

APARTHEID in Israeli Prisons

Palestinian political prisoners arrested by Israel are subject to different legal systems based on their residency - and an entirely different legal system than that of Israeli criminal prisoners.

In the West Bank...

- Palestinians are arrested and detained under a system of military regulations and orders - over 2500 military orders have been issued since the West Bank was occupied in 1967.
- Military Order 101 criminalizes a range of activities, including participating in protests and assemblies, waving flags or political symbols, or distributing political material - deemed incitement
- Palestinian political parties, mass organizations and student union blocs are classified as "illegal organizations" or "hostile organizations," and membership or support for them is criminalized
- Israeli settlers in the West Bank are not sent to military courts nor are they subject to these military orders, instead, they are subject to Israeli criminal law.
- Those arrested under criminal law are afforded due process protections, and the charges against them must be detailed and specific. This is not true for military prisoners.
- The same charges are assigned widely different sentences under military law and Israeli criminal law, including murder, manslaughter, and incitement.

In Gaza...

- Palestinians from Gaza may be placed under indefinite arbitrary detention as "unlawful combatants," with no set renewal period for their detention
- Palestinians from Gaza are regularly denied family visits and deposits to their canteen accounts from family members, as their family members are denied access

In Occupied Palestine '48...

- In Israel, Palestinians holding Israeli citizenship accused of "security" offenses are denied many of the protections of those accused of criminal offenses, and are targeted for political imprisonment - as well as the use of arbitrary administrative detention without charge or trial.
- Palestinian political organizations are targeted for raids and criminalization, while citizens are victimized by over 50 racist laws.

TORTURE

Palestinian security prisoners are interrogated by the Shin Bet, which often uses sleep deprivation, stress positions, and other methods that amount to torture. Palestinian prisoners' experience of torture under interrogation is extremely common. Almost all Palestinian child prisoners have reported kicking, beating and other forms of physical and psychological abuse and ill-treatment amounting to torture.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION

Palestinian political prisoners can be held without charge or trial for up to six month renewable periods, under administrative detention - for years at a time. Administrative detainees are held under secret evidence to which even their lawyers are denied access. Journalist Mohammed al-Qeeq has been on hunger strike since February 6 to demand his freedom from arbitrary imprisonment.