

## Monthly Newsletter — December 2019



In December 2019, Addameer has documented systematic **human rights violations against Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including torture and ill-Treatment.**

### Detention in Numbers

Since January 2019, **5500** Palestinians from the occupied territory were arrested including **889** children and **128** children. For the month of December, the number of new arrests was **310**.

As of the end of December 2019, there were:

**5 000** Palestinian political prisoners

**458** of them administrative detainees

**185** child detainees

**41** female prisoners

**7** Palestinian Legislative Council members.

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### Addameer Collects Hard Evidence of Torture and ill-treatment Committed against Palestinian Detainees at Israeli Interrogation Centers

Since its creation, the occupying state developed and enforced laws and practices that led to both the systematic use of torture and to absolute impunity for the perpetrator of this crime. In the history of this occupying state a handful of cases were held accountable for the well-documented crimes of torture and ill-treatment at Israeli prisons and interrogation centers. The occupation authorities, in particular, the Israeli intelligence agency "Shabak" resorts to torture and ill-treatment as standard operating procedure in a systematic and wide-scale approach against Palestinian detainees. Over the past three months, the intelligence agency subjected a number of detainees at Israeli interrogation centers to severe physical and psychological torture without any form of monitoring and protection.



This Israeli illegal occupation has violated all the legal elements of an occupation under international law. The Israeli

legal system and practices are just one example of this violation that aims for suppressing and dominating the Palestinian protected population. Crimes of torture and denial of a fair trial for Palestinian detainees are not limited to one perpetrator. In fact, the agencies complicit in those crimes include the intelligence agency, military court, military prosecution, Hight Court, and even the medical staff that were involved in providing medical care and assessment for those detainees subjected to torture and ill-treatment.

### The Israeli Occupying State Violates the Gag order

On 13 December 2019, the gag order which has prevented the public, including Addameer, the legal representative of the cases under the gag order, from publishing any information on a number of detainees tortured during interrogation, **was violated by the Israeli occupying State**. This gag order concerns approximately 50 cases. It was initially issued on 10 September 2019, and has been renewed a number of times.

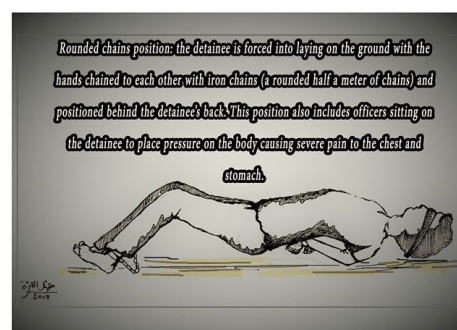
"Shabak" the Israeli intelligence department issued a statement to the Israeli press about a number of cases under the gag order. This abuse of power is only an attempt to hide the torture crimes committed by the intelligence officers. The published details included what the prisoners were accused of, which was not aligned with the actual lists of charges given to some of those prisoners at the military courts.

Addameer condemns including the name of the Palestinian Legislative Council Member, Khalida Jarrar in the published statement, for mere political motives. As affirmed by Khalida's lawyer, the published information by the Shabak are in total contravention of the actual list of charges that was submitted by the military prosecution.

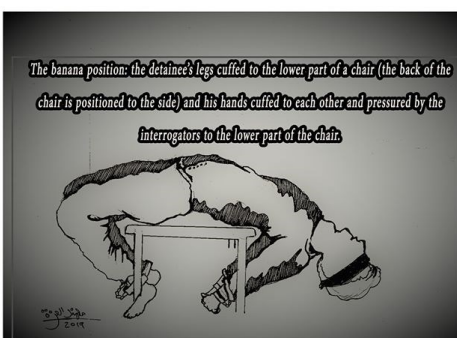
**GAG ORDER**

### Addameer Collects Hard Evidence of Torture and ill-treatment Committed against Palestinian Detainees at Israeli Interrogation Centers

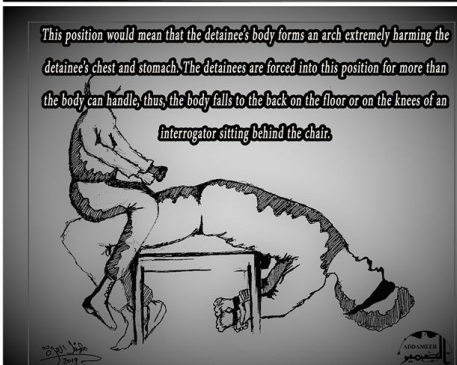
**Positional torture (stress positions):** one of many different methods of interrogations and torture used against Palestinian detainees at Israeli interrogation centers.



*Rounded chains position: the detainee is forced into laying on the ground with the hands chained to each other with iron chains (a rounded half a meter of chains) and positioned behind the detainee's back. This position also includes officers sitting on the detainee to place pressure on the body causing severe pain to the chest and stomach.*



*The banana position: the detainee's legs cuffed to the lower part of a chair (the back of the chair is positioned to the side) and his hands cuffed to each other and pressured by the interrogators to the lower part of the chair.*



*This position would mean that the detainee's body forms an arch extremely harming the detainee's chest and stomach. The detainees are forced into this position for more than the body can handle, thus, the body falls to the back on the floor or on the knees of an interrogator sitting behind the chair.*

[A Briefing Paper on Torture and ill-Treatment Committed Against the 50 cases who were under the Gag Order Here](#)

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### Addameer Press Conference on Torture

**On 23 December 2019, Addameer held a press conference at its office detailing the torture and ill-treatment committed against around 50 prisoners including university students since late August. The press conference included representatives from Addameer, al-Haq and Amnesty International.**



[Link to press conference in Arabic](#)

### Addameer provides a training to Birzeit University law students

Addameer started providing a training course on Israeli military courts to law students at Birzeit University. The course started on 8 December 2019. This course included a session on military courts, a session on documenting violations at the military court, and a visit to Ofer military court.



### Addameer's advocacy actions in numbers

**82** international groups (1 368 people) were briefed by the Advocacy office since January.

**16** visits to military courts were coordinated and organized since January.

**11** Know your rights sessions were conducted by Addameer's training and awareness unit since January 2019. 3 were conducted in Jerusalem and 8 in the West Bank.

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