

# INCARCERATION & APARTHEID

STUDENTS  
FOR JUSTICE IN  
PALESTINE



Let's begin!

# Overview:

- Since the beginning of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank & Gaza Strip in 1967, Palestinians have been subjected to the highest incarceration rate in the world
- Total number of Palestinians arrested & detained is between 700-750,000
- Over the last 45 years, estimated 10,000 Palestinian women have been arrested or detained under Israeli military orders
- Following October 2015, an increase in mass arrests of children was seen from 155 at the end of August to 307 at the end of October
- Since 2000, more than 12,000 children have been detained & arrested

# First Intifada

- “Intifada”

When “long live the Intifada” was posted on Facebook by the [Barnard Columbia Socialists](#)—a group officially recognized by the University—I felt exposed and unprotected. “Intifada,” or “armed uprising,” has historically referred to an ongoing period of violence against Israeli civilians.

# List of events named Intifada

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Intifada may be used to refer to these events:

- **Iraqi Intifada**, a series of strikes and riots in Iraq in 1952, aimed against the Hashemite monarchy rule
- **October Revolution**, a series of strikes, riots, and demonstrations in Sudan, that ended with [the dissolution of the Abbud military regime and the beginning of second civilian rule](#) in 1964
- **March Intifada**, a leftist uprising against the British colonial presence in Bahrain in March 1965
- **Zemla Intifada**, against Spanish colonial rule in then Spanish Sahara, in June 1970
- In the Israeli-Palestine conflict:
  - **First Intifada**, a Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation lasting from December 1987 to 1993
  - **Second Intifada**, a period of intensified Israeli-Palestinian violence, which began in late September 2000 and ended around 2005
  - **2014 Jerusalem unrest**, a series of violent acts and attacks in Jerusalem in 2014 sometimes referred to as "Intifada"
  - **Israeli–Palestinian conflict (2015) - 2015 escalation in Israeli-Palestinian conflict**, sometimes referred to as "Al-Quds Intifada" or "Jerusalem Intifada" or "Knife Intifada"<sup>[7]</sup>
- **1990s uprising in Bahrain**, an uprising demanding a return to democratic rule, also known as the "1990s Intifada"
- **1991 uprisings in Iraq**, an armed uprising against Saddam Hussein in Iraq, also known as "Iraqi Intifada of 1991"
- In the **Western Sahara conflict**:
  - **First Sahrawi Intifada**, protests by Sahrawi activists in the Western Sahara, south of Morocco (1999-2004)
  - **Independence Intifada (Western Sahara)** or **Second Sahrawi Intifada**, demonstrations and riots in Western Sahara, south of Morocco, beginning in May 2005
  - **Gdeim Izik protests**, also referred as **Third Sahrawi Intifada** or simply **Third Intifada**
- **Cedar Revolution** or "Intifada of Independence". the events in Lebanon after Rafic Hariri's 2005 assassination

# First Palestinian Intifada

- 1987: mass protests erupt in Gaza after 20 years of continuous Israeli military occupation and martial law, quickly spread to the Occupied West Bank and Occupied East Jerusalem
- Protesters met with live fire; 1,489 Palestinians killed (B'Tselem)
- UN Security Council immediately passed resolutions condemning the IDF response:
  - “The Security Council strongly deplores the policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and in particular the opening of fire by the Israeli army, resulting in the killing and wounding of defenceless Palestinian civilians” (UNSC 605).

# Ktzi'ot/Ansar III

- Largest detention camp in the world
- Opened in 1988, by 1990 was holding 1 out of every 50 West Bank/Gazan males
- HRW: "in clear violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention forbidding the transfer of incarcerated persons from occupied territories to the territory of the occupying power."
- B'Tselem: "conditions in the facility were illegal and inhuman"; cells described as "human chicken coops."

# The UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (1955)

- “All accommodation provided for the use of prisoners and in particular all sleeping accommodation shall meet all requirements of health, due regard being paid to climatic conditions and particularly to cubic content of air, minimum floor space, lighting, heating and ventilation,” Article 10
- “Every prisoner shall, in accordance with local or national standards, be provided with a separate bed, and with separate and sufficient bedding which shall be clean when issued, kept in good order and changed often enough to ensure its cleanliness,” Article 19

# Human Rights Watch/B'Tselem Reports

- Prisoners in tents year-round, exposed to extreme weather conditions
  - >100 degrees in summer, <32 degrees in winter
- Cell walls (for non-tent cells) painted white in the winter, black in the summer
- Books, mail not allowed
- Meetings with lawyers limited to 15 minutes, 20 lawyers allowed into the prison in any given day (6,216 prisoners at time of HRW visit)

WOMEN

# UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners

- Childcare accommodations
- Nurseries
- “Measures applied under the law and designed solely to protect the rights and special status of women, especially pregnant women and nursing mothers, children and juveniles; aged, sick or handicapped persons *shall not be deemed to be discriminatory*”.

# The Arrest Process

- Often cited as the hardest period in the whole experience
- Most arrest occur at home, late at night
- Include:
  - Unlawful house searches
  - Forced evacuations
  - Interrogation of family members
  - Confiscation of belonging
  - Beatings
  - About 10-50 soldiers
- Following arrest, Palestinians are
  - Blindfolded & shackled for transferring to interrogation centers
  - Verbal harassment & threats
  - Not informed of where they will be transferred
- More than 50% of Palestinian female prisoners' families claim to suffer from psychological problems following the arrest of the women

# The Interrogation Process

- As per military orders, a Palestinian detainee can
  - Be interrogated for a total of 180 days
  - Denied lawyer visits for first 90 days
  - Held for up to 8 days without reason
- Common techniques utilized:
  - Sleep deprivation
  - Loud music
  - Threats to family & sexual assault
  - Extreme temperatures

# Women's Detention Centers

- Neve Terza in Ramla
  - Only specialized women's prison facility in Israel
  - Now serves the purpose of occasional transfers of female prisoners & short-term detentions
- No special facilities for untried female prisoners
  - Await trials in prison
  - Detained in rooms with prisoners
  - 2008 UN handbook confirms that this process is unacceptable
- Palestinian "security prisoners" wait for months or years before being tried, as per Israeli military regulations

# The Prisons

- Hasharon Prison (Telmond)
  - Established in 1953
- Damon Prison
  - Established in 1953
  - Served as a tobacco warehouse & stable
  - Designed to keep moisture in
  - Detention conditions described as unfit for humans, closed for 1 year & then reopened due to mass incarcerations

# Prison Accommodations: Room conditions

- Overcrowding: Women took turns sleeping on the floor
- Cells in Damon do not include showers, forced to use common bathrooms
- Iron bedframes, mattresses 3-5 centimeters thick
- Only thin blankets & sheets are permitted, thick ones are prohibited
- Temperature: cold & humid in winter, hot in summer
- Lack of sunlight
- Required to purchase luxury items from the canteen
  - Shampoo, soap, toothpaste, etc.

# Prison Accommodations: Food

- Permanent lack of fruits, vegetables, & proteins
- Served rotten fruits & veggies (during rare times when these items are served)
- Meals are prepared by Israeli criminal offenders & are often uneatable
  - Often find cockroaches in meals
  - Distrustful of what is being served

# Prison Accommodations: Clothing

- Families are only permitted to bring clothes every 3 months
- Forbids delivery of toys, generally any clothes with zippers, wool sweaters
- Regulations in terms of items permitted are arbitrary

# “Healthcare”

- Nurse practitioner is typically a man
- Language barrier
- Refusal to perform needed surgeries
- No preventative care
- Gynecological needs not met
- Physical education is nonexistent to most
  - Small space
  - Mail jailer presence brings discomfort to most from conservative backgrounds

# Pregnancy

- No prenatal or postnatal care given
- Women are chained to their beds before entering delivery rooms
- Can be shackled during labour, or immediately after
- Children taken away & brought twice a day for feeding
- Post-labour finds women still in constraints, unable to hold newborn
- The UNODC handbook clearly states, “the use of restraints on pregnant women during medical examinations, transport to hospital to give birth and during birth is unacceptable”

# Physical & Mental Health

- Randa May Wahbe (2012)
  - “The prison environment exacerbates the physical health problems of detainees. Insufficient nutrition over a long period is the main contributing factor in the types of ailments, particularly dental hygiene and digestive or stomach problems, affecting prisoners. Inadequate provision of health care in Israeli prisons seems to be the cause of poor health in prisoners. Continued follow-up of long-term prisoners is needed to monitor and improve their physical health.”
- Juan Mendex, UN Special Rapporteur on torture
  - “Israeli healthcare professionals give solitary confinement “medical stamp of approval” despite the argument that solitary confinement for more than 15 days constitutes torture and can result in permanent psychological damage

# Contact With the Outside World

- Families of Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails cannot visit freely
- Males between the ages of 16-45 are often denied visitation rights
- Anyone who has been arrested or questioned by Israeli authorities are prohibited
- Physical contact is only permitted for mothers with children under the age of 6 & no more than twice a year
- Arbitrary denial of visits
- Communication by phone is prohibited

# Solitary Confinement

- Over the past 2 years, Israel has doubled its use of solitary confinement for all prisoners (not including undocumented confinements)
- In 2009, UN committee against Torture found that Israel used isolation against Palestinians to encourage confessions from minors
- -Israeli healthcare professionals give solitary confinement “medical stamp of approval” despite the argument that solitary confinement for more than 15 days constitutes torture and can result in permanent psychological damage (2011, UN special rapporteur on torture, Juan Mendez)
- World Medical Associations Declaration of Tokyo in 2007
  - Physicians must report any instance of torture they witness.
  - IMA claim that physicians working for prisons are not its members & are only obliged to intervene to end the torture if they are able to identify “concrete risk to the prisoner’s health”

CHILDREN

# Notable Military Orders

- “Security offenses”
  - During the end of 2013, Israel prosecution tightened the penalty on stone throwers
- Military order 1651, article 212
  - Up to 20 years for stone throwing targeted at moving vehicle
- Military order 1711
  - Allows for detainment of a child between 12-13 for up to 24 hrs before referral to the court, with up to 48 hours for those 14-15, and 96 hours for those 16-18
- Military order 1726
  - Detainment may be extended up to 15 days for purpose of interrogation, up to 10 days each time, for a maximum of 40 times
- Military order 1745
  - Loophole that allows children arrested within security pretexts to be denied lawyers and audio-visual interrogation sessions

# Notable Violations of Palestinian Children

- Storming into homes after midnight or early dawn
- Prevention of parents/lawyers during interrogations
- Prevent detainee from consulting with lawyers
- Forcing them to sign testimonies written in hebrew
- Blackmailing & bargaining with children
- Beatings
- Verbal abuse
- Treats of killing and sexual assault
- Threats towards family members
- Often arrested with little or no evidence, military court often rely on soldiers' testimonies to convict
- According to the Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCIP) – of the children arrested in Jerusalem, only 11% had a parent or lawyer present during interrogation

# Education for Palestinian Children Prisoners

- Only allowed to study mathematics and humanities, all other subjects banned for “security reasons”
- Girls under the age of 18 & female prisoners receive no formal education
- Forced to study in prison courtyards with no protection from weather conditions
- Taught Israeli curriculum instead of their official curriculum
- Israeli boys given 20hrs of classes per week, none given to Palestinian children