abu-Nouh," placed the sack on my mouth and nose and started to press, blocking my breathing passageways. He said that if I wanted to confess I should move my leg to stop the smothering process. "Abu-Nouh" closed my mouth and nose by pressing hard on the sack, and it was only natural in such a position that my free leg should move. He would reduce the pressure,

thinking that I wanted to confess, but when he realized that I did not, he would continue choking me. In the meantime he slapped me on the eye and made it swell to the extent that it closed completely and I could no longer see with it. After a while they brought me some food and half a glass of water, and left me sitting on the chair with my hands cuffed behind my back, and my head covered by the sack. The next morning "Mickey" and others entered the room (I recognized his voice), but they did not remove the sack from my head. When "Mickey" asked me again if I was going to confess, and I refused, he said: "You are going to talk from your testicles." Immediately I heard a machine being switched on, followed by the sound of an electrical current passing between two wires. I suddenly heard a kind of explosion and, at the same time, felt a pressure and shock in my testicles and my body convulsing. The interrogators were laughing. I felt another shock in the head and a third in the back; my body began to sweat and I was screaming with every shock. The machine was then turned off and the interrogators left the room.

The next day I was transferred to Jenin Prison where I was informed that I had been ordered to serve six months in administrative detention. In Jenin Prison, I was placed in a cell with several men whom I realized were collaborators. They threw me on the floor accusing me of collaborating with the authorities, beat me with a stick, and punched and kicked me for almost half an hour. They threatened to cut my face with razor blades, and tried, without success, to extract a confession from me. I remained there until the following day, when I was transferred to Nablus Prison. There I remained for twenty-seven days, eleven of which I spent in shabeh during the day with my hands tied and my head covered by a sack, sometimes standing up and sometimes sitting down. At night, I was released from the cuffs and the sack and was taken into a cell to sleep ... . During this period, I became ill, my testicles were enlarged, and I urinated blood. Despite my constant demands for medical treatment I was only given sedatives such as Acamol.

I was released without trial or conviction after 45 days in detention. I then went to St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus where I received medical treatment.

*Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3384, taken on 28 September 1991*

## Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3435

Nidal Muhammad 'Abd-al-Karim Droubi: Toulkarem city, born in 1971, student of the University of Science and Technology in Amman (Jordan). He was arrested for the first time on 9 July 1990 and sentenced to four months imprisonment and a fine of NIS 1,000 on the charge of taking part in intifada activities. He was arrested again on 10 April 1991 and was subject to 45 days of interrogation. His third detention, which is recounted below, began on 9 October 1991; he was released the following day apparently because his health condition deteriorated rapidly as a result of the torture he had been subjected to in Toulkarem Prison.

On 9 October 1991, at about 3:30 a.m., my father woke me to tell me that members of the army and the intelligence service had entered our house. I got out of bed and saw a number of soldiers walking about the house. Someone wearing civilian clothes came towards me and asked for my ID card. He examined it and then gave it back to me. In the meantime the soldiers searched the house and then left.

They returned about five minutes later. The person in civilian clothes ordered me to go with him. A soldier tied my hands behind my back with plastic cuffs, so tightly that I complained of the pain. He tightened them even more and then hit me with a baton he was carrying and blindfolded me with a piece of cloth.

They walked me about a kilometer along the way to the "Avni Hevetz" settlement (which was built on land taken from our village, which I know well). During the walk, the soldiers pushed me violently along the gravel road. At one point they forced me into a car. It moved towards the city of Toulkarem. On the way someone slapped me on the face.

At Toulkarem Prison the soldiers took me out of the car, and, with my hands tied behind my back and my eyes blindfolded, threw me down on my back. They beat and kicked me all over my body. One of them placed his shoe inside my mouth a number of times. I remained lying on the ground for about half an hour. Then I was taken to a room, blindfolded with an extra piece of cloth, and told I was to be interrogated by the intelligence service. I was then taken to another room where someone presented himself as "Captain Sami" (without my being allowed to see him). He told me that I had two options: "the option of frankness and the option of violence and torture." I had to choose. When I answered that I had nothing to tell him he said: "Here are my men: if you want to talk, just tell them." Then the beating and kicking began. I fell to the floor but continued to be beaten and kicked for almost an hour by I do not know how many people. Eventually "Captain Sami" said that he had brought with him a high-ranking military official who would issue a six-month administrative detention order to me if I did not confess to stone-throwing and erecting barricades. When I told them that I had not done anything someone else said: "We will move you for interrogation for 90 days, and then to administrative detention." Then he slapped me on the face.

I heard a door open and immediately felt someone hit me with a bludgeon on my thigh and my shoulder. Others joined in the beating, all the while throwing me back and forth amongst themselves. I fell to the floor more than once. Each time they would lift me up and start again. I lost all sense of my tied hands. At one stage, they threw me on the floor and took my shoes off. Someone lifted my feet up for another to beat me with a stick on the soles of my feet (a method which is known as 'falaqa') while a third pressed his foot on my head. During the beating they continued to ask me about wanted youths, where they slept, and the types of weapons they used. I answered that I knew nothing about them. The beating on my feet and thighs continued for almost an hour and I was screaming with the pain. I could not see any of the people who were torturing me, the blindfold was tight around my eyes and their feet were placed on my face and eyes.

After about an hour they stopped beating me and someone ordered me to stand up, but I couldn't because my feet were swollen. They accused me of throwing stones, of belonging to the PLO, and claimed that my brother Kifah, who had been wanted by the authorities for about six months, also belonged to the PLO (without mentioning the organization by name). When they asked about Kifah's hiding place I told them that I knew nothing about him since I had not seen him for a long time.

They took my trousers off and threw me down on my face. Someone tried to insert a round-headed stick into my anus from over my underpants. It was very painful. I tried to break loose but couldn't because the person who was trying to force the stick into my anus was also pressing my testicles, making me scream with the pain. Eventually they stopped, stood me up, and put my trousers on, but I could not stand, and fell to the floor once again. They then started randomly beating me with the stick on the face, shoulders, and thighs. When they stood me up again I was nauseous and could not keep my balance. Someone hit me with a stick on the nose. I fell to the floor again, felt blood gushing from my nose, and lost consciousness. I woke up later to find myself in a room with a number of beds and the blindfold removed from my eyes. The man who was administering first aid to me was the same man in civilian clothing who had arrested me at my house. I asked him why they had not arrested me the first time they came to the house but only when they returned five minutes later. He answered: "We did that to give you a chance to escape so that we could shoot and kill you and get rid of you and your problems." I asked him to untie the handcuffs from my hands which were swollen and bluish in color. He took me to another room where a person in military uniform gave me first aid again. I could see a number of medicines in the room and realized that this was the prison clinic. After a while a soldier untied my hands and led me to one of the cells in Toulkarem Prison.

I lay down on a mattress for half an hour before I was taken back to the clinic. There, someone in military uniform told me that he was the general practitioner in the prison. When he saw the marks of beating on my body and the swelling of my eyes, face, and hands, he asked me to take off my clothes and also asked for the name of the interrogator who had treated me so violently. I told him that I had not been allowed to see anyone but that the name of "Captain Sami" had been mentioned to me. The doctor informed me that he would have me transferred to Tel Hashomer Hospital due to my bad health condition.

At about noon, a soldier took me to a room with another prisoner in it. Soon afterwards, with my hands in cuffs in front of me, my feet tied, and blindfolded, I was transferred by military ambulance to Tel Hashomer Hospital. Upon admission to the hospital the blindfold was removed but the cuffs remained on my feet and hands. After I had waited for about an hour in a hallway, a soldier carried me to the X-ray department and then to a number of sections in the hospital where I was administered first aid. In the afternoon, I was returned to Toulkarem Prison. I was released the following morning.

*Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3435, taken on 12 October 1991*

## Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3212

Jihad 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Uthman al-Shweikh: al-Shate' Refugee Camp, Gaza Strip, born in 1968, fourth-year student at Bir-Zeit University. He was arrested on 25 December 1988 and sentenced to 11 months imprisonment on the charge of belonging to popular committees. In September 1991 he spent two days in detention which he recounts in the affidavit below. He was again detained on 7 December 1991 for one night and fined for breaking the curfew. The next time that he was arrested was on 26 December 1991 for 18 days without interrogation or trial.

On 6 September 1991, at about 3:00 a.m., I heard the doorbell ring and someone knocking on the door of the house in Bir-Zeit where I live with three other students. When one of them opened the door I saw several armed men in civilian clothes. One of them identified himself as "Captain Maher," in charge of the Bir-Zeit area. He asked for my ID card. After inspecting it he asked me about someone called "Bashir." I told him that I did not know any Bashir that he might be looking for. He said: "As you wish, but my soldiers will give you a surprise." He then ordered me to put my clothes on and accompany them. Three of the men took me to a dark side street surrounded with trees. They asked me if I knew where I was going. I answered "no" and one of them said: "You are going to visit death." Then they beat my head against the trunk of a tree and threw me down on the ground; someone stepped on my abdomen and placed the muzzle of his gun at my throat, while another threatened to kill me if I did not give the captain the information he wanted. He punched me in the abdomen, placed the muzzle of his gun in my mouth, and threatened to kill me. At that point "Maher" returned and the armed men stood me up. When I asked him: "Don't you want to see what your soldiers are doing to me?" he said: "What are they doing? I haven't seen anything." Then he asked me again about Bashir and I answered as before.

They ordered me to get into an ordinary car which was followed by another civilian vehicle with "Captain Maher" and three other armed men inside. On the way one of the men covered my head with my shirt and pushed me onto the floor of the car. When I started having difficulty in breathing I was allowed to sit up and my shirt was removed from my head. The two soldiers seated next to me repeatedly jabbed their elbows into my stomach.

When we reached the military headquarters in Ramallah, at about 4:00 a.m., the soldiers took me into one of the tents behind the main building. At about 2:00 p.m. of the following day a soldier took me to an open yard next to the prison cells. There, he restrained my hands with iron handcuffs behind my back, placed a sack over my head and neck, and ordered me to stand up. I remained standing for about two hours until someone came and made me sit on something that felt like a chair for another hour to an hour and a half. Then the sack was lifted from my head. Someone looked into my face and asked me my name and who had brought me there. He said in Hebrew (of which I have limited knowledge) to the soldier: "Give him his belongings and take him wherever you want, even to prison; this person is not my business."



The soldier gave me my T-shirt and jacket, removed the handcuffs and the sack from my head, and took me to a room with about 15 detainees. They received me saying: "Here comes a new guy." They all shook hands with me and we introduced ourselves. They asked me a few questions about my arrest but I told them that I wanted to sleep because I was tired. One of them said: "You have to take a shower first." I realized that this was the "room of shame," (i.e. the room of collaborators). I took a shower and then someone handed me cigarettes as part of the "detention allocations." I told them once again that I wanted to sleep but one of them said: "First we want to make your acquaintance brother." Two of them took me to another room, where someone (of medium height, without a mustache, fair-skinned, about 25 years old) explained to me the nature of life in detention, focusing in particular on the political factions. He said that there were national committees in the prison and that I had to sit with the "identification committee" to identify my political affiliation. At that point, a tall bearded man came in, saying that he was in charge of the "identification committee." When I asked again to be allowed to sleep he gave me permission and I went to sleep.

After a short while, someone woke me up, saying: "Get up Jihad, we want to talk to you." The man allegedly in charge of the "identification committee" entered and said that I, like every prisoner, had to identify my political affiliation. I answered that I was neither affiliated nor a member of any particular group. He left the room to return with two strongly built prisoners whom he ordered to take me to the corner of the room and teach me the rules of the prison. They beat me with their fists on my face, chest, and arms. Then they tried to push a towel wrapped up like a small ball, into my mouth; they said that this was a preparation for execution. They beat my head against the cell wall several times until blood spurted from my nose and mouth. They ordered me to wash my mouth, but I was not able to get up. Other prisoners were helping them but only the two of them did the actual beating, which lasted for about half an hour. After washing my mouth and nose they took me back to the corner of the room saying: "Since you cannot move your hands we will teach you how to." They brought two pens and placed them between my fingers, while exerting pressure on the fingers, causing excruciating pain. They said again that I had to identify my affiliation, the one in charge of the "identification committee" adding that any prisoner who refused to do so intended to sabotage the prison rules. He lit himself a cigarette and kept the lighter aflame until it became hot, then he placed it on my left foot, burning my skin and causing extreme pain. He reheated the lighter about twenty times and burnt me on one of my feet, the neck, left arm, face, and both palms of my hands. Then he tied my wrists with a towel. Someone told me to try and free my arms, but it was impossible. Someone else then brought a piece of old plastic and set it on fire, while holding it about 5 cm above my arm. With the plastic melting, four burning drops fell on my left arm, causing burns and excruciating pain. After that they hurt my fingers again by placing pens in between them and squeezing the fingers against each other. In this way they kept me awake until midnight. Then the man in charge of the "identification committee" allowed me to sleep. In the morning a soldier took me out of the room, restrained my hands with iron cuffs behind my back, placed a sack over my head, and made me sit on a chair. The following morning, at about noon, I was released.

*Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3212, taken on 10 September 1991*

## Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3429

*Nimer 'Abd-al-Halim Taleb Abu-Sbeih: Hebron city, born in 1971, labourer.* He was detained in 1989 for six days without interrogation. On 6 June 1991 he was arrested again and interrogated for two weeks in the Dahriyya Detention Center. As a result of the torture he suffered during interrogation he was hospitalized. In the following affidavit he relates his experiences during his last detention.

On 6 June 1991, at about 9:30 p.m., I was arrested at home by a number of soldiers who took me to the military headquarters in Hebron, where I remained for three days before being transferred to the Dahriyya Detention Center. At Dahriyya, following the usual procedures of registration and routine cursory medical examination, an officer took me to an open yard, restrained my hands with iron cuffs behind my back, placed a sack over my head and ordered me to remain standing up (a position known as shabeh). Ten hours later, I was led to a room measuring no more than one meter by one-and-a-half meters, where the sack and handcuffs were removed. The room contained two mattresses and four covers.

In the afternoon of the following day, a military officer arrived and asked me to contemplate confessing to activities he claimed I had been involved in. Then he led me back to the open yard, ordered me to stand up after he had again cuffed my hands, and placed the sack over my head. In the evening hours, after the sack was removed, I was led away and found myself with the same officer in a room with a table and chairs, in addition to files and papers. He ordered me to kneel down. Then he sat on a chair in front of me and put his feet on my shoulders for about half an hour. He asked me a few questions, then led me back to the yard where he left me in the same position as before for almost three hours. Eventually, someone came, took off one hand cuff and my head sack, and took me to a cell. I could not sleep that night as, about every 15 minutes, a soldier would come to ask me my prison number or else knock on the door of the cell.

The next morning I was again brought to the yard for shabeh until noon, when a soldier came and took me to the interrogation room. There I was met by the same interrogation officer. After he had asked me a few questions, without receiving the response he was looking for, he ordered me to lie down on my back, remove my shoes, and lift my legs up. He then started beating me hard with a wooden stick on my feet ('falaga'). It was very painful. He beat me about twenty times; then he led me to a small room wide enough for only one chair. I sat on the chair for almost three hours until the same interrogator came to take me back to the interrogation room. Again he ordered me to lie down on the floor with my hands tied behind my back. Then he started beating me with his fist on my abdomen and chest, sometimes kicking me in the stomach, for almost half an hour.

During the next five days, he interrogated me for an average of two hours per day, routinely beating, punching, and kicking me all the while. I spent the rest of the time in shabeh in the yard and at about 10:00 p.m., I was taken to the cell to sleep until the

morning. During the four days after that I was not interrogated but placed in shabeh for a number of hours during the day.

On the morning of the 10th day I was again led to the shabeh yard where I remained until the evening. Then a soldier took me into the interrogation room, where the same interrogator ordered me to lie down on my back while my hands were still cuffed behind my back. For half an hour he pressed with his right arm on the lower part of my abdomen until I felt as if my abdomen was going to explode. At one point he removed the handcuffs, then ordered me to take off my trousers and lie down on the floor again. This time he applied pressure with his right arm to my lower abdomen while at the same time pressing with his left arm on my testicles. I felt as if the veins were splitting and that I was about to die. He ordered me to get up, pressed hard on my testicles, and then kicked me in the lower part of my testicles. I was subjected to this kind of pressure on the lower abdomen and testicles about ten times in different ways. As a result I could not urinate even though I desperately needed to. The pains in the lower abdomen and in the testicles increased.

On the 15th day of interrogation the prison nurse came to the cell and I told him about my pains. He asked the soldier to lead me to the prison clinic where I was examined by someone in military clothes. This man took a few notes and then ordered the soldier to give me two litres of water to drink. After drinking the two litres the same military official asked me if I could urinate. I tried but could not. He asked me to drink almost another litre; I did but still could not pass water. He then said that he would have to withdraw the urine using a catheter, but I refused. A number of soldiers came and held me against my will until he inserted the catheter into my penis and took out a large amount of urine. Immediately afterwards I was taken to the Soroka Hospital in Beer Sheva, 35 km away, to the emergency room. Someone who looked like a doctor or nurse (he was wearing white clothes) came and took the catheter out of my penis. Then I was returned to the Dahriyya Detention Center without being examined or given any treatment.

I was placed in a cell. At midnight I felt excruciating pain which made it impossible for me to stand or move. I started screaming at the top of my voice. The soldier on guard came and took me to the prison clinic. There I was examined by the same person whom I considered to be the prison doctor. He immediately arranged for my transfer to Soroka Hospital. At the hospital a catheter was inserted into my penis to withdraw urine, but I received no other treatment.

I was again returned to prison and placed in a cell. At night I felt the same pains again and instead of urine saw blood coming out from the catheter. The blood was collecting in a plastic bag connected to the catheter. I started screaming at the top of my voice, but the soldier on guard said that he could do nothing because the prison doctor had said that I should not be brought to the clinic before 8:00 a.m. I kept on screaming with pain until the morning. When the doctor finally came to the cell, and saw the plastic bag full of blood, the expression on his face totally changed, and he told the soldier to take me to the clinic immediately. There he filled out several papers, and I was transferred to Soroka Hospital for the third time. After about five hours of waiting in the hospital, with my hands and feet in cuffs, a medical person arrived, apparently a nurse or a doctor. He took me into the emergency room, replaced the catheter with

another, then took me to the X-ray room, where I was X-rayed before being taken to one of the hospital rooms.

On my third day at the hospital a nurse came round and informed me that they were going to do an endoscopy to investigate what my problem or illness was. In a private room they inserted a cord which looked like a catheter into my penis. It was so painful that I found myself screaming. On my seventh hospital day a doctor operated on me, opening my lower abdomen and placing a catheter there. After the operation he said that I was going home that day. I was taken in a military vehicle back to the Dahriyya Detention Center to the prison's administration office. An officer gave me my ID card and asked me to sign a document in Hebrew, which I refused to do, given that I do not know Hebrew. He kicked me from behind even though he knew that I was ill. A soldier then took me to the prison doctor's room. I told the prison doctor that the physician at the Soroka Hospital had assured me that I could return to the hospital for treatment if I submitted a note from the prison doctor. He said to me: "We can't give you anything; your family can take care of your treatment."

The soldiers took me outside the prison gates and I went home. My father immediately took me to al-Maqased Hospital where I remained for two days and was given the necessary treatment. Physicians there stitched the wound in my lower abdomen and set a date for a later surgery. I still receive treatment and physiotherapy, and have several medical reports in my possession that testify to my suffering from urine cystitis.

*Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3429, taken on 3 October 1991*

## Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3181

Amjad 'Abd-al-Wahed Mousa Hmeid: Beit Sahour, Bethlehem district, born in 1973, high school student. He was detained in December 1990 for 24 hours of interrogation. In the following affidavit he describes the events of his second detention which began on 5 May 1991, and the treatment he suffered during the month-long interrogation in the Dahriyya Detention Center.

On 5 May 1991, at about 1:30 a.m., I was arrested at home by the intelligence officer called "Tony" in charge of Beit Sahour, who was accompanied by 15 soldiers. In the jeep, during the journey, one soldier hit me with the butt of his rifle while others were beating me with their fists on my neck and head. I spent the rest of that night at the military headquarters in Bethlehem. The next afternoon I was transferred by bus to the Dahriyya Detention Center. There a soldier placed me in a cell called "the closet" because it measured no more than one meter in length, 80 cm wide, and two meters high, without any ventilation except for the gap between the bottom of the door and the floor of the cell. At midnight the guard took me to another cell, two meters long and one-and-a-half meters wide, where I could finally go to sleep.

In the morning, a soldier ordered me out into a corridor after having tied my hands behind my back and put a smelly sack over my head. He made me stand, a process known as shabeh. At around noon, I was led to a room where a man, who introduced himself as "Captain Abu-Jabal," lifted the sack from my head, while keeping the handcuffs on. He had thick black hair, and was short and cleanshaven. He accused me of throwing stones and molotov cocktails and told me to confess to these charges. When I refused to confess to something I had not done, he beat me on the face and chest with his arms and kicked me several times in the genitals and the abdomen. Then he had me returned to the cell. I was regularly subjected to this kind of treatment during the first nine days, which I spent on the move between the cell, the shabeh position, and interrogation by "Abu-Jabal" and another interrogator whose name I did not know (massively built, black hair, dark complexion).

On the 10th day "Abu-Jabal" summoned me again to the interrogation room. When I again rejected his charges he ordered me to sit in a corner of the room and think. Then he left the room for five minutes. Upon his return I told him that I had nothing to confess. He immediately knocked my head against the wall several times and repeatedly kicked me in the knees. This was very painful since I had been shot in the left knee in December 1988. My knee started to bleed, and I was returned to the cell. In the afternoon a medical person -- I do not know whether he was a doctor or nurse -- stitched my wound (three stitches), but the pains continued. I was left in the cell without interrogation for 10 days until "Abu-Jabal" again summoned me to the same interrogation room and asked me to confess. When I refused, he tied my hands and placed me in the "closet." Feeling increasing pains I started to knock on the door. "Abu-Jabal" came to ask me what I wanted; I told him I wanted to get out. He hit me on the face and head, and

locked the door of the closet again. Half an hour later, I started knocking at the door again. "Abu-Jabal" opened the door to curse and beat me as before; then he locked me up again. When I knocked for the third time he took me to the interrogation room where he beat me with his hands on my face and chest.

Then he took me back to the closet, threatening me with severe punishment if I repeated knocking at the door. After almost three hours I resumed the knocking. He came and took me to the interrogation room where he placed a sack over my head and tied my hands very tight. Then he hit me so hard that I fell to the floor, whereupon he started beating and kicking me manically all over the body. I almost fainted and started to feel nauseous. At one point I experienced sharp, piercing pains on the left side of my chest, beneath the heart; it was like being pricked by needles. I realized later that these pains were caused by wires inserted into my body. "Abu-Jabal" took me back to the closet after removing my sack and cuffs.

I remained in the "closet" for two days while the pains in my chest increased. Trying to find the cause of the pain, I detected a wire pushing at the flesh in my chest. I asked the guard to take me to the doctor but he refused. Instead he brought someone in medical clothes to the "closet," who told me that it was just a regular pimple on my chest and gave me capsules. Over the next four days the pain increased. I knocked at the door of the cell and told the guard that I needed to see the doctor. Instead the guard came back with "Abu Jabal," who led me out, after removing the sack and cuffs. On the way he ordered me not to tell the doctor that he had tortured me, threatening that if I said otherwise he would take me back to interrogation and torture me even more severely than before. "Be careful not to tell the doctor what I did to your chest and abdomen," he said.

Neither the nurse nor the doctor at the prison clinic could speak arabic so the interrogator would sometimes translate. I told the doctor that there were wires in my chest which had been there long before my arrest. I did this for fear of suffering more torture at the hands of the interrogator. The doctor removed the wire which was most apparent and closed the wound with two stitches. The wire which he removed was three cms long, very thin, and white. I was then taken back to the cell.

Six days later, after a month's detention, I was released without being charged. At the Benny Hospital in Bethlehem I underwent a medical examination and X-rays which revealed that there was another wire in my body requiring surgery. I also went to al-Maqased Hospital in Jerusalem where another set of X-rays showed two more wires in my body. The hospital told me that they would have to be removed at a later date.

*Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3181, taken on 8 July 1991*

## Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3275

Najib Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Muhsen Farraj al-Dheisha Refugee Camp, Bethlehem district, born in 1960, journalist and member of the Union of Arab Journalists and the International Union of Journalists. Since 1978 he has been arrested about 16 times and has undergone periods of interrogation ranging from 18 to 30 days. He has twice been ordered to serve periods of administrative detention, in 1980 for six months, and in 1990 10 months. He was also sentenced to one year's imprisonment in 1982 on charges of membership in a Palestinian political party and participating in demonstrations. In the following affidavit, he describes his arrest in May 1989 and his subsequent five-month detention.

At midnight, on 31 May 1989, I was arrested at home by a number of soldiers and intelligence men. They transferred me directly to the military headquarters in Bethlehem, where I spent the rest of that night. In the morning I was taken to the Moscobiya Detention Center in Jerusalem, blindfolded and with my hands tied behind my back. After completing the routine registration procedures, someone placed a filthy bag over my head and led me to an open yard, where he ordered me to sit on something which felt like a tile. He restrained my hands behind my back with iron cuffs weighing almost 3 kgs. The cuffs were then fastened to a pipe against which I was leaning. I remained in this position for almost 18 hours without being offered food or being allowed to go to the toilet, despite my repeated demands. Then someone came and changed the cuffs for lighter ones, led me to a room where he had me sit on a chair, and locked the cuffs to the back of the chair.

An interrogator charged me with various activities relating to involvement in nationalist activities and belonging to one of the Palestinian political factions. When I denied those charges he threatened me with longterm imprisonment, deprivation of food and drink, physical injury, sterilization, and with not being allowed toilet facilities. After about five hours of questions and threats I was led to the same yard and placed in the same position as before (shabeh) for three consecutive days without being offered any food, or being allowed to go to the toilet. In the afternoon of the third day a guard led me to the toilet. He lifted the sack and removed the handcuffs. After I had urinated he replaced the handcuffs, took me into a cell, and brought me a piece of bread stuffed with potatoes.

As soon as I had finished eating the guard returned me to the yard for another two days of shabeh. After that I was led to the interrogation room where the same interrogator accused me as before. Then a soldier led me to a small dark room that looked like a closet and, after tying my hands behind my back and placing a sack over my head, made me sit on a chair. I remained in this position for seven days and was offered food only after the second day. After those two days I was allowed to eat once a day, with the cuffs and the sack removed during meal times. It was very difficult for me to sleep because the guards kept knocking at the door every half an hour or so.

After seven days someone led me to a room, and removed the handcuffs and the sack. I found myself in a room with three interrogators. One of them directed a strong blow to my head with heavy iron handcuffs; I lost consciousness. When I came to, I found my hands tied again and the sack replaced over my head. As a result my head felt swollen. They again returned me to shabeh for several hours. Then they took me to the military court to have my detention extended, in the absence of my lawyer (who had been appointed by my family immediately after my arrest), and despite his demands to be present, as I learned later on.

Upon my return to the Detention Center, I was forced to remain in shabeh, in the yard, for a week, during which time I was not allowed to go to the toilet. I had to urinate in my clothes. Food was brought to me on average once a day and sometimes every two days. I was given very little water, hardly enough to quench my thirst. The weather was very hot. One night, someone started pouring water on me about every five minutes until the early morning hours. Then someone took me to a room, made me sit on a chair with my hands tied behind my back and my head covered with a sack, and switched on a cold air conditioner. I remained there for almost an hour before I was returned to shabeh for another week. This time I was offered more food. However during the entire period of shabeh, which lasted for 20 days, I could hardly sleep because the guards would yell at me or beat me as soon as I began to doze off.

I was again taken to court for my detention to be extended once more. This time I met my lawyer, Usama 'Oda, and complained to him of being deprived of sleep. He raised the issue in court, and the court decided to extend my detention for one more month, and that I be allowed to sleep at night without disturbance by the guards.

I was taken back to prison to a cell, one-and-a-half meters long, one meter wide, with a mattress in it. There, I slept for about two hours until the guard came and took me for interrogation. The interrogator told me that he would not comply with the court ruling that I should be allowed to sleep. He said: "We will only allow you to sleep if you confess to the charges against you." He also said that others had testified against me so that it would be better for me to confess. I rejected this allegation and was returned to shabeh in the yard for two days without being offered any food. During the periodic interrogation sessions, I was beaten and kicked all over my body by the interrogators, who repeatedly stamped on my genitals, causing me immense pain.

I was then transferred to a cell which had a mattress, where I remained for five days without being interrogated, handcuffed, or blindfolded. At the end of the fifth day the soldiers took me to a military vehicle which drove off to a destination unknown to me. On the way, the soldiers beat me while I was lying on the floor of the vehicle. When the vehicle stopped, I guessed from the soldiers' conversation that we had arrived at Ashkelon Prison. There I was immediately made to sit on a chair with a sack placed over my head and my hands tied behind me to the back of the chair. I remained in this position for a whole day. The next day I was returned to the Moscobiya Detention Center where I was again placed in shabeh, i.e. made to sit on a tile with my hands tied behind my back to a pipe and my head covered by a sack. For 10 days I was forced to remain in this position all day long; at night I was taken to a cell to sleep. During this time I received food regularly. On one of those 10 days I was taken to what I recognized, once the sack had been removed from my head, to be a room with heating equipment. A few



moments later I felt the atmosphere in the room heat up like a furnace, which was very painful since it was summer and the weather was very hot. I remained there for an hour. Then several soldiers arrived, tied my hands and blindfolded me, and threw me onto the floor of a car. They started beating and kicking me, sometimes stamping on my body. The car moved off and stopped almost an hour later. I realized soon afterwards that I had been taken to Hebron Prison. There I was forced to remain standing up, with my hands cuffed behind my back and my head covered by a sack, for two days and nights, during which time I was offered food, but was unable to sleep.

Forty-five days after my initial arrest I was returned once again to Moscobiya and placed in a cell for six days without questioning. Then I was transferred to Hebron Prison. I was released on 9 November 1989. At one point during my detention I met my lawyer, who told me that on that same day I had been tried in absentia in the military court in Ramallah, and sentenced to five-and-a-half months imprisonment starting from the day of arrest, based on the testimonies of others against me.

*Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3275, taken on 20 September 1991*

## Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3328

Tha'er Shqeir Husein Mara'ba: Kufr Thulth village, Toulkarem district, born in 1969, student at Bir-Zeit University. He was arrested on 8 May 1989 and sentenced to 14 months imprisonment for participating in intifada activities. On 28 February 1991 he was again detained for 40 days of interrogation before being released without trial, conviction, or charges. In his affidavit below he recounts the events that occurred during his first detention in Toulkarem and Jenin Prisons.

I went to the Qalqiliya police station on 8 May 1989 in response to a written summons sent to me by an intelligence officer called "Shaki," who had come to my home to arrest me but had not found me there. At the police station they tied my hands behind my back with plastic cuffs, blindfolded me, and after about two hours took me to Toulkarem Prison.

I slept in the barracks for one night. The next morning I was transferred to the interrogation section; my hands were restrained with iron cuffs behind my back and a smelly sack placed over my head. I was then led to a room, the sack was removed from my head, and a man introduced himself as Captain "Eli." After asking me a number of questions he held my neck and started pressing on it with his hands, causing me great discomfort. He choked me again in this manner after asking me several more questions. Then he ordered me to sit on a chair in such a way that its back was next to my side, and then ordered me to bend my torso backwards until my head and thighs were level with each other. My body shook and I felt great pains in my back. When I tried to sit up, the interrogator would punch me in the testicles, forcing me back into that painful position. This process went on for about half an hour, during which time the interrogator was asking me questions, cursing me, and directing accusations at me, saying: "Being nice to you will not work." Then he took me out to an open yard where he made me sit under the scorching sun on a latticed plastic box, my hands cuffed behind my back so firmly that I could not close the palm of my hand. The reeking sack covered my head, allowing very little air to go through. For a moment, while I was sitting there, the interrogator removed the sack from my head for me to see my 53-year-old father, who was sitting under the burning sun, not far away from me on the gravel, and who was blindfolded with hands cuffed behind his back.

The sun was about to set when a guard untied my hands, removed the sack, and took me to a small cell known as the "X" with three prisoners inside. The cell measured two-and-a-half by one-and-a-half meters and had three holes in its roof, each about 10 cm in diameter, and a similar hole in one of the walls. It contained a bucket for urine, two mattresses, and a number of old covers. I felt nauseous inside that cell and found it difficult to breathe.

In the morning, after breakfast, the guard called my number, which I had been given upon arrival at the prison, and took me out of the cell. He placed the sack over my head, cuffed my hands behind my back, and made me sit again under the scorching sun

on that box, the sides of which left marks on my behind. After several hours I was led to a room, the sack was lifted from my head, and I saw someone in his thirties who introduced himself as "Shalom." He asked me several questions, threatening to bring my mother and sisters for interrogation, to use electricity on me, and have me attacked by dogs, if I did not confess. He also insulted me, but to no avail. When he did not receive the answers he was seeking, he made me sit on a chair, replaced the sack over my head and cuffed my hands behind the back of the chair, so that the back of the chair rested between my body and my arms. Then "Shalom" stepped on the handcuffs thus pressing them into my wrists; it made me feel as if the iron was going through my flesh. I felt my hands swell and started squirming and screaming with pain, only to be subjected to more curses and more questions that I could not answer. "Shalom" continued stepping up and down on the handcuffs, holding on to my back sometimes and my head at others, while I was screaming with pain. He put his hand on my nose and mouth using the sack to try to suffocate me and stop me from screaming. He would continue pressing until I could not move my body. Then, he would remove his hand from my nose and mouth only to repeat the process again. This went on for almost an hour. After that he forced me backwards on the chair the way "Eli" had done, until I could no longer move or stand up and felt excruciating pain in my back and thighs. After almost two more hours I was taken out to the shabeh yard, with my hands cuffed behind my back, and my head covered by the sack, and was made to sit on the box. However, I could not remain seated and fell over from fatigue and pain.

They brought me "food," which consisted of a cup of green liquid, a few pieces of dry bread, and an orange. The method of eating I was forced to employ was equally terrible. The guard refused to remove the handcuffs from both my hands. Instead, he freed only my left hand, fastened the right one to the box and lifted the sack only a little bit. After I had finished eating he replaced the handcuffs and the sack. I remained sitting on the box until evening when, after removing the sack and the cuffs, the guard took me back to the same cell. This time there were different prisoners in the cell. During the next few days I was subjected to the same kind of interrogation every day.

On the morning of the fifth day the guard took me out of the cell to shabeh in the yard, as before. In the interrogation room afterwards "Shalom" again stood on my handcuffs until they almost went through my flesh. He also throttled me again with his hands from over the sack. Then suddenly he tied my legs in such a way that I was seated diagonally on the chair with my body forced backwards. Taking turns with another interrogator, whose name I did not know, he jumped from the table on my thighs and punched me in the head. A third interrogator was watching. This went on for a long time during which the third interrogator would, every now and then, lift the sack from my head always then replacing it. Then "Shalom" brought several pairs of handcuffs and locked them onto my wrists, arms, my legs, and used a fourth set to link the cuffs on my legs to the cuffs holding my arms behind my back.

Then "Shalom" threw me down on my stomach, so that my body arched up backwards, my back and chest were forced backwards and my legs were pulled towards my back. In addition they placed three sacks instead of one over my head. As I was lying in this position on the floor, one interrogator jumped on my back several times; it felt as if my body were splitting in two. One of the interrogators sat down on my back,

pulled my head backwards and pressed on my nose and mouth. Everything went dark around me and I lost consciousness. I did not come to until they poured water over me. They then continued by placing a crescent-shaped instrument, which was made of bone, under my neck and the interrogator, while sitting on my back, would use it to press on my neck. At some stage, I confessed to having burnt the car of a collaborator. More than once during this prolonged strangulation, I felt as if I were dying. After almost two-and-a-half hours, someone took me back to the shabeh yard. This time I stayed lying down on the gravel because I could no longer sit on the box. I felt pain all over my body. The guard would come to take me back to the box only for me to fall over again. My legs would not carry me and my head felt as though it was about to explode with pain.

At a late hour the guard took me back to the cell. As soon as he had removed the sack from my head and pushed me inside the cell I fell to the floor. Another prisoner wiped my face with water. I could not stand up. When I needed to urinate into the smelly bucket someone in the cell would help me for fear that I would fall down. I remained in the cell for two days without being interrogated. However the conditions inside the cell were not very different from those during shabeh and I felt as though I would melt from the heat and the lack of air. The other prisoners told me that my eyes were very red as if full of blood. Air was being emitted noisily from my ear. When I showed my ear to the nurse who came to the cell every morning, he seemed surprised by the color of my eyes but only gave me an Acamol pill. My body was very dirty. When the person in charge of the interrogation section, called Captain "Ozy," came the other prisoners and I asked him to allow us to take a shower. He ordered one of the guards to allow us to shower. When it was my turn to enter the bathroom, where there was no soap at all, and before I had even taken my clothes off, the guard started screaming and hurrying me and threatening to come in and beat me. As a result I just wet myself with hot water and left again without taking a proper shower. I glanced at myself in the mirror inside the bathroom but could not recognize myself in the mirror. My eyes were red as blood, my hair standing up, and my face was yellow and thin.

On the third day, another interrogator called "Tall," who was tall and stout, with black hair, summoned me. While asking me questions, he beat my head and testicles with his hands and throttled me, pressing on my neck. He also made me sit on the chair sideways in the way I described before. At the end, he took me to a smelly toilet, where he made me sit on a chair with my hands tied behind my back, and my head covered with the sack, where I stayed for almost three hours, before the guard took me back to the cell.

The following day I was interrogated and treated in the same way as the day before, although the exact time and duration were different. This routine continued until the 14th day, when I was taken in front of a military judge at the military headquarters in Toulkarem. The judge extended my detention for 30 days. Later in the day the interrogator "Tall" summoned me as usual. To my surprise, he appeared quite respectful, saying: "You have finished with interrogation and we will transfer you to a prison." Then he wrote down some information as if about my case and returned me to the cell.

On the afternoon of that day the guard called my number. When I came out of the cell a soldier, who had a thick beard and huge build, took me into a blue VW. In

addition to the driver, there were three other soldiers inside. The soldiers forced me to lie on the seat, with my hands tied behind my back, until we had left the city limits of Toulkarem. Then they allowed me to sit up in a normal position. My clothes smelled very bad and because of that the soldiers started making fun of me, spitting on me and cursing me until we reached the city of Jenin.

The soldier with the thick beard took me to Jenin Prison. At first I was led to the clinic to be weighed. It turned out that I weighed 57 kg whereas before my arrest I had weighed 62 kg. After I received my personal belongings, which consisted of some money and my watch, a guard took me into a room where eleven people were sitting in a circle. They were reading a booklet on imprisonment and interrogation, which depicted confession as betrayal. When they finished their session we introduced ourselves. Some of the names that were mentioned were "Abu-Muhammad" and "Abu-Jamil." After dinner they asked me whether I wanted to change my clothes and take a shower but I refused because I was very tired. I told them that I would shower in the morning. They turned the TV on and I sat watching it. In the meantime someone called "Abu-Muhammad," in his forties, tanned, tall, and stout, began talking to me along with another person. They talked about prison and the achievements and organization of political prisoners while inside prison. They also named all the political factions, explaining that each prisoner had to be a member of one of them and asking me to identify my affiliation. I stated that I did not belong to any of them. "Abu-Muhammad" asked me about my history in the struggle. When my answers did not convince him he accused me of lying and threatened me. He claimed that he knew the truth and that there was another person from my village in the prison who had other things to say about me, and that he would bring him to see me. When my position did not change he said: "In the morning we will present you to the one in charge of this section and he will know what to do with you." I answered that if I were to talk to the one in charge of the section he would certainly be convinced of the truth of what I was saying. This questioning continued from approximately 8:00 p.m. until midnight. Only then did he leave me to sleep.

In the morning after breakfast, "Abu-Muhammad" summoned me to the corner of the room, which was separated by a bed cover from the rest of the room. He asked me the same questions and received the same answers. Then he took me to the door and summoned the person in charge of the section, a man in his twenties of medium build, blue-eyed, with a tattoo on his arm. This man stood on the other side of the door without entering the room. He slipped his arms through the iron bars on the door and slapped me on the face several times until blood spurted from my lips, saying: "Come now, do not lie to "Abu-Muhammad", or else I will come in and crack your skull." Then "Abu-Muhammad" led me back to the corner and repeated the same questions only to receive the same answers. At that point he summoned the man allegedly in charge of the section and the guard opened the door for him. He in his turn started asking the same questions, emphasizing: "We want the history of you and your friends' struggle." When they did not like my answers they summoned "Abu-Jamil," to whom they referred as the one "in charge of beating." "Abu-Jamil," who was cross-eyed, fat, and tall, threatened to slash my face with razor blades. All three of them beat me with their fists on the face and chest. They made me lie on the bed. The "commander of the section" sat on my

chest while "Abu-Jamil" beat me with plastic slippers on the bottoms of my feet. It was extremely painful and my feet became swollen. They also filled a piece of cloth with soap powder and salt, rolled it into a ball, and inserted it into my mouth so that my voice would not be heard. They continued beating me all over my body, and then pressed the tip of a stick used for cleaning the toilet on my mouth, but they did not manage to insert it. Eventually, although they remained dissatisfied with my answers, they left me alone. This interrogation lasted from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

At around 3:00 p.m. another person entered and I was told: "Congratulations, the visit of your fellow villager has been approved; go out to meet him now." The guard took me out, handcuffed my hands behind my back, and placed me in a cell that looked more like a closet. After approximately two hours the same soldier who had brought me to Jenin Prison took me back to Toulkarem Prison.

There I was taken to a different cell with eight prisoners inside. It was relatively wide and contained a bucket for urine and two worn-out mattresses and covers that were not sufficient to keep even one person warm. I remained in that cell for three days without being summoned for interrogation.

The following morning the guard took me out to the gravel-filled yard for shabeh. He placed a sack over my head, handcuffed me behind my back, and made me sit on the box.

Around noon the interrogator "Tall" summoned me to the interrogation room and said: "You are lying to us." He then throttled me by pressing his hands on my neck before forcing me into the same painful position sideways on the chair, as before, for more than half an hour. Afterwards, I was taken out to the shabeh yard where I spent that whole night on the box without sleep. I was subjected to shabeh for seven days, during which I did not get any real sleep, because every time I was about to doze off the guard would push me. One night, the interrogator "Eli" summoned me for interrogation, which included beating and the use of most of the methods already used against me. Then he placed me in a small, reeking closet, about one-and-a-half meters high and 70 cms wide. It contained a chair. He made me sit there, with my hands cuffed behind my back and my head covered by the sack, until the morning. On one of those seven days the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegate came to visit me. I complained to him of my pains and the torture I was suffering from; he noticed the red coloring in my eyes. From the eighth day until the 13th day I was placed in shabeh during the day. Every evening I was taken to a cell to sleep. During shabeh I was repeatedly taken to the interrogation rooms for beatings all over my body, torture on the chair, choking, and beatings on the head and testicles, in addition to abusive language and threats relating to my mother and sisters.

After those five days I was taken to another cell where I remained for two days. On the afternoon of the second day, after 32 days of interrogation, I was transferred to al-Far'a Detention Center along with five other prisoners. I was tried on 5 February 1990 in the military court of Nablus and sentenced to 14 months imprisonment and 32 months suspended on charges of burning a collaborator's car. I was transferred from al-Far'a Detention Center to Megiddo Prison, where I spent the remaining period of my sentence. I was released on 10 July 1990.

*Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3328, taken on 22 September 1991*

## Al-Haq Affidavit No. 2100

Sheikh Riyad Muhammad 'Ali Bdeir. Toulkarem city, born in 1947, married with seven children. He was dismissed from his work as a government school teacher on 20 September 1989. Following a six-month period of administrative detention in 1988, he was arrested for the second time on 21 March 1989 and was subject to 20 days interrogation in al-Far'a Detention Center. On 9 July 1989 he was arrested again and had 30 days interrogation in the Toulkarem and Jenin Detention Centers. In the following affidavit he recounts the events of his last detention.

On 9 July 1989, at about 11:00 p.m., I woke to the sound of fierce knocking on the door of my house. From the balcony I could see a large number of soldiers who were surrounding the house from all sides; more soldiers were standing on the outside stairs of the house, accompanied by the interrogation officer called "Rami," whom I knew from previous arrests. They were shouting: "Open the door." At the same time they shouted curses and were thumping and kicking on the door. When I opened the door "Rami" asked for my ID card. After I put on my clothes I was taken on foot to the military headquarters in town, to the barracks, where I joined about 80 other prisoners in a room measuring no more than seven meters in length and three meters in width.

In the early morning a military officer called my name and someone else's name and took us to the prison administration center, where our personal belongings were taken from us. Each one of us was given a number instead of a name, and my number was 2042. Then the officer led us towards the north-eastern side of the headquarters. Asked where we were heading, he told us that we were going for interrogation. He knocked on a door and a soldier came out. They exchanged some phrases in Hebrew, after which the soldier restrained our hands with iron handcuffs and covered each of our heads with a rotten-smelling sack. Someone made me sit on a hard object with sharp protrusions, grabbed the sack over my head and pulled it tightly around my neck, and then ordered me to follow him. We entered several doors until he made me sit on a chair. He lifted the sack off my head. I found myself inside a room with a person in his thirties, who introduced himself as the interrogation officer. He asked me some personal and general questions and informed me that I had been arrested on four charges: membership in the Islamic Jihad organization, mobilizing others, acquisition of guns, and conducting armed operations. I denied these charges, which were all untrue, and defied him to produce one piece of evidence to prove any one of them. He just said that there were others who had testified against me. When I asked him to confront me with any one of them he started cursing me, spat in my face several times, and then started pulling my hair or my beard while ordering me to confess. After that he cuffed my arms behind my back with another pair of iron handcuffs, so that I had cuffs on both my wrists and my arms. He tied my feet with a third pair. Then he started punching my eyes and used karate blows on my abdomen, waist, and neck. Then he left the room.

After about a quarter of an hour another interrogator who introduced himself as "officer Abu-Mousa" walked in. He started to assault me in the same manner on and off until after the evening call for prayers (I could always hear the sound of the call to prayer in the city). He then took me out of the room, after replacing the sack over my head and removing one of the two pairs of handcuffs on my arms. He led me to another room where he made me sit on a chair, and closed the door. Leaning on a wall which was close by, I managed to lift my head a little and I found myself in a small cell no more than 170 cm high and 70 cm wide. It was very dark with no air outlets except for the small gap between the bottom of the door and the floor.

Four hours after the morning call for prayers I was led out, with the sack still over my head, and made to sit on a hard object under the scorching sun. At the time of the evening call to prayer on Tuesday, 11 July, a soldier lifted the sack from over my head, handcuffed me in the front instead of behind my back, and placed food in front of me. This meal consisted of three slices of dry bread, some soft cheese, and a glass of water. It was the first meal that I had been offered for almost 40 hours. Before beginning to eat I asked the soldier to allow me to go to the toilet, particularly since I was not allowed to do that during interrogation. The soldier allowed me to go and, after I finished eating, he again cuffed my hands behind my back and replaced the sack over my head.

During the night I was taken for interrogation. The interrogator in addition to the same methods used before, and after removing the sack from my head, beat me on the head with a wooden board. Sometimes he would pull my hair, sometimes my beard. This went on for almost two hours. Eventually he replaced the sack over my head and pushed me into what I felt was a toilet with a chair inside.

I remained there until a few hours after the morning call for prayers when someone led me out to an open yard which I assumed to be the same one in which I had had my meal. I was made to sit on that hard object which I now realized was a plastic box. This place is called the shabeh yard. I remained in that yard all through Wednesday, 12 July, until I was taken again for interrogation.

This time I was met by an interrogator who introduced himself as "officer Fakhri." He insulted me verbally, spat in my face, and pulled out hairs from my beard, reiterating the same charges that his predecessors had brought up against me. Afterwards I was placed in a cell and then in the shabeh yard with my hands cuffed behind my back and my head covered. Just before Friday noon I was transferred to a small room two meters high and less than two meters wide, without ventilation except for a few holes in the ceiling. There were three other prisoners in this room, which contained a plastic bucket for urine, and a gallon of water. Such a room is commonly called "the X." I remained there Friday and Saturday. On Friday afternoon, the soldiers took us out to wash for five minutes on condition that we washed our dirty clothes as well. I found my underwear covered with blood, which had been discharged from my anus due to the long periods of sitting on that plastic box with the rough edges. We put on our wet clothes, since we had no other clothes, immediately after washing them.

On the morning of Sunday, 16 July, I was again taken for interrogation. In addition to being subjected to all the methods of pressure used previously, I was beaten on the testicles. As a result, each testicle swelled to three times its normal size. This kind of interrogation and physical abuse continued for almost a week. On the morning of



Sunday, 23 July, I was taken out of "the X" to the shabeh yard for some time, before being led to an interrogation room where someone introduced himself as the head of the interrogation team. He insulted me repeatedly, cursed my religion and ridiculed my faith, and pulled my beard threatening that if I did not confess, he would bring in my wife and do with her as he pleased. He then started beating me with his fists. Afterwards I was taken out to the shabeh yard under the scorching sun; my hands were tied again behind my back and my head was covered with the sack, which was only removed for meals or when I was allowed to go to the toilet. During the night, they took me into the interrogation room where someone told me that they had brought my wife to the room next door. I could hear a low female voice but, with the door shut tight, I could not be sure whether it really was my wife. They repeated their threats to abuse my wife so I said: "Do whatever you like, I have nothing to tell you, and I only pray to Almighty God who is able to punish you for your actions." After about two hours of threats and torture, both physical and psychological, I was returned to the cell and then to the shabeh yard. On Wednesday, 26 July, I was taken to the military court in Nablus where a military judge extended my detention for another fifteen days. Afterwards, I was returned to the shabeh yard in the Toulkarem Detention Center.

On the evening of Thursday, 27 July, I was taken once again to a room to meet the interrogation officer called "Abu-Mousa." He started cursing me, saying: "It seems you are not jealous of your wife because you have not confessed to anything. Therefore we have brought your 15-year-old daughter and if you do not confess we will do with her as we please." After a while I heard the voice of a girl screaming: "Father!" Although the voice was coming from a nearby room I could not identify it. I remained firm, denying all charges. At that point the interrogator started to beat and punch me while insulting my honor, my religion, and God. He also threatened to rape me if I did not confess. He actually pulled down my underwear and continued threatening me. Eventually he left the room and I remained alone for some time.

When "Abu-Mousa" returned he led me to the room of the head interrogator, where I saw three other interrogators waiting for me. After this, "Abu-Mousa" resorted to abusive language and spat in my face as usual. He said to me: "This is your night, either you confess or you die." Then he placed a different sack over my head, a very solid black plastic sack, with a string around its opening. He tightened the string around my neck closing the sack tightly, and made me sit on a high chair with my hands held firmly behind my back with two sets of handcuffs, and my feet tied to the legs of the chair. He then started punching me around my eyes while another interrogator directed karate blows at my abdomen, waist, and testicles, pushing me backwards all the time. They continued until the upper half of my body fell backwards and the interrogator said: "You are now hanging in front of me like a sheep ready for slaughter." With my head forced backwards someone started to choke me, by pressing on my mouth and nose from over the sack. I began to suffocate, and could not breathe any more, but he maintained the pressure, despite my screams, until I lost consciousness. I woke up as they were splashing water on my face. They lifted my body back into a sitting position on the chair and someone said: "You must confess now." I answered, as always, that I had nothing to confess. They strangled me again a second and third time; every time I would wake up as I felt water splashed on my face.

After the third time they again resorted to abusive language, cursing my religion and God, ridiculing my faith and my beard, and competing in spitting into my face. Then they took me out to a cell with the cuffs still on my hands. I remained there until just before Friday noon, 28 July, when someone, after removing the handcuffs, took me out of that cell to "the X." The cuffs had left deep marks on my hands. My hands were numb and swollen, and this numbness remained for several days. (At present, two months later my left arm still feels numb from the wrist to the tip of my fingers, and I do not know when this will disappear). I remained in "the X" on Friday afternoon and Saturday. I felt very happy there for no other reason than the fact that this was the only place where I could pray, since they had made it clear that I was forbidden to pray in the interrogation rooms or in the shabeh yard, which had forced me to pray by nodding as they did not realize what I was doing.

On the morning of Sunday, 30 July, I was taken out of "the X" and to the shabeh yard, with my head covered by the sack and my hands tied behind my back. After about two hours they led me into the room of the head interrogator, who told me that those others who had testified against me on various charges were all now in Jenin Prison. He gave me two options: either I would collaborate with him or he would send me to Jenin Prison to be confronted with those who had testified against me, and I would have to pay dearly for it because the charges were grave. I told him immediately that his first option was very silly and that he should never even consider such a thing since collaborating with him was a transgression of the Islamic faith equal to being an atheist and that I could be killed for such a thing and that it would be easier for him to touch the sky than to force me to collaborate. He became very angry. He spat in my face several times and punched me in my testicles, while shouting obscenities at me. Then he pushed me out into the shabeh yard where I was made to sit on the plastic box night and day until just before noon on Wednesday, 2 August.

On the previous day (Tuesday) the ICRC delegate had come to the prison. He left some clothes for me that had been sent by my wife, but he was not allowed to see me. I am convinced that they did not allow me to see him because the marks of torture were very obvious on my hands, face, legs, and testicles.

Just before noon, on Wednesday, I was pushed and moved from the shabeh yard into the room of the head interrogator, who addressed me with curses and obscenities, saying: "You have been sitting on the plastic box in the shabeh yard for 16 days and still you don't want to confess; aren't you human? How can you stand all this sitting? This is your last chance, either you confess or I will send you to Jenin Prison." When I asked him to send me immediately without delay, he became really angry. He pulled my beard fiercely and dragged me to the floor, holding on to me until he ripped out a tuft of my beard. Then he grabbed my hair and started dragging me along the floor, kicking me at times, or stepping on my head, chest, and abdomen. Eventually he pushed me into a dark cell where I remained until the afternoon call for prayers. Another officer, who was tall and thin, led me, handcuffed, out of the interrogation section, to a border police car which took me to Jenin Prison. There were four border policemen in the car, three of whom competed in cursing me and using obscene language against me.

As soon as I arrived at Jenin Prison, and following the admission procedures, I was taken to the interrogation room, with my head covered by a sack and my hands cuffed

behind my back. The interrogator immediately started cursing me, using obscenities and threats against me. Then he kept me seated in the interrogation room until the evening call for prayers, at which time he led me into a room. I remained there all night until Thursday afternoon, 3 August. There were about 15 other prisoners in the room whom I soon realized were collaborators. They did not harm me or ask me to write anything once the one in charge had realized that I had nothing to say. Then I was transferred into an "X" which measured not less than two square meters, or maybe slightly more.

There were five of us in that room. We spent the night sitting. On the morning of Friday, 4 August, I was taken into the interrogation room where an interrogator told me that they would check my statements against a lie detector. Then they took me to a toilet which they used as a cell or a solitary "X." I remained there for two nights after which I was transferred to another "X." On Monday, 7 August, I was tested on the lie detector machine three times on different occasions. Eventually I was returned to the "X" where I remained until the evening of Wednesday, 9 August.

I was released after 30 days of detention, interrogation, and torture without trial or conviction. (After my release, I found out that they never brought in my wife or my daughter while I was under interrogation).

*Al-Haq Affidavit No. 2100, taken on 30 September 1989*

## Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3336

Yaser al-'Abd Husein Abu-Zayed: Rafah Refugee camp, Gaza Strip, born in 1968, owner of a grocery store. He was arrested in January 1987 for 18 days of interrogation and later in the year for 21 days without interrogation. He was sentenced to three months imprisonment and a fine of NIS 900. In the following account, he describes the events of his third arrest on 4 April 1988 and the subsequent 16 days of interrogation.

On 4 April 1988 I went to the military headquarters in Rafah to give myself up, as I was wanted by the authorities. The following day, I was transferred in a car to Gaza Central Prison. On the way the soldiers in the car beat and kicked me with their hands, boots, and gun butts all over the body, focusing particularly on my head and face. After the routine entry procedures at Gaza Central Prison an intelligence man called "Mousa" (whom I knew well from a previous arrest) placed a sack over my head and pulled me by the sack up the stairs to the second floor, which I knew was the interrogation floor, nicknamed by the prisoners as "the slaughterhouse" because of the torture that takes place there.

He made me sit on a chair and, when he removed the sack, I found myself in a room with two other interrogators called "Abu-Younes" and "Abu-Feisal." They told me that there was no point in denying the charges against me because someone else had testified against me. In the meantime two more interrogators, called "Jack" and "Abu-Id," entered the room. They placed iron handcuffs on my hands, covered my head with three sacks, one after the other, and threw me to the floor. One of them sat on my legs and grabbed my testicles, a second started punching me with his fist in the abdomen, while a third held my throat and started pressing hard, trying to strangle me. At the same time, I felt someone place his hand on my nose and mouth, choking me. This went on for almost half an hour, during which time the two people pressing on my neck, nose, and mouth would remove their hands for a few seconds every now and then so that I would not suffocate. One of them was constantly asking me: "Do you want to confess?" In that position I could not speak at all. At some point they lifted me from the floor and put me on a chair, removed the sacks, and threatened if I did not confess, to kill me or to try me on the basis of the testimonies of others. Then "Mousa" ordered me to stand up and sit down 100 times without stopping.

All the interrogators left the room except for "Mousa" who was reviewing some papers at his desk. "Mousa" asked me why I had stopped getting up and down. I told him that I finished the 100 times. He retorted that I had finished only 98 and that I should repeat 100 all over again. I started again but fell over from exhaustion in such a way that my face hit the table and blood spurted from my nose. He said to me: "Get up mother-fucker, don't bullshit me." He held me up against the wall, then grabbed my head and hit it repeatedly against a cupboard in the room. This went on for half an hour. The other interrogators then returned, accompanied by a new interrogator. I was told that his name was "Abu-Da'oud" and that he was going to bring in another

interrogator, called "Abu-Walid," who would make me confess. "Abu-Da'oud" left the room and "Abu-Walid" entered and came towards me and immediately threw me to the floor. He sat on my abdomen and said: "Do you know how much I love Arab blood?" Stating that he loved it as much as he enjoyed making love to his wife, he added: "I'd like to have a glassful of Arab blood now." He punched me in the face and said to the others: "If he doesn't confess, kill him." Everyone then left the room except for "Abu-Feisal," who started talking to me in a friendly way, advising me to confess. He said that he would leave me to think it over, took me out of the room and, after cuffing my hands and placing two sacks over my head, made me sit on a chair.

About seven hours later I was led inside a room and placed on a chair. When the two sacks were lifted from my head I found myself with another interrogator who introduced himself as "Abu-'Awni." He told me to confess and offered me a cup of coffee and a cigarette, but I refused, so he threatened to examine me with a lie detector. Then he took me out of the room and made me sit, as before, for another seven hours until the next morning. That morning I was offered food for the first time. The meal consisted of one egg. When I asked for bread they said that there was no bread because of Pessah [a Jewish holiday]. I was led back to the interrogation room where I found "Mousa" and "Jack." I was told by "Mousa" to confess, and I repeated that I had nothing to confess. He then stripped me of all my clothes and grabbed my penis, saying: "I'm going to remove it for you." He made me sit on a chair and, while "Jack" encircled my neck with his arm from behind, "Mousa" placed my penis between the two sides of an empty stapler and started pressing hard. He kept on pressing for about a quarter of an hour and then used the stapler to pull out pubic hair until blood appeared. When I still refused to confess he punched me in the abdomen, made me kneel down, and ordered me to lower my head and bend my back. He then placed two chairs on either side of me and "Jack" and "Mousa" each started pressing a chair against my body, squeezing me in between.

At some point, "Jack" held my neck trying to choke me, then pulled my head by the hair and beat it against the wall until I lost consciousness. I woke up to find myself in the prison clinic, fully dressed, with a person wearing a medical outfit. When I told him that my head was hurting, he told me to drink some water. Someone in civilian clothes entered, covered my head with a sack, handcuffed me, and pulled me away. When I fell on the way he helped me stand up. He took me up a staircase and made me sit on a chair for about six hours. I was in great pain and fell off the chair repeatedly, but each time someone would order me to sit on it again. Eventually, I was pulled inside a room, the sack was removed from my head, and I found myself with an interrogator called "Abu-Ida."

He grabbed my mustache, saying to me: "Do you consider yourself a man with this mustache?" Then he pulled out some hair from my mustache. After he talked to someone outside, "Abu-Jamil" brought him a razor and "Abu-Ida" shaved my mustache off threatening to shave my eyebrows as well. "Abu-Jamil" then replaced the sack over my head and took me outside to sit on the chair. I asked to go to the toilet and "Abu-Jamil" gave me permission. In the toilet, I saw that my penis was covered with wounds and my urine contained blood. I went back to sit on the chair in the same

manner until the following morning. Every once in a while the guards would pour water over me to prevent me from sleeping.

The following morning someone took me into the interrogation room and lifted the sack from my head. In the room I found "Mousa" and "Abu-Feisal" waiting for me, and they threatened to have my statements checked against a lie detector. "Mousa" also threatened to render me sterile. When I told him that having children or not is in the hands of God he said he would prove that it was actually in his hands. While I was sitting on a chair he pushed me so that I fell with the chair to the floor. Then he stripped me of my clothes and tried to grab my penis. I resisted both him and "Abu-Feisal" who came to his aid. Then "Abu-Ida" and "Jack" joined them. One of them sat on my legs, and another on my chest, and a third held my chest down while "Mousa" started to insert the refill of a ballpoint pen into my penis and to move it in a circular fashion. I was screaming with the pain. After about two minutes he removed the refill and punched me, with his fist, several times in the abdomen. "Abu-Jamil" placed two sacks over my head and made me sit on a chair. I vomited inside the sacks; "Abu-Jamil" refused to change the sacks and instead placed a third sack over them. The sacks smelled disgusting because of the vomit. He then started beating me with a rubber instrument. Feeling excruciating pain in my penis, I found myself getting up from the chair, beating my body against the wall and falling to the floor. At that point "Abu-Ida" removed the sacks, asking: "What's wrong with you?" I said: "I'm very tired and very ill, kill me." He said that he would, but not yet, only "after a while." He put a clean sack over my head and placed me back on the chair. However, I could not sit from the pain and fell off the chair. All night long they would beat me on and off to make me get up, but I could not.

On the fourth day of my detention I found myself in a room with all eight of the interrogators whom I had met before. They threw me onto the floor and placed six sacks over my head, sat on my chest and legs, and started to press simultaneously on my testicles and penis, beating me all over the body. During the beating, which lasted for 20 minutes, they made sounds to terrorize me. When one of them asked me if I was going to confess, I told him that I wanted to confess but not to all charges. I confessed that I and others were planning to make explosives but did not produce anything except for one thing which was not an explosive and which we did not use anyway. I signed my confession.

On the following day they resumed their interrogation, ordering me to confess to other charges such as throwing an explosive device at a military vehicle and distributing leaflets. Over the next eight days they used most of the methods described above for an average of one-and-a-half hours per day, particularly beatings, the strangling technique, and applying pressure to my genitals. The interrogation lasted for 12 days in total, until 16 April, which was also the day they arrested a group charged with charges that had previously been preferred against me: charges of detonating explosives. I was sentenced to four months in prison.

*Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3336, taken on 19 September 1992*

## Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3234

Khaled Mustafa 'Ali Qandil: Old 'Askar Refugee Camp, born in 1967, unemployed. He was arrested in February 1985 and sentenced to nine months imprisonment. He was arrested again in December 1987 and sentenced to three months imprisonment. Below he recounts the torture he suffered during his administrative detention after his last arrest on 16 July 1988.

I was arrested on 16 July 1988 and sent to Ansar III Detention Center for six months administrative detention. After four months I was transferred from Ansar III to al-Far'a Detention Center. In al-Far'a they first took me into the prison clinic where someone wearing a medical outfit conducted a quick superficial examination and asked me a few questions concerning my health condition. Despite my explanations he took away from me the medicine that I was using for a urinary tract infection, which I had been suffering from since before my arrest. I was then led from the clinic to an open space known as the "shabeh yard," where someone tied my hands behind my back, blindfolded me with a piece of cloth, and made me sit on a solid object which seemed to be a cement seat.

The following morning someone led me away. After he removed the blindfold, I found myself in a room facing interrogator "Id" and interrogator "Michael," whom I knew from a previous detention. The two interrogators accused me of participating in the killing of a collaborator, taking part in demonstrations, and throwing stones at soliders. They said that al-Far'a Detention Center was a dangerous place, that my problem was very serious, and that I would come crawling on my knees, begging to confess. They told me to think about this and took me for this purpose into a cell which contained two other persons. The kind of questions that these two persons asked me made me realize that they were collaborators. In the morning the same interrogators summoned me, asking me about the other two men in the cell. I told them that they were collaborators, but the interrogators denied having any relation with them. When they asked me whether my reflections had had any result, I told them that I was innocent and had nothing to confess. "Michael" then kicked me in the testicles and in the back and hit me several times with a ruler on the head. At the end of this interrogation session, which lasted 45 minutes, they said that I had to register my name on the cement seat in the shabeh yard because my stay in Fara'a was going to be long.

The guard took me to the shabeh yard, with my hands tied behind my back and my eyes blindfolded with a piece of cloth, and ordered me to remain standing up. I remained standing all day and night for five days. During that time I kept falling over due to fatigue; each time the guards would kick me and beat me with sticks until I got up. As the weather was very cold and it was raining I was shivering all the time, my teeth chattering. I was taken to interrogation about twice a day, for about one hour each time. Due to the fact that they would not allow me to go to the toilet I had to urinate several times in my clothes, all the more so as I was still suffering from an infection of my

urinary tract and my prostate gland. One night I fell down and could not stand up again. Two prisoners, who were brought from the cell by the guards, carried me to the prison clinic. There the nurse or doctor was disgusted at the sight of me. I was smelly and my hands were swollen from the cold. He did not give me any medication except for Acamol, saying that I was deceiving them and that my health was fine.

They returned me to the shabeh yard, blindfolded, with my hands tied behind my back. For some time I would manage to remain standing, but most of the time I was lying on the ground. In the evening they made me sit on a very cold concrete seat. I remained sitting there, blindfolded and handcuffed, for two weeks. Only for one day, on the occasion of a Jewish feast, was I taken into the cell, but my hands remained tied behind my back. During those two weeks and the preceding week I was offered food on average only once every three days. I was so hungry that I searched the yard for pieces of rotten bread and ate them. Sometimes I would eat from a new prisoner's food if he had no appetite because he was too cold or too scared. All through this period I was urinating in my clothes because I was not allowed to go to the toilet like the other detainees.

During one of the interrogation sessions the interrogator "Abu-'Azmi" choked me by putting his hands around my neck and pressing strongly until I almost suffocated. When he lifted his hands from my neck I saw that they were blackish in color because of the dirt on my neck. He also threatened to kill me after my release. The interrogators would slander my name several times in loud voices, by calling me a collaborator. They would also use me as an example to warn other prisoners that they should confess.

They would bring a detainee to see me, while I was in shabeh, and ask me, in front of him, how long I had been in this condition. During shabeh the guard sometimes poured hot coffee over my head, sometimes cola or cold water. After having torn my shoes the interrogators prohibited me from wearing any shoes and kept me barefoot. When other prisoners gave me shoes, the interrogators would take them from me and punish these prisoners with shabeh.

On my 17th day in al-Far'a I met the ICRC delegate, who was shocked at the sight of me. When I told him what I had been through, he gave me dried figs to eat, brought me coffee, promised to get a doctor, and to send clothes the following week. The doctor, when he came, examined me but did not give me any medical treatment.

I was returned to the shabeh yard. Hours later I was taken to interrogation where I was met by "Michael," "Id," and another interrogator called "Abu-Jabal," all in military uniform. As soon as I entered the room they threw me down on the floor and started beating and kicking me. A fourth interrogator, called "Abu-'Azmi," joined them and started kicking me in the testicles until I almost lost consciousness from the pain. After some time they dragged me along the ground towards the shabeh yard, where, as before, they made me sit on the concrete seat. I could not control my movements any more and my face knocked against a rough wall. I felt that I was definitely going to die, muttered the "Shihada" saying farewell to my soul, and fell on the ground. I was bleeding from the face without feeling it. An interrogator called "Younes" came and kicked me before turning me on my back. When he saw the blood on my face he yelled and shouted something in Hebrew. A number of prisoners came to take me to the clinic, with all the interrogators accompanying me. The doctor in the clinic reassured the interrogators,



massaged me on the testicles, and gave me medication to make me urinate, after which I urinated a number of times. Immediately afterwards I was returned to the shabeh yard. The following day they summoned me for interrogation. In the interrogation room I met six interrogators: "Michael," "Abu- 'Azmi," "Id," "Freddy," "Abu-'Ali Mikha," and "Sharon." They threatened to give me electric shocks, threw me on my back, with my hands still tied behind my back, and placed a chair on my abdomen; first they pressed on it, then "Michael" stood on the chair. When they tied something around the toes on both my feet that felt like a chain or metal tweezers I realized that they were going to use electricity on me. I heard some electric buttons being switched on in the room, then I felt as if I was being bitten all over my body and felt my body expanding, yet I did not feel much pain. Someone threatened to increase the electric current but I did not care. Suddenly I felt strong pressure exerted on the back on my neck and felt as if my bones were breaking. I arched up, my body shook, and I made the chair on me move. "Michael" jumped off the chair, I screamed aloud, and the interrogators removed the wires while I was shaking and my teeth were chattering from the shock.

They took me back to the shabeh yard to remain there in the same position as before. This was my 19th day of interrogation in al-Far'a. At night I lost all my strength and fell to the wet ground. All the interrogators came and told me to confess so that I would not die. I asked them to lift me off the ground and place me on the seat. Then I told them that I was in a strong condition and was not going to die. They became very angry and started beating and punching me in the face and head for several minutes before they left. On the 20th day I was placed in a cell with other detainees, with my hands tied behind my back. During meal times I would move my hands forward by pulling them from underneath my feet, which was a difficult process. I remained in the cell in this position for 10 days without being interrogated. Then I was moved into the prison room and the interrogation was finished.

I was tried and sentenced, on the basis of others' testimonies against me, to 34 months in prison for taking part in intifada activities such as demonstrations and throwing stones.

*Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3234, taken on 14 September 1991*

## Al-Haq Affidavit No. 34 14

Bassam Khalil Shneino: Khan Younes Refugee Camp, Gaza Strip, born in 1967, house painter, married. He was arrested twice: in February 1988 when he was sentenced to three years imprisonment, and in September 1991, when he was detained for 18 days without interrogation. In the affidavit below he describes his first detention in the Gaza Central and Ashkelon Prisons. As a result of the torture he was hospitalized twice, first during interrogation when he was paralyzed, and then after his release in February 1991, when he underwent surgery for the removal of one of his testicles.

On the morning of 28 February 1988 I gave myself up to the intelligence service headquarters in Khan Younes, because I knew I was wanted by the Israeli authorities. I was taken to Gaza Central Prison. An interrogator called "Steve" charged me with throwing incendiary devices (molotov cocktails). When I did not reply he slapped me twice and spat in my face, then he poured coffee from his cup over my face. He pressed some buttons in the room and six persons in civilian clothes appeared, who seemed to be interrogators. They started kicking and beating me, one of them with a bludgeon and the others with their fists, for about ten minutes. One of them then placed a sack over my head, handcuffed me, and made me sit outside the interrogation room on a hard object, which seemed to be an iron seat.

I remained in this position until the following morning without being given any food or being allowed to go to the toilet. During the night, every time I was on the point of dozing off, the soldier on guard poured cold water over me. The next morning someone took me inside a room; when the bag was removed from over my head I found myself in the same interrogation room with two other interrogators in addition to "Steve," who introduced themselves as "Abu-Ramzi" and "Abu-'Antar."

"Abu-Ramzi" asked me where I had thrown the molotov cocktail but I denied doing it in the first place. "Steve," who was sitting beside me, then wet the bag that had just been removed from my head, and pressed it with his hands on my mouth and nose while looking at a watch to measure the time. Just when I was about to suffocate he removed the bag and pressed two of his fingers on my throat over the tonsils. Then he replaced the wet bag over my mouth and nose and repeated the same procedure. This went on for about a quarter of an hour. Then "Abu-'Antar" threw me on my back and I felt the pain of the cuffs on my hands. "Steve" placed the wet bag on my mouth and nose while "Abu-'Antar" repeatedly exerted strong pressure with his hand on my testicles. In the meantime, "Abu-Ramzi" kept saying: "Tell us the story, give us what you've got." After about an hour they took me out of the room and made me sit on the hard seat again, with the sack replaced over my head.

A few hours later they took me back to the room where the same interrogators were waiting for me. They asked me the same questions and used the same methods to extract an answer from me. In addition "Steve" threatened to release me and then kill me before I arrived home unless I confessed. Then he spoke on the phone and seven soldiers

entered the room. He said to me: "Choose the prettiest one to kill you." I answered: "Kill me if you want and do whatever you will." The soldiers left and he threw me on the floor and pressed on my testicles with his hands. After almost half an hour I was taken out to a two-meter by three-meter toilet with a shower, where I remained for three consecutive days without food or water. Every time someone came into the toilet they would pour very cold water over my head or kick me, which made it impossible for me to sleep. I also felt excruciating pain in my swollen feet which had turned blue from standing up for such a long time. At one stage, when someone entered the toilet, I screamed at him and asked him to bring me food because I was very hungry, and to remove the wet bag from over my head because it almost suffocated me. Saying that he would bring me food he went out and returned five minutes later. I could hear him urinate into something and then felt another bag drenched with urine placed over my head. I screamed as loud as I could, but he took no notice and left the toilet. A few hours later "Steve" came in; I knew him from his voice. He started addressing me in a quiet tone of voice, without violence or threats, calling me a "good man." After ordering a soldier to remove the two bags from my head he gave me a piece of soap to wash my face. He asked me about food and I answered that I had not had any food or drink for five days. After I had washed my face he took me back into the interrogation room, removed the handcuffs so that I could eat the meal that he had brought me, then brought a bowl of hot water for me to bathe my swollen feet.

At that point "Abu-Ramzi" entered the room and the two interrogators started pretending that they had different views on how to treat me. "Abu-Ramzi" would criticize "Steve" for being "nice" to me, adding that I deserved bad treatment, while "Steve" would defend me. After a while "Abu-Ramzi" left, pretending that he was angry with "Steve." who then handed me a pen and paper and said: "Bassam, write down what you have to say before "Abu-Ramzi" returns and breaks your bones." When I refused to take the pen and paper he started screaming at me, saying that I had made a mistake, and threatened to leave me to "Abu-Ramzi" and "Abu-'Antar." He left the room only for "Abu-Ramzi" and "Abu-'Antar" to enter a minute later with someone called "Abu-al-Nimer," who told me to stand up and then punched me in the stomach. "Abu-Ramzi" kicked me hard in the back, before they pressed my back against the edge of a table, screaming all the while, pretending that I was the one who was screaming. It lasted almost two hours, then they stopped.

The interrogation continued in this way for 10 days, with the same methods used against me as described above. I received meals on a regular basis. On the 11th day I was transferred to Ashkelon Prison, where I was detained in a cell with six others, whom I discovered to be collaborators with the Israeli authorities. They tried to make me confess by using tricks and deceit, acting initially as if they were honest and patriotic people. When I recognized their scheming and refused to cooperate they started beating and kicking me until a military guard came and took all except one of them out of the cell. He continued to talk to me, claiming that the ones who had just left were collaborators, but that he was not and I should tell him everything I knew. Three hours later the guard came and took him out of the cell. Immediately afterwards I heard the sound of a TV and people speaking in low voices. Someone whispered: "He now trusts me and will tell me all he knows," and another voice, which later I recognized as the

voice of an interrogator called "Abu-Elias," said: "You're tough, and if you get a confession out of him I will reward you."

On the following morning the guard brought the same man with whom I had been left alone the previous day back into the cell. He claimed that when he had left the cell the day before he had been summoned for interrogation, and that he was tortured and beaten during interrogation. When I told him that he was a liar he spat at me, so I slapped him on the face. He punched me in the stomach. The guard quickly took me out of the cell, handcuffed me, placed three sacks over my head and left me in the scorching sun. Two interrogators beat my body, one of them using a bludgeon. After about a quarter of an hour I was taken to a room where my statements were checked against a lie detector machine. I was then taken out of the room, with my hands tied and my head covered, and ordered to remain standing up. The interrogator told one of the soldiers not to let me sit down. When I tried to sit down the soldier would kick me all over my body. After about half an hour I was led to another room where a number of people, whom I realized were collaborators, started beating me with their fists and making fun of me for almost half an hour. I was then transferred back to Gaza Central Prison.

In Gaza Central Prison I was taken into a room where "Steve" received me, saying: "Either you die now or you tell us who prepared the molotov cocktail with you and where you threw it." When I denied the charges he threw me on the floor, onto my back, made one of the soldiers press on my abdomen, while "Steve" himself exerted pressure on my testicles, saying: "I will kill you now." After a few seconds he started pressing repeatedly on my right testicle. I screamed with pain and lost consciousness. When I came to I found myself wet with water and a man in a medical outfit sitting next to me with a stretcher and an oxygen machine. An officer lifted me onto the stretcher and I was taken to the prison clinic where they stripped me of my clothes and the medic ordered me to stand up and walk. I tried but I could not because of the pain and swelling in my right testicle. When he lifted my right arm and then my right leg and let them drop, they dropped without resistance. I realized that I had partial paralysis.

I was transferred to Barzilai Hospital where I stayed for one week. During that week I was given medication in the form of pills and was on an IV infusion all the time. I was alone in a room with a policeman on guard. During the day, "Abu-al-Nimer" and "Abu-Ramzi" would come and threaten to kill me if I did not confess." When I was returned to Gaza Central Prison, I was still on the IV infusion and was placed in a wheelchair inside the prison because I could not move on my own.

"Abu-Ramzi" and "Abu-'Antar" received me saying: "You should have mercy on yourself and confess." At night I was placed in cell No. 9, measuring two-and-a-half square meters, with another man who spoke with a bedouin accent. He helped me down from the chair and started talking about himself, his experience, and the national activities he had taken part in. He explained that he had been arrested at the border with leaflets which he was trying to bring into the Occupied Territories, and how he had been subjected to tough interrogation for 45 days but had not confessed. When I told him that I had thrown two molotov cocktails but had not confessed during interrogation he started asking me specific questions which made me realize that he was a collaborator. He knocked at the door of the cell, apparently to ask the guard for a cigarette, and after

about two minutes he was taken out of the cell.

In the morning two soldiers came and took me to interrogation. There I was met by "Abu-Ramzi" who started by saying: "Well, you have fallen, hero, and you should tell me how you threw the molotov cocktail." When I denied the charge, he brought the collaborator whom I had talked to into the room. The latter spat into my face, slapped me, and told the interrogator: "Write down that he threw two molotov cocktails." I confessed to the charge. After several days I began to be able to move my arm and my leg, probably as a result of the physiotherapy and some medication I was receiving. I urinated blood.

After one-and-a-half years of detention I was tried and sentenced to three years imprisonment and four years suspended. I was released after having served my sentence on 21 February 1991. Following my release the pains and swelling returned in my right testicle. I went to al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza on 11 March 1991, and the physicians there decided to remove it.

*Al-Haq Affidavit No. 3414, taken on 2 October 1991*