

Treatment of Political Prisoners Held in Israeli Detention Centers: Focus on Female Detainees

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Abstract

This paper reviews the treatment of females, primarily Palestinian, in Israeli detention centers since the Israeli occupation of Palestinian Territories after the June 1967 war, which included the West Bank of the Jordan River, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. These human rights violations encompass emotional as well as physical abuses in violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This paper will reveal reports by various international human rights organizations as well as the findings of the Landau Commission and an appendix referred to as the secret Part II, which was not published with the report in October 1987 in which interrogators lied about the methods they used. As this paper will reveal, with the leadership approval of the use of torture in interrogation backed by government support, human rights violations transpire even in a state that claims to practice democracy. This paper calls upon the Israeli government to show the international community how it can be an international trailblazer by rejecting the use of physical, emotional, and mental torture methods to draw false confessions from those individuals detained for questioning.

Keywords: Female Detainees, Human Rights, Israel, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Torture

Introduction

Human rights—a simple concept, which has created major United Nations (UN) debates concerning member states' violations of basic human rights such as the right to life, liberty, security of person, as well as the right not to be subjected to slavery, torture, cruel and degrading treatment, among other rights stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights involving “the dignity and worth of the human person” (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948).

In too many instances, the international community has not fulfilled its duty toward the victims of human rights violators by not crying out loudly “foul play.” Instead, when the foul play has occurred, especially in the so-called less developed states, complacency has been accomplished by such beliefs as “human rights could only flourish in a western style democracy, founded on multiparty elections,” formulated by those who should be leading the moral battle against the violators, such as the former head of British Delegation to the UN Human Rights Commission, Mark Colville and Elliot Abrams, the Reagan Administration Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, who were in position to do so when the human right abuses reported in this paper were reported by various human rights organizations (Guest, 1990).

However, what is the excuse when a so-called democratic nation practices human rights violations. Should “national security,” the catch-all phrase for those nations, which have repeatedly indulged in acts too horrid and shocking to allow to continue unchallenged, be an adequate excuse acceptable by the international community.

Israel has been lauded by democratic western states as the shining beam of democracy in a sea of military and monarchical autocracies such as Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and North African states.

Should Israel be allowed to stand behind the national security immunity and violate the rights of the Palestinians living in the Occupied Palestinian Territories [formal reference by the United Nations; see Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Implementation of Human Rights Council Resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1, 2014] of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip? After all, Israel is a signatory to or has ratified a number of International Conventions on human rights (Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1999).

Since Israel is a member of the United Nations, it has pledged to uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 1948. The list of twenty plus covenants and conventions ratified by Israel is impressive and attests to Israel's regard for human rights. References to these documents will be included in the remainder of this report, which is primarily concerned with female detainees in Israeli institutions of detention revealing the Israeli government's disregard for some of the human rights instruments while dealing with Palestinian detainees.

This paper will reveal reports by various international human rights organizations concerning abuses of detainees in Israeli detention centers as well as the findings of the Landau Commission and an appendix known as the secret Part II, which was not published with the report in October 1987 in which interrogators lied about the methods they used stating, "Interrogation work . . . is a sacred mission which justified the means, any means . . . security is above the law" (Commission of Inquiry into the Methods of Investigation of the General Security Service Regarding Hostile Terrorist Activity, 1987, chapter 2, section 2.40 [also known as the Landau Commission Report]). As currently as 12 September 2014 as reported online by theguardian.com, "three veterans from one of Israel's most secretive intelligence units speak out about questionable surveillance tactics used against Palestinians. The men, along with 40 other reservists, past and present, have signed a public letter refusing to serve in operations involving the occupied Palestinian territories. They allege the widespread use of monitoring and oppressive tactics against innocent Palestinians" (Beaumont, 2014; see also Bamford, 2014). This paper will reveal that with the leadership approval of the use of torture in interrogation backed by government support, human rights violations transpired past and present in a state that adopted the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and claims to practice democracy.

Laws Applied in Governing the Occupied Territories

The Oslo Accords I and II negotiations (officially known as "Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements") took place between representatives of Palestine and Israel, in the presence of the United States, Russia, and the European Union, from 13 September 1993 to 28 September 1995 ending with the last sessions in Taba, Egypt in 2001. These two sets of negotiations were expected to help the two sides reach agreements to end the decades old conflict between the two groups (Oslo I, Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements) and resolve the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (Oslo II). The Oslo Accords called for each side to recognize the existence of each other (Palestinians recognize the existence of the State of Israel and Israel recognize the existence of the Palestine Liberation Organization representing the Palestinian people). Among the agreements was transfer of control of many Palestinian towns, villages, and cities in the West Bank as well as the Gaza Strip from Israeli military to the newly-created Palestinian Authority (PA), which oversaw administration and security in those areas as well as oversee municipal elections that first took place in 1996 (Oslo II Accords, Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip). Elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) and the legislature of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) were held on 25 January 2006 (Daraghme, 2012).

In September 2005, Israel completed pullout from the Gaza territory, which had begun in 2003, transferring control of the Gaza Strip to the Palestinian Authority, with continued Israeli patrol of Gaza borders and airspace. According to Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook (2014), currently Gaza Strip is under control of Hamas and the West Bank is governed by the Palestinian Authority.

Before the Oslo Accords, as the Country Reports of 1993 revealed, the "United States [as well as the international community] considers Israel's occupation to be governed by the Hague Regulations of 1907 Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land and the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilians in Time of War" (Country Reports, 1993). The same report confirms that Israel considers the Hague Regulations applicable, but not the Geneva Convention, which Israel believed, "applies only to occupation of territory legitimately belonging to a state that is a party to the Convention" (*International Human Rights Law and Israel's Efforts to Suppress the Palestinian Uprising*, 1989, pp. 14-16).

Therefore, Israel contends, neither Jordan from which Israel acquired the West Bank, nor Egypt, from which Israel acquired the Gaza Strip, were party to the Convention thus allowing Israel to refuse to be bound by the Convention. According to the National Lawyers Guild Report, Israel's view is rejected by other governments and the international community, which find that "the Convention applies regardless of . . . who holds sovereign rights in the territory under occupation" (*International Human Rights Law and Israel's Efforts to Suppress the Palestinian Uprising*, 1989).

According to Adam Roberts, Professor of International Relations at the University of Oxford, even though none of the states involved has ever been a formal party to the Fourth 1907 Hague Convention, in view of the customary international law, all are bound. Professor Roberts further clarifies that the four 1949 Geneva Conventions were ratified by Israel and Jordan in 1951 and Egypt in 1952 (Roberts, 1992).

In addition to these two international laws on human rights, others applicable to the treatment of individuals living in the Occupied Territories of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem are: the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights "whose applicability in the Occupied Territories has been urged in numerous UN General Assembly resolutions (Roberts, p.56); the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in which Israel signed and ratified, and in which Egypt, Jordan, and Syria have signed and ratified (Roberts, 1992); Israel also ratified the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, and the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Writing in 1988, a year after the Palestinian uprising or the Intifada, Jonathan Kuttab, Palestinian human rights lawyer practicing in Israel, Palestine, and New York, noted the practical obstacles that are faced by the Palestinian who may want to appeal to the International High Court of Justice (IHCJ) concerning Israeli violation of human rights. The first obstacle is that the IHCJ ordinarily takes claims and cases brought by one state against another. The Palestinians do not have a state of their own and the Palestinian Liberation Organization, considered by the Palestinians to be their legal representative, has received no recognition before the IHCJ. The second obstacle faced by Palestinians wanting to present their case against Israeli violations of their rights is that even if they request of another Arab state that is considered a supporter of the Palestinian cause to bring action on their behalf before the IHCJ, Israel would not have to participate in the legal procedures if it chooses not to participate (Kuttab, 1992).

Kuttab noted alternative possibilities such as: 1) the UN Security Council can request an Advisory Opinion, but has been discounted because of the veto, which the US exercises on behalf of Israel; and 2) the UN General Assembly can bring a request for an Advisory Opinion and has been considered a few times (Kuttab, 1992).

A possibility of any Palestinian filing complain against Israeli human rights abuses is in connection to the Palestinian Authority application to join the International Criminal Court (ICC), created in 2002 to prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes (Rudoren, 2015). A day after Palestine was denied statehood by the UN's Security Council, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas signed papers on 31 December 2014 ratifying the Rome Statute to join the International Criminal Court, entering into force 1 April 2015; this membership resulted because Palestine was granted observer state status on 30 November 2012 allowing it to join UN organizations (Gordon, 2014; Ariosto and Pearson, 2012, November 30). In joining the ICC, despite United States and Israel objection, the Palestinians will have "a venue to pursue war crimes charges against Israel" (Abukhater, 2014, December 31). Among states not party to the International Criminal Court Rome Statute are the United States and Israel (Sinha, 2014).

Reports of Treatment of Detainees in Israeli Institutions of Detention

The security forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territories have two divisions—the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and the General Security Services (GSS) also known as the Shin Bet or Shabak (*Torture and Ill-Treatment: Israel's Interrogation of Palestinians from the Occupied Territories*, 1994, p. 1). The IDF is the army security force and the GSS is generally comprised of the police and paramilitary border police. Both units interrogate detainees. While a fine line separates which unit interrogates which type of detainees, for the tortured victim no difference exists.

Residents of the Occupied Territories of the West Bank of the Jordan River and Gaza Strip charged with security offences are tried under military law in military courts, which were set up by the Israeli government after the June 1967 war and before the Oslo Accords I and II.

Recently, as reported by *Haaretz*, the president of the military court system in the West Bank has been trying to have Israel's penal code applied to Palestinian residents in the territory instead of the mix of military orders and the Jordanian penal code; West Bank penal code tends to be harsher than Israeli penal code (Levinson, 2015). Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem and all Israeli citizens are tried under Israeli law. The Country Reports acknowledges that those "subject to Israeli law . . . receive better treatment than Palestinians under military occupation law" (Country Report, 1994, p.1202; Country Report, 2012; see also, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices-2002).

Teresa Thornhill, a barrister practicing in London, spent eight months in 1989 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip interviewing Palestinian and Israeli ex-detainees for her first book, *Making Women Talk* (Thornhill, 2010). Thornhill's book is the first to be devoted solely to the treatment of female detainees in various Israeli centers of detention. In Thornhill's text is noted:

. . . a wide range of offences are classed as "security" offences. They include: (a) offences specifically classified as such in Military Orders (some of which are clearly political, for example "the congregation of ten or more people for the purpose of discussing a political subject", and "insulting behavior toward an IDF officer"); (b) criminal offences which may be security offences in some circumstances (for example failing to prevent an offence, distributing pamphlets, providing false information); and (c) offences against the military justice system (for example escaping from legal custody, contempt of court) and some financial offences (for example, failure to pay income tax, custom fraud) (Thornhill, 1992).

According to the Country Reports, by the end of 1993, a total of 9,573 Palestinians were incarcerated (Country, 1994, p.1205); by the end of November 2014, 5,527 Palestinian security detainees and prisoners were held in Israeli prisons, 362 from the Gaza Strip, and an additional 776 Palestinians were held in Israel Prison Service (IPS) facilities for being in Israel illegally, twenty of them from the Gaza Strip (Statistics on Palestinians in the Custody of the Israeli Security Forces, 2015).

According to B'Tselem, the Israeli information center for human rights in the occupied territories established in 1989, the Israeli government practice of administrative detention is detention without charge or trial that is authorized by administrative order rather than by judicial decree (Administrative Detention, updated 2014, September 21). According to the same B'Tselem report, "Israel's use of administrative detention blatantly violates the restrictions of international law. Israel carries it out in a highly classified manner that denies detainees the possibility of mounting a proper defense. Moreover, the detention has no upper time limit. Over the years, Israel has placed thousands of Palestinians in administrative detention for prolonged periods of time, without trying them, without informing them of the charges against them, and without allowing them or their counsel to examine the evidence. In this way, the military judicial system ignores the right to freedom and due process, the right of defendants to state their case, and the presumption of innocence, all of which are protections clearly enshrined in both Israeli and international law. As of the end of July 2014, Israel was holding about 446 Palestinians in administrative detention" (Administrative Detention, update 2014).

According to the same B'Tselem report, Israel has held thousands of Palestinians in administrative detention, ranging from several months to several years. The highest number of administrative detainees was documented during the first intifada, which took place on 5 November 1989 resulting in Israel holding 1,794 Palestinians in administrative detention. In the early and mid-1990s, the number of administrative detainees ranged from 100 to 350 at any given moment, and by the end of the decade, there were no more than a few dozen detainees held at the same time. On 13 December 2000, two and a half months after the second intifada erupted, Israel held 12 Palestinians in administrative detention. In March 2002, the number stood at 44 (Administrative Detention, update 2014).

The same report offers additional figures such as: by the end of 2002, in which Operation Defensive Shield took place in April, Israel administratively detained more than 1,000 Palestinian detainees; during the 2005-2007 period, there was an average of about 750 administrative detainees at any given moment; in December 2010, the number of administrative detainees stood at 204; July 2013 indicated the lowest number of detainees at 134 with the number of detainees rising peaking in June-July 2014, when Israel launched Brother's Keeper following the abduction and murder of three yeshiva students in which about 250 Palestinians were issued detention orders.

It should be noted that Israel also has held a small number of Israeli citizens in administrative detentions for short periods (Administrative Detention, update 2014). According to Abdul-Nasser Ferwana, Head of the Census Department of the Palestinian Detainees' Committee, the current number of Palestinian detainees in Israeli detention centers is 6500 held in 18 prisons, detention camps, and interrogations centers. Two hundred of the detainees are children, 21 are women, and close to 500 are held under administrative detention without charges or trial (Bannoura, 2014).

B'Tselem's position is that the government of Israel must release all administrative detainees or prosecute them, in accordance with due process, for the offenses they allegedly committed. As long as Israel continues to use administrative detention, it must do so in a way that comports with international law -- only in the most exceptional cases, when there is no other alternative, and in a proportionate manner (Administrative Detention, update 2014).

Reports of Treatment of Female Detainees in Israeli Institutions of Detention

Through various reports on human rights abuses by official organizations such as Human Rights Watch/Middle East, B'Tselem, Haaretz, EthicsinPolicing, Institute for Middle East Understanding, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Organization Against Torture, and the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices by the U.S. State Department Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor among many other reporting facilities, there are a plethora of stories of human rights abuses; however, this report will begin with information offered by Thornhill as reported in her book, *Making Women Talk*.

According to Thornhill, the GSS have established a protocol applicable specifically to female detainees. These techniques include: 1) sexual harassment; 2) manipulation of the Arab notion of 'female honor'; and 3) manipulation of mothers' concern about their children (Thornhill, 1992).

At the detention center the detainees may be held for days or weeks without any contact with family or a lawyer, without appearing in court, and without receiving medical. Thornhill reports that at the detention center the GSS attempts to destroy the detainee's physical wellbeing by treatment in which the detainee:

will be prevented from sleeping and efforts will be made to disorient her.
A foul-smelling sack will usually be placed over her head when she is transferred from one part of the GSS section to another. She may be interrogated in the middle of the night, and in between sessions she may be held in darkness, or in an artificially lit cell, so that she loses all sense of time (Thornhill, 1992, p.22).

As the detainee loses physical strength due to the above treatment and lack of food and personal hygiene, she is subjected to physical pain or the fear of physical pain. The Jewish detainees were treated differently being assured that they would not be physically hurt (Thornhill, 1992, p.23).

The stories of physical pain were numerous detailing diverse methods. Fatma Abu Bakra reported being hit on the head and choked:

I was beaten on my head. . . . [My interrogator] would strangle me. He was tall and held me from the back so my legs would not touch the floor. He would put his fingers on my throat and when I gasped for breath he would release me and look at his watch. This happened four or five times a day for three days (Thornhill, 1992, p. 24).

Sabah was a form of torture in which the detainee would be placed in an outdoor yard exposed to the weather in very uncomfortable positions with a foul-smelling sack placed over their head.

Terry Boullata was one of thousands to experience the following:

At night I was regularly taken to the yard for Shabah. I would be made to perch on a low concrete ledge which projected from the wall, with my hands tied behind me to a metal bar. There was a metal spike sticking out of the wall so that I could not straighten my back. A foul-smelling sack was placed over my head (Thornhill, 1992, p. 24).

Another form of sensory deprivation experienced by the female detainees is a tiny, dark, claustrophobic closet nicknamed by the detainees as the "coffin," the "grave," and the "cupboard." Maha Nassar describes for Thornhill the physical discomfort and psychological torture while locked up in the closet, "It measures about one metre by one metre.

You cannot lie down, you have to stand or squat. . . . I could hear. . . . a slow knocking sound which seems to come from a very deep place. . . . a snake hissing . . . the sound of deep crying. . . . for a long time” (Thornhill, 1992, p.27).

The use of sexual harassment at the time that the detainee is becoming weak from lack of sleep, lack of food, and experiencing physical pain is telling of the lengths the interrogators will go to obtain false confessions. The abuse comes in the forms of verbal sexual taunts, threats of, and in some cases actual, assault. Report of sexual harassment was reported not only by Thornhill but also online by various human rights organizations (see also the following reports of a sample of sexual harassment and general abuse of female detainees in Israeli detention centers: Palestinian Female Detainees Tell Horrific Stories of Abuse in Israeli Prisons, 08 March 2012, Al Arabiya News, retrieved from: <http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/03/08/199371.html>; “In Need of Protection”: Palestinian Female Prisoners in Israeli Detention, November 2008, retrieved from: <http://addameer.org/files/Reports/in-need-of-protection-palestinian-female-prisoners.pdf>, among many other reports). Thornhill writes in her book on pages 30-31 and 33-34 the cases of sexual harassment narratives reported by Fatma Abu Bakra and Salwa Abu Hani.

Children held in detention centers were also physically abused. Dr. Ronnie Hammerman, a member of the Association for Aid to Imprisoned Minors reported to The Jerusalem Post (10 March 1990) that she thought that parents were exaggerating when they described severe prison conditions for juveniles at the Russian Compound. However, when she witnesses the children as they were brought from the lock up to the court, she could not believe what she was seeing—some could not walk, others were wet or soiled or had swollen eyes. She reported seeing the guards pushing and shouting abuses at the children as they were brought into the court room. Hammerman reported:

There’s almost no chance that a child will be held there without suffering beatings, slaps or kicks on the legs. . . . There was a particularly abusive guard at the Russian Compound about whom the association has heard repeatedly. In September, he allegedly bear a 10-year-old so severely with an iron bar that the youth developed breathing problems and had to be sent to the hospital. . . . In another case, the guard is said to have pushed another 10-year-old against an urn of hot water . . . , [which] spilled onto the youth’s legs (Ackerman, 1990).

In the same article, Dr. Hammerman reported first witnessing harsh treatment of children by the authorities when she was in Nablus to watch the 1988 Deita trial:

While we were waiting in front of the military government headquarters, we saw soldiers bringing a few kids there with their hands cuffed behind their backs. The children seemed to be about the same age [of my] younger son who was six at the time (Ackerman, 1990).

The Association for Aid to Imprisoned Minors turned over their findings to B’Tselem, a Jewish human rights group, which passed the reports on to members of the Knesset Interior Committee. Even the members of the Interior Committee, after a tour of the detention, “were deeply moved by the condition in which the Palestinians juveniles were detained . . . seeing the conditions was ‘hard to take’” (Kampeas, 1990).

Landau Commission Report

Amnesty International reported in the April 1994 publication titled, *Israel and the Occupied Territories: Torture and Ill-Treatment of Political Detainees*, on the official secret guidelines for interrogation by the GSS, which allows “the exertion of a moderate measure of physical pressure (Israel and the Occupied Territories, 1994). These guidelines were drawn from the “Commission of Inquiry into the Methods of Investigation of the General Security Service Regarding Hostile Terrorist Activities” established in May 1987 and headed by Supreme Chief Moshe Landau and termed the Landau Commission (*Israel and the Occupied Territories*, 1994).

One of the findings reported in the public part of the report, which was published in October 1987, was that the

GSS interrogators, faced with the “dilemma” between revealing methods of interrogation which could lead a court to reject confessions, and committing perjury in order to ensure the conviction of suspects they ostensibly believed to be guilty on the basis of other, classified, evidence simply lied: “False testimony in court soon became an unchallenged norm which was to be the rule for 16 years (para 2.30 in *Israel and the Occupied Territories*, 1994, p.10).

The Landau Commission lists the means of pressure permissible during interrogation in a “code of guidelines for GSS interrogators, which define . . . the boundaries of what is permitted to the interrogator and mainly what is prohibited to him” (*Israel and the Occupied Territories*, 1994, p.12). To this day these guidelines are contained in a second part, which remains secret and unpublished only to be reviewed annually by a “small Ministerial Committee” empowered to make “whatever changes it deems fit, according to changing circumstances” (*Israel and the Occupied Territories*, 1994, p.12). Naturally, the Landau Commission has been criticized by legal scholars on many levels especially in allowing the use of the legal concept of “necessity” to justify “moderate” pressure and the use of torture by interrogators to obtain false confessions. (*Israel and the Occupied Territories*, 1994, p.13).

International Organizations Response to Israeli Treatment of Torture of Political Detainees

Thornhill, as well as subsequent writers of the treatment of female detainees in Israeli detention centers, dispenses any doubt about whether Palestinian women were simply ill-treated rather than be tortured by quoting the definition of torture as found in Article 1 of the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 1984, which was ratified by Israel on 3 October 1991:

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, . . . 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. . . . (UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 1984).

There is no doubt that what was perpetrated on the detainees as described in the above section of this paper is torture. The women interviewed suffered “severe pain or suffering” either physically or mentally or both; the motive was to obtain information or a confession, and the interrogators were acting in an official capacity.

Various international organizations have responded in various ways to Israeli’s treatment of political detainees and have voiced recommendations, resolutions, and condemnations including the United Nations, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Country Reports by the U.S., and B’Tselem among others.

Amnesty International has done extensive research in the violations of human rights in Israel and has reported these violations to the United States, European Union member states, and the United Nations. On 7 March 2012, Amnesty International sent to Joao Nataf, Secretary of UN Committee against Torture, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights a document titled, *Israel – Adoption of List of Issues by the Committee Against Torture*, in which the document presents concerns “about Israel’s failure to implement key provisions of the Convention [against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment] both in Israel and in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. In particular, Amnesty International is concerned about the continued use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment during arrest and detention of Palestinians, including minors” (Amnesty International Secretariat, 2012).

Nine recommendations were issued in the Amnesty International April 1994 report and are: 1) review of legislation relating to arrest, detention and interrogation, and application in practice in order to bring them into line with international standards; 2) prompt access to judges within 48 hours after arrest; 3) prompt access to lawyers, doctors and relatives for more than 48 hours after arrest and detention; 4) interrogation guidelines: prohibit any “physical pressure” and other coercion; 5) separate detention and interrogation functions and remove any interrogation function of civilians from the IDF; 6) medical personnel must not be involved in torture and should promptly report abuses to the judicial and professional authorities, while being protected against reprisal; 7) effective investigations of allegations of torture and deaths in custody with prosecutors and judges playing an active role in the investigations and victims should be compensated; 8) safeguards in plea-bargaining in which prosecutors should be forbidden from suggesting less favourable plea-bargains to defendants who intend to challenge the admissibility of their confessions; and 9) full implementation of human rights treaties requiring the Israeli government to withdraw all reservations from the ICCPR [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights] and the Convention against Torture fully implementing the guarantees in human rights treaties, in law and in practice, and recognize that they apply to the Occupied Territories as well as Israel (*Israel and the Occupied Territories*, 1994, pp.28-30).

According to Amnesty International 2012 document sent to Joao Nataf, Secretary of UN Committee against Torture, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as current reports of Israeli treatment of all detainees, not only women, these recommendations have not been implemented fully or even partially.

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Functional Commission of the Economic and Social Council, receives many documents and statements from countries and organizations concerning Israel's violations of Palestinians rights (as an example see: *Commission on Human Rights: Report on the Forty-Fourth Session*, United Nations Doc. E/CN.4/1988/88), retrieved from:

www.jstor.org/discover/761920?sid=21105644907053&uid=4&uid=3739256&uid=3739840&uid=2). The Commission has noted several relevant Security Council resolutions in each annual report and has offered its own condemnations and requests such as:

1. Condemns the policies and practices of Israel which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel military force, including. . . the perpetration of crimes of torture in Israel prisons and detention centres (Commission on Human Rights: Report on the Forty-eighth Session, 1992, p.22).
2. Calls once more upon Israel, the occupying power, to desist from all forms of violation of human rights in the Palestinian . . . and its commitments to the provisions of the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations (Commission on Human Rights: Report on the Forty-eighth Session, 1992, p.22).

As was stated above on page thirteen, the position of B'Tselem, the Israeli information center for human rights in the occupied territories, concerning Israeli treatment of political detainees is that the government of Israel must release all administrative detainees or prosecute them, in accordance with due process, for the offenses they allegedly committed (Administrative Detention, update 2014).

Conclusion

BBC News reported on February 2000 that “an official Israeli report has acknowledged for the first time that the Israeli security service tortured detainees during the Palestinian uprising, the Intifada, between 1988 and 1992” (Israel Admits Torture, 2000). Unfortunately, as the above recent reports have revealed, the torture has not stopped since first reported and those who have been held in detention since the creation of the State of Israel in 1948 have known this for decades.

Forty-eight years have passed since the Palestinian territories of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip have come under Israeli control in 1967. Even though Oslo Accords I and II of 1993-2001 in which Israel withdrew from some Palestinian towns in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip was supposed to ease tensions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, inhabitants of the region still are detained and tortured to confess for such “crimes” as belonging to a political organization or being related to a person arrested previously.

The main point of this report is to do more than just report on and condemn abuses of detainees in Israeli detention centers. This report calls upon the government of Israel to show the international community how it can be an international leader is rejecting the use of physical, emotional, and mental torture methods on those individuals detained for questioning. Israel can be a trailblazer by not attempting to draw false confessions through torture techniques. Too many other states worldwide use torture, rape, and murder for any and every reason that the authorities of those nation-states feel justify the use of torture on detainees. Israel can reject these methods of questioning and lead the international community in revealing humane treatment of all detainee—women, children, and males.

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