



**Military Court Watch**  
Monitoring the treatment of children in Israeli military detention

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**Evidence from parents of child detainees**

**2013 - 2023**

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**ANNEXURE C**

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**Date: November 2023**

**2013****Testimony 1**

**Name:** Fardos B.  
**Age:** 46  
**Date:** 27 March 2013  
**Location:** Deir Nidham, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Fardos B. of Deir Nidham, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I was unable to sleep when at around 1:30 a.m. I looked out the kitchen window and saw the lights of an Israeli army jeep at the entrance to our village. I always keep an eye on the road, watching army vehicles and wondering what they might be up to. I woke my husband up and alerted him. About 30 minutes later I heard very loud banging at our front door. I was shaken.
2. Then I heard soldiers speaking to my brother-in-law who lives with his family on the ground floor. My son D., my sister and my mother, who were staying with us at the time, woke up frightened. Minutes later the soldiers came to our front door.
3. About 10 soldiers, some of whom were masked, entered our home and started to search. They didn't tell us what they were looking for. Some went up to the roof and looked around the water tanks and the solar heater. They asked my husband about our children and when he mentioned D.'s name the Commander told him he wanted to take D. for questioning and would return him in a couple of hours. They didn't tell us what they were going to question him about. Then they ordered all of us to exit our house.
4. The soldier's tied D.'s hands to the front with one plastic tie and led him out of the house. I followed and asked them not to take D but they didn't listen to me. I was trembling out of fear and my knees could no longer hold me. I collapsed and sat on the stairs and watched as D. was taken away. I felt my heart was about to stop. I felt completely helpless and terrified.
5. I didn't sleep that night; we were all shaken. I kept looking out the window hoping that they might bring D. back as they said they would but they never came. Each passing car gave me some hope until it disappeared into the darkness. I was worried that they might beat D. or hurt him during the questioning and prayed for his safety. He is a quiet boy and likes to play football and is doing well at school. He had a science exam the following day which he missed.
6. For two days we heard nothing. We didn't know where he was until Friday when D. managed to call us from Ofer prison, near Jerusalem. He spent four days in detention and was released without charge. I never expected that he might be targeted; I find it strange

that they came after someone like D. I think they wanted to send us a message that no one is safe and to keep us frightened all the time so that we don't think about anything else.

7. We were not informed about D.'s release so we were not there to take him home. I was so happy when he arrived at around 11:00 p.m. He looked tired and bewildered. He didn't tell me he was beaten until a few days later. He told me soldiers kicked and slapped him and the interrogator wanted him to confess against other children. Since his release, D. stays home when soldiers are around.
8. This is how life is in our village. Every other night a house is raided and a person is arrested. An army vehicle often patrols the entrance to the village, sets up a checkpoint and prevents people from going in and out. Sometimes early in the morning when children are going to school, sometimes in the afternoon when people come back from work. I find it hard to fall asleep at night and when I do, I wake up to the slightest sound around the house. I am constantly worried about what might happen next.
9. All this is because an Israeli settlement has been built a few hundred meters away from our village and because there is a road that connects it to other settlements. I don't see an end to troubles as long as the settlement is there.

## Testimony 2

**Name:** Naifeh N.  
**Age:** 50  
**Date:** 7 April 2013  
**Location:** Al 'Arrub refugee camp, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Naifeh N. of Al 'Arrub refugee camp, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I was asleep when I woke up to the voice of my son telling me Israeli soldiers were at our door. I had no idea why the soldiers had come to our house at 3:00 a.m. My husband wasn't at home that night as he was on night duty. My son opened the door and found about 30 soldiers in front of our house; some were masked and looked really scary. A television crew from Israel's Channel 2 was also with them. They filmed everything.
2. One of the soldiers spoke very good Arabic and asked my son for his name. He also asked him who else was in the house. When my son mentioned his younger brother A., the soldier asked him to go and tell A. to come. A., who is 15, and physically small for his age, was terrified to be woken up by his brother knowing he was wanted by the soldiers. The soldier then asked to see my Identity card and checked A.s name on it. I begged the soldiers not to take A. away. I said none of them would like to see their children taken away like this in the middle of the night, but they did not listen to me.
3. The soldiers told A. to get dressed because they were going to take him. A. begged them not to take him that night because he had a school exam the following day, he didn't want to fail. The soldier didn't say anything but the commander told A. not to worry because if everything went well he would be home the following day. This was the first time my son A. was arrested. Nobody told us where they were taking him or why. It was a terrible night, I couldn't go back to sleep.
4. In the morning I received a phone call from the interrogator. He told me to bring money to the Israeli police station in Etzion settlement. He said bring NIS 2,000 to NIS 3,000 shekels so that A. could be released. I borrowed money from friends and relatives and went with my other son to Etzion. At Etzion we looked for A. from one place to another before locating him. I was hoping to take him back home with me but this didn't happen. The policeman told me they were going to keep him. I felt very sad. I was able to see A. from behind a fence. He seemed o.k. probably because he thought he was going to be released. When he realised this wasn't going to be released he started to cry. This broke my heart.
5. Later that night A. was transferred to Ofer prison, near Jerusalem. A lawyer told us there would be a military court hearing for A. on 9 April 2013. On that day I left the house at 6:00 a.m. and didn't leave Ofer military court until 4:00 p.m. It was a long and exhausting day. In court, when I saw A. in shackles, I cried. He cried when he saw me. The lawyer

told him that his file was missing, so the military judge adjourned the case to 11 April 2013.

6. A.'s case was reviewed by a court appointed social worker who recommended that he be released. On 23 April 2013, after five court appearances and 16 days in prison, A. was released on bail. We had to pay NIS 4,000 in bail. The military judge ordered A. to remain under house arrest for a whole year. He is only allowed to attend a court session, that's all. This decision has been devastating; he hasn't been going to school since he was released. His mind is distracted and he is unable to study at home. I have asked private teachers to come to our house to give him private lessons because I don't want him to miss this school year.
7. A. has changed since this incident; he is defiant, doesn't listen to me and is finding it hard to stay at home while his friends and classmates go to school. The lawyer is costing us a lot of money too, we already paid him NIS 3,000 and it is not clear what he will be able to achieve. I can't wait for this nightmare to be over and for our lives to go back to normal.

### Testimony 3

**Name:** Leila W.  
**Age:** -  
**Date:** 6 August 2013  
**Location:** Al 'Arrub refugee camp, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Leila W. of Al 'Arrub refugee camp, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. On 6 August 2013, I was still awake when my son S., who is 15, came home at around 1:00 a.m. He had been to the youth club in the camp. It was Ramadan and people stay up late. Minutes after S. entered our house I heard a commotion outside our front door and looked through the window to see what was going on. I saw Israeli soldiers surrounding our house. My other son went to the door. The soldiers told him to get back inside and shut the door. Minutes later the soldiers opened our door and came in.
2. Four soldiers entered our home and the commander asked my husband for his identity card and told him to call his sons. I then heard the commander ask for S. I lost my mind and couldn't believe it when I realised they had come for my youngest boy. I stormed into the living room where they were sitting and shouted at the commander. I told him I wanted to give S. a warm jacket. S. barely had time to put on his jacket and shoes before they dragged him out of our house. Young men from the camp began throwing stones at the soldiers to stop them taking S., but the soldiers rushed with S. and took him away to the entrance of the camp.
3. All this happened so quickly that I was in shock. I had no time to process or comprehend what was going on. The soldiers didn't tell us why they wanted to take S. away or where they were taking him. I thought they would question him and bring him back a day or two later because he is not involved in anything. I couldn't sleep that night. I was worried that they might beat him or leave him out in the cold.
4. The next morning my husband received a phone call from Etzion police station saying S. was held there. The person told my husband to appoint a lawyer and to go to the police station. When my husband got to the police station they told him S. wasn't there and that he had been transferred to Ofer prison, near Jerusalem, nearly 40 kilometres away.
5. Two days later we were informed that S. was going to appear in Ofer military court. I left the house very early in the morning to get to Ofer in time. I was shocked when I saw my son in metal chains, wearing prison clothes. He looked tired and bewildered. His face was pale and he looked scared. I lost my mind. I tried to control myself because I didn't want to worry him anymore. I whispered to him across the room and told him not to worry because he hadn't done anything wrong. My heart was burning inside and I felt tightness in my chest. I tried to speak to S. but the guard didn't allow me. Later the judge allowed me to get closer and to talk to him. I asked S. whether he was eating well and tried to

assure him everything was going to be all right. The court hearing lasted for about 30 minutes and was adjourned for a week.

6. I think S. had about seven court hearings and I attended most of them. Two months after his arrest S. was sentenced to three months in prison, fined NIS 2,000 and given a six-month suspended sentence for three years. This was after the lawyer negotiated a plea bargain for him when at the last minute the prosecutor claimed there was secret evidence provided by the Shin Bet, the notorious internal security service, that S. was seen throwing an empty bottle and a stone at Qalandia checkpoint, near Ramallah, on 15 May 2013. This is ridiculous not only because S. had never been to Qalandia, but also because he was accused of throwing stones in Al 'Arrub refugee camp, about 40 kilometres away, on the same day.
7. It was a harsh sentence for a young boy and I was shocked and sad when I heard it. My husband and I were not given permits to visit S. in prison. The only time we saw him was in court. It was the longest month in my life. The whole time when S was in jail I didn't sleep well. I would stay up until 3:00 or 4:00 a.m. thinking and worrying about him. I lost my appetite and had no desire to eat. I lost about 10 kilograms in three months. The hardest thing was not to see him in front of me. I missed him badly.
8. We were not informed of the exact day of his release. My husband and I thought he was going to be released on 6 October 2013, and we went and waited outside Ofer prison but S. never showed up. On 29 October 2013, my husband received a phone call from S. who told him he had been released. I couldn't believe it when my husband told me. When S. arrived in a taxi at 8:30 p.m. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw him. He had grown taller and looked happy. I hugged him for the longest time and didn't want to let go of him. I hugged him in disbelief and kept asking myself whether this was for real. It was the happiest day in my life.
9. It was a tough experience for S. He now spends a lot of time at home and doesn't want to hang out with his friends. When soldiers enter the camp, he hides in his room and doesn't leave the house until he is sure the soldiers are gone.

**2014****Testimony 4**

**Name:** Fatima M.  
**Age:** 46  
**Date:** 22 May 2014  
**Location:** Deir Nidham, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Fatima M. of Deir Nidham, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I live in the village of Deir Nidham with my husband and six children. Our village is situated between the Israeli settlement of Halamish and a road used by the settlers and military.
2. On 19 May 2014, at about 5:00 p.m., my brother-in-law came and told me that Israeli soldiers had detained two of my sons at the entrance to our village and wanted their ID cards. I gave their ID cards to my brother-in-law who then took them to the soldiers. Sometime later my brother-in-law returned and told me that the soldiers were not going to release my sons until my youngest son J., who is 13-years-old, went to the soldiers. I was shocked because J. is young and has never taken part in any demonstrations in the village. My brother-in-law insisted that we take J. to the soldiers because otherwise they would not release my other two sons who they were already holding.
3. We then took J. to the soldiers who were still waiting at the entrance to the village. They then made J. speak to an Israeli policeman on a phone. The commander then told me that we had to bring J. to the Israeli police station inside Binyamin settlement the next day and if we didn't the soldiers would come back in the middle of the night and arrest him. The soldiers then released my other two sons at around 10:00 p.m. After consulting my husband, who was traveling at the time, we advised my son not to go to the police station. We wanted him to focus on his school exams.
4. A few nights later, on 22 May 2014, at around 2:30 a.m., I woke up terrified to the sound of loud banging at our front door. I was home alone with my children as my husband was still abroad. I jumped out of bed and went to the door to see who it was. I heard the voice of soldiers shouting and banging at the door. I turned the key to signal to them I was about to open the door and rushed back to the bedroom to put some clothes on. The soldiers did not wait and broke open our front door and came to break down my bedroom door. I was shaking from fear and confusion, I was totally terrified.
5. The soldiers also went into my children's bedrooms and woke them up. The commander told all of us to gather in the living room and asked me about my 13-year-old son J. I asked him what he wanted from J. and told him to leave him alone as he was in the middle



of his school exams. The commander told me they were going to take him for questioning and would return him the following day. Of course, they never did.

6. The soldiers dragged J. outside where they aggressively twisted his arms behind his back and tied them with a plastic tie. I lost my mind when I saw this and realized my son was being taken away while I watched helplessly. I went crazy. The soldiers did not have any documents and didn't give us any details about where they were going to take J. That night the soldiers also arrested another boy, M., who was also 13-years-old.
7. Later that day, at around 2:00 p.m., J. called me to tell me that his father should go to the interrogation centre. Then someone grabbed the phone from J. and told me that I would not see him for a long time.
8. My son and the other boy were released at 11:00 p.m., on 26 May 2014. He was released without charge and we didn't have to pay any money. When he got home he told me how he was slapped and kicked and badly treated. He missed two of his school exams which he will have to take again. When he was released I could tell he wasn't able to concentrate of his school work and was always on the alert, watching and listening to what was going on outside the house for fear that there might be soldiers around.
9. I strongly believe soldiers sometimes target young children to teach them hard lessons. My son was released without charge but the experience was traumatizing, not only for him but for the entire family.

**2017****Testimony 5**

**Name:** Khitam T.  
**Age:** 40  
**Date:** 1 January 2017  
**Location:** Al 'Arrub refugee camp, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Khitam T. of Al 'Arrub refugee camp, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. At around 2:30 a.m. I woke up to the sound of commotion outside our house and the sound of soldiers speaking in Hebrew. My husband woke up too and he immediately told me to wake our 16-year-old son and let him know Israeli soldiers were in our neighbourhood.
2. Shortly afterwards we heard sounds outside our front door. My husband opened the door and a group of 10-15 soldiers entered our home. They were masked and had a fierce-looking dog with them which was not muzzled. I was terrified to see the soldiers and the dog.
3. Then the soldiers entered our son's bedroom and searched it making a mess. They tore mattresses and bedsheets and threw everything on the floor. They also searched the other rooms and messed them up too. My house was unrecognizable afterwards.
4. Our 8-year-old daughter was terrified when a soldier brought the dog close to her and the dog started to sniff. She was so scared that she wet herself. For months afterwards, our daughter would not leave my side. She wouldn't let me leave her for a second, not even to go to the bathroom. She is also too scared to sleep in her own bedroom now.
5. The soldiers then separated our son from the rest of us and took him to the living room. Then they came back and told us they wanted to arrest our son. They did not give us any documentation and did not tell us where they were going to take him. About three hours later the soldiers left with our son after messing up our home and scaring us.
6. I find it hard to express in words how I felt that night. The months that followed during the time when my son was in prison I isolated myself from everyone around me. I had no desire to see or to talk to anyone.
7. Israeli soldiers often come to our refugee camp. They wake people up and conduct arrests. Life here is difficult and unsafe. I constantly worry about my children and often think that they have no future.

**Testimony 6**

**Name:** Itidal J.  
**Age:** 51  
**Date:** 3 April 2017  
**Location:** Al 'Arrub refugee camp, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Itidal J. of Al 'Arrub refugee camp, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I woke up at around 2:30 a.m. to the sound of an explosion coming from our neighbour's house. Israeli soldiers had blown open their front door. I woke my husband and told him soldiers were in our neighbourhood. I also woke my son up and told him to put on some clothes.
2. Shortly afterwards we heard very loud banging at our front door. Shortly afterwards the soldiers broke open our front door and stormed into our house without waiting for us to open up. As soon as the soldiers entered our home they aggressively pushed my husband to one side and claimed he should have opened up the door faster.
3. The soldiers then asked for our 16-year-old son and alleged that he had earlier thrown stones at soldiers. When I told them my son does not throw stones they accused me of lying and showed me some photographs of clashes with soldiers.
4. By this time our son was in the living room and when the soldiers saw him they started to beat him in front of me. Then a soldier smashed our television and a computer as well breaking the bathroom door. When I tried to intervene, a soldier pushed me into another room and shut the door.
5. My 18-year-old daughter was terrified. When she complained about her brother being beaten a soldier raised his arm threatening to beat her. When she swore at the soldier he hit her hard on her shoulder. It was a chaotic scene, everyone shouting, and everyone very tense.
6. Then the soldiers told us they wanted to arrest our 16-year-old son and they immediately blindfolded him. They verbally abused him and called him "a son of a whore". Then they dragged him down the stairs and I heard them banging his head against the wall. I tried to calm my son down and told him to be strong and brave.
7. The house felt empty without our son. He is a lively boy and created a cheerful atmosphere in the house. I saw him in the military court and could barely hold my tears back.
8. Our son was released from prison about two months later and I have noticed a change in his behaviour. He has become short-tempered and rebellious.

9. Israeli soldiers come to our neighbourhood almost every night. It is a tough neighbourhood for us but especially for the young boys. I find it hard to sleep at night as I wait and watch and worry that soldiers might raid my house again at any time.

**Testimony 7**

**Name:** Fahimeh S.  
**Age:** 40  
**Date:** 4 April 2017  
**Location:** Al 'Arrub refugee camp, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Fahimeh S, of Al 'Arrub refugee camp, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I woke up at around 1:30 a.m. to the sound of loud banging at the door to our apartment building. At first, I thought I was dreaming but when I looked out the window I saw the neighbourhood was full of Israeli soldiers. I shouted down to the soldiers and told them to wait until we could come downstairs to open the door.
2. As soon as my brother-in-law opened the door seven soldiers stormed into the stairwell. First, they went to my husband's parents' apartment. Then they came to our apartment.
3. As soon as they entered our apartment they locked my young daughters in the living room. My youngest, who is 9-years-old, was terrified. She was in such shock that she couldn't go to school for a whole week.
4. Then the soldiers went into our 16-year-old son's bedroom and searched it. The soldiers then tied our son's hands and took him outside without giving us any documentation. They just told us he was suspected of throwing stones.
5. The house without our son is a sad place. I cried a lot, especially during Ramadan, when I missed him most. I found it very hard to sleep and a doctor gave me some pills to help me fall asleep. Our refugee camp is a scary place at night especially when soldiers conduct house-to-house searches and raids.
6. Our son was released from prison about five months after his arrest but he is a different boy. He is short-tempered and keeps changing his mind all the time. One day he goes to school and the next day he says he wants to drop out and start work. It is such a struggle to wake him up in the morning and get him ready for school. Each day he comes up with a different excuse; one day it is back pain, the next day it is a headache. Next year he has to sit for his high school exam and I am very worried about him.
7. Whenever our son now sees Israeli soldiers in our camp he runs home and hides. He spends hours on his computer and does not spend enough time with his friends.

## Testimony 8

**Name:** Manal M.  
**Age:** 38  
**Date:** 19 April 2017  
**Location:** Beit Ummar, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Manal M. of Beit Ummar, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I was fast asleep when I heard very loud banging at our front door. It was around 2:30 a.m. I looked out the window and saw a large number of Israeli soldiers and military vehicles around our house.
2. Then I heard my brother-in-law, who lives next door, telling us to open the front door. The banging did not stop and my two sons went downstairs to open the door. About 20 soldiers rushed into our house as if they were on a battlefield; most of them were masked and looked terrifying.
3. The commander ordered all of us to gather in the living room; my five children aged 5 to 19 years, my husband and myself. Then he asked to see our identity cards. When I asked him why he was in my home in the middle of the night he told me he wanted to arrest our 17-year-old son. When I asked him why, he told me he was obeying orders. I told the commander my son did not do anything wrong but he pretended not to hear me.
4. The commander then turned to our 17-year-old son and told him to say goodbye to us. I gave my son a hug and told him not to be scared and to take care of himself. My heart sank because I had a feeling they were taking him for a long time. I was trembling out of fear and tried to look strong in front of my family but I did not succeed. I felt totally helpless and scared. Then they took our son away without giving us any documents.
5. By this time the whole neighbourhood was awake and young men started to throw stones at the soldiers. The military vehicles drove away into the darkness and I felt I had just buried my son. There was darkness and emptiness all around me which lasted for months. Whatever I did and wherever I went I was haunted by the fact that my son was not home with me.
6. Although this was not the first time that my home was raided by the military, this time it left a deep impact on me. My sleep is now shallow and I wake up exhausted. I wake up many times during the night and I look out the window and look for soldiers. I still find it hard to go back to sleep even when I don't see soldiers around the house. My family and I live in constant fear.

## Testimony 9

**Name:** Imtithal T.  
**Age:** 49  
**Date:** 24 April 2017  
**Location:** An Nabi Saleh, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Imtithal T. of An Nabi Saleh, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I woke up at around 2:30 a.m. to the sound of a stun grenade exploding. Soon my daughter came to tell me that Israeli soldiers were at our front door and to get dressed. Everyone in our household, nine people, was awake when about seven soldiers entered our home. When I looked out the window I saw about 14 military jeeps in the area.
2. The commander told us to gather in the living room. Then the commander asked to see the identity card of S., our 23-year-old son. The commander then checked a photograph he brought with him and grabbed M., our 14-year-old son, by the neck saying he was under arrest.
3. I asked the commander to allow M. to put on some clothes and he allowed me to fetch them. Meanwhile our youngest daughter told the commander that M. was too young to arrest, but she was ignored. I was too scared to argue and I didn't want the soldiers to become angry and take it out on my son.
4. Then things got out of control and I found myself pulling M. by the arm in an attempt to free him from the soldier's grip. My husband and daughters were also pulling M. The soldiers became very tense and wanted to take M. as quickly as possible.
5. The soldiers then took M. outside. Then the commander showed my husband a document written in Hebrew and told him to sign it. My husband refused saying he wasn't going to sign something he didn't understand. The commander then told us that they were taking M. to the police station in Binyamin settlement and told us we could go there later on that morning to check on him.
6. When I asked the commander why they wanted to arrest our son he said it was because he was a "threat to the security of the State of Israel". When the soldiers left I started to cry; I felt scared and helpless. We could not go back to sleep and all our neighbours came over to support us.
7. Later that morning, when we went to Binyamin settlement to check on M., the guard at the entrance did not allow us to enter.
8. Last year our house was raided four times by the Israeli army. The army does this systematically because they want to break our spirits, especially the spirits of the young

people. Over the years my family has lost more than 25 acres of land to the nearby Israeli settlement of Halamish. The army makes our lives hell through night raids and arrests so we stop protesting against the loss of our land.



**Testimony 10**

**Name:** Susan J.  
**Age:** 36  
**Date:** 4 June 2017  
**Location:** Al 'Arrub refugee camp, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Susan J. of Al 'Arrub refugee camp, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I suddenly heard the sound of loud banging at around 5:00 a.m. It sounded like someone was kicking our front door. Shortly afterwards my 16-year-old daughter told me Israeli soldiers were at the door.
2. I got up and asked through the door who was there. Someone replied "the army". I told them to wait because I wanted to tell my brother-in-law, who lives upstairs, and ask him to come down. The soldiers refused and told me to open the door "now". Then they broke the door open using a metal ram.
3. By this time all the families living in the building were awake and they came down to our apartment. There were 14 people jammed into one small room. The oldest person was 40-years-old and the youngest 10-months.
4. About 25 soldiers entered our apartment; six of them wore facemasks. They spread out throughout the apartment and stood by each door.
5. The commander asked me to name my children and I did. Then he saw some empty beds and wanted to know where the children were. I told him that some of my children were at their grandparents' house. Then they searched our apartment and broke the door of a wardrobe and a computer.
6. The commander then pointed to my 14-year-old son, M., and said he wanted to take him away for "a talk" and would return him soon.
7. The soldiers allowed my 14-year-old to put his clothes on then took him away without giving us any further explanation or anything in writing. They left at around 6:30 a.m. As they left our building some young people from the camp threw stones at the military convoy and the soldiers responded with stun grenades and tear gas. It was like a war zone.
8. I was in shock as I worried about my young son who was fasting at the time for Ramadan and did not have enough sleep. I was worried about what he might say under interrogation as he is vulnerable and in a weak physical and mental state.
9. At around 4:00 p.m. an Israeli intelligence officer phoned to say my son had been questioned and did not confess and that he was being held at Ofer prison, near Jerusalem. I

could not sleep for two days and I lost my appetite. I could not eat knowing that my son was in prison. I constantly worried about him and wondered whether he had slept or eaten well.

10. My son was released without charge two days later but he is a different boy. He is short-tempered and stressed all the time and does not accept any advice from us. He keeps telling us to leave him alone.

**Testimony 11**

**Name:** Najah B.  
**Age:** 33  
**Date:** 4 June 2017  
**Location:** Al 'Arrub refugee camp, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Najah B. of Al 'Arrub refugee camp, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I woke up suddenly at around 5:00 a.m. when I heard loud banging at our front door. I woke my children up and we all gathered in the living room. My youngest is 5-years-old, and my oldest is 15 years.
2. My husband opened the front door and about 10 Israeli soldiers, in full military gear, entered our home. Two of the soldiers were wearing face masks. The soldiers had already broken the glass in the front door before my husband managed to get there.
3. The soldiers checked my husband's identity card and asked for our 15-year-old son. Then they separated our son from the rest of the family. I could tell our son was scared and confused.
4. The commander told us they wanted to arrest our son but did not say why or for how long. He did not give us any documents and within 30 minutes they had left the house with our son. They barely gave him enough time to put on his jacket and to say goodbye. The soldiers did not search the house or cause any damage.
5. In the meantime, the whole neighbourhood woke up and young men took to the streets and started to throw stones at the soldiers. I was very worried when this happened because I did not want our son to be hurt. Sometimes soldiers take it out on the detainees when young men start to throw stones at them.
6. Some of our neighbours rushed to our house after the soldiers had left. They wanted to check on us and to give us support. I was so shaken and disoriented that I could hardly speak.
7. Our son was released at around 6:00 p.m. later that day without charge. I was very happy when he came home but I also worried that he might be seen as a collaborator by people in the camp because he was released so quickly.
8. This is not the first time that our home has been raided. About two weeks ago a group of soldiers came in the middle of the night and I was home alone with the children as my husband was away. Also, two years ago a group of soldiers raided our home at night and were accompanied by a service dog. We were terrified.

9. Israeli soldiers come to our refugee camp almost every day, they don't leave us alone. They want to scare us into submission and the price we and our children pay is too high, we don't sleep, we don't rest, worry is our normal state of mind.

**Testimony 12**

**Name:** Nariman J.  
**Age:** 26  
**Date:** 10 July 2017  
**Location:** Deheisha refugee camp, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid

**I, Nariman J. of Deheisha refugee camp, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. It was a very hot night and I went to bed at around 2:00 a.m. My husband went to sleep downstairs in the living room because of the heat.
2. I had hardly fallen asleep when I heard a loud bang. I sat up in bed and looked through the dark room trying to figure out where the sound came from. Once my eyes adjusted I was horrified to see a person aiming a gun at me. He then shone a light in my face. I started screaming and shouting hysterically when I realised it was an Israeli soldier.
3. My daughter, who is one-and-a-half years old, woke up to the sound of me screaming and started to cry. The soldier then told me to "shut up". I quickly wrapped myself in the bed sheet and froze in my place. I was shivering and I felt my knees would not hold me if I tried to stand up.
4. My mobile rang but I couldn't answer it. I could hear my husband downstairs yelling at the soldiers from the living room. I was worried they might hurt him if he continued to shout so I told him I was all right and to calm down. He later told me the soldiers pushed him into the corner and told him to "shut up".
5. My mobile rang again and this time I answered it. It was my mother-in-law who wanted to warn me that Israeli soldiers were in our neighbourhood. I told her the soldiers were already in our home.
6. About six soldiers entered our home. They left after about half-an-hour without giving us any explanation. They did not arrest my husband or even search the house. I think it may have been a training exercise.
7. When the soldiers had left I found they had broken our metal front door. I could not sleep that night and felt sick the following day.
8. This is not the first time that Israeli soldiers have come to our home in the middle of the night. I feel unsafe and I want to leave and move somewhere else. I don't want to raise children in this environment.

**Testimony 13**

**Name:** Jamileh A.  
**Age:** 33  
**Date:** 24 July 2017  
**Location:** Tuqu, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Jamileh A. of Tuqu, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. My youngest son, who is 13-years-old, woke me up at around 2:30 a.m. and told me to get up because he saw Israeli soldiers outside our house. I was terrified. I had a feeling they were going to arrest one of my sons.
2. My husband opened the door and about 12 soldiers entered our home and asked my husband to wake his children. Then they told him they wanted to arrest our 15-year-old son, H. My heart sank but I gathered all my courage and asked the commander why he was arresting H. The commander told me not to worry because he would bring him back as soon as the questioning was over.
3. Although I pleaded with the commander not to beat H. I later found out that he was beaten.
4. The soldiers took H. outside and disappeared into the dark. About 15 minutes later my husband received a phone call from the nearby Israeli military base. I was terrified something bad had happened to H. They summoned my husband to the military base where they gave him a document with details about H.'s arrest.
5. By this time the whole neighbourhood was awake and lots of people came to our house to give us support. It was a terrible night. I could not sleep and was exhausted the next day.
6. This is not the first time that my home has been raided by the Israeli military. The first time our home was raided was terrifying and when it was over the soldiers told us they had made a mistake.
7. I later found out that my son was accused of throwing stones and he was prosecuted in a military court. He eventually accepted a plea bargain and spent more than four months in prison. We were also fined NIS 2,000.
8. There was a feeling of emptiness in the house without H. and his siblings lost their appetites. I am worried about his future because he is in his last year at school and his final school exams will determine his future.
9. Life in our village is difficult because Israeli soldiers are constantly in the area. Even when the soldiers are not around I find it hard to sleep. My sleep is shallow and I wake up to the

slightest sound outside. I find consolation in the fact that I am not alone, all the other mothers in the village have gone through a similar experience.

**Testimony 14**

**Name:** Fatima A.  
**Age:** 56  
**Date:** 25 July 2017  
**Location:** Tuqu, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Fatima A. of Tuqu, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I woke up at around 3:00 a.m. to the sound of heavy vehicles around our house. I looked out of the window and saw Israeli soldiers taking my son-in-law away. Then the soldiers came to our house. Shortly afterwards I heard loud banging at our front door. My husband answered and about 20 soldiers entered our home.
2. The commander asked for my 17-year-old son. When my son identified himself, the commander told him to put his clothes on because he was under arrest. We were all in shock because we were preparing ourselves for my daughter's wedding the following day. Our son said goodbye to his sister and told her he was sorry he wouldn't be at the wedding.
3. The commander gave us a document written in Hebrew with details about our son's arrest. Then a soldier took a picture of him and the commander said he wanted to "sort things out with him".
4. The soldiers then blindfolded our son and took him outside where a military jeep was waiting. I could not go back to sleep; I was shaken and worried. We received a call the following day telling us that our son was being interrogated in the police station in Etzion settlement.
5. I miss my son a lot. I am willing to pay any amount of money just to get him released as quickly as possible. His grandmother misses him most because he used to do her shopping for her.
6. Israeli soldiers come to our village every day. They fire tear gas and stun grenades because some boys throw stones at the nearby military watchtower by the road which Israeli settlers use. This military watchtower was built about two years ago and since then our lives have become unbearable. The military watchtower is the reason for our suffering.
7. My sleep habits are unstable these days. Sometimes I sleep well, other times I stay awake all night, thinking and worrying about my son and his future. He is my youngest and I want the best for him.



**Testimony 15**

**Name:** Iman A.  
**Age:** 39  
**Date:** 9 August 2017  
**Location:** Tuqu, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Iman A. of Tuqu, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I was asleep when at around 1:00 a.m. I heard loud banging at our front door. I was the first to wake up and I immediately woke up my husband who answered the door. About seven Israeli soldiers entered our home. They were accompanied by my brother who showed them the way.
2. My heart sank when I saw the soldiers. I was overwhelmed by feelings I had never felt before. I always thought of myself as a fearless person but I was terrified to see fully armed soldiers inside my home. They looked like they were on a battlefield. Our daughters were terrified.
3. Soon it became clear they had come to detain our 16-year-old son. They asked my husband for his identity card and told him they wanted to take our son away for two hours for questioning and would return him home soon. This never happened. Our son spent nearly two months in prison.
4. It all happened very quickly and I soon found myself at home without my son. I could not sleep and spent the rest of the night crying with my daughters. I was worried about my son and I thought to myself anything could happen to him. It was terrible watching my daughter give her brother a hug and tell him to take care of himself. When he told his sister not to worry and to take care of herself I felt nauseous and cold and almost passed out.
5. The worst part was yet to come. For a long time I called my son's name when we had meals, forgetting for a second he was not at home. This was my first experience of a night raid although Israeli soldiers are always in our village and I always expected them to come. They don't leave us alone.
6. Problems in our village started when a military checkpoint was built on the road a few hundred meters away. The checkpoint changed our lives and instilled fear in us, especially the young boys.

## Testimony 16

**Name:** Leila A.  
**Age:** 35  
**Date:** 10 August 2017  
**Location:** Tuqu, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Leila A. of Tuqu, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I went to bed at around midnight. My children stayed up because there was news that the Israeli military were in our village.
2. About an hour later my husband woke me up and told me there were soldiers in our neighbourhood. I looked out of the window and saw about 25 soldiers in our street.
3. Shortly afterwards I heard banging on our neighbours' door downstairs. I also heard one of the soldiers ask where our son lives. Then the soldiers came upstairs to our apartment. My husband opened the door and about 12 soldiers entered our home. They were all wearing face masks except for two soldiers. They were also accompanied by a female soldier.
4. The soldiers asked our two sons for their names and then told our 15-year-old son that he was under arrest. They gave us a form filled out in Hebrew which we could not understand. My son asked why they wanted to arrest him and the commander told him he would soon find out at the police station.
5. We were all scared especially our 7-year-old daughter. The female soldier took pictures of all of us without saying why. Then within 10 minutes the soldiers took my son away and left our house. They did not search our house and did not cause any damage.
6. After the soldiers left I started to cry. I was left with a deep sense of fear and emptiness. Our neighbours came to our house to console us but nothing could lift my spirits.
7. We later found out that another boy had given a confession against our son. We knew the name of the boy but we did not speak to him or his family. This happens all the time in our village and it is a source of tension and mistrust, even amongst neighbours and friends.
8. The house felt empty without our son. He was the one who brought liveliness into our home with his lovely sense of humour. I was in distress and could not cope psychologically with his absence.
9. In recent weeks dozens of young boys have been arrested. Israeli soldiers want to teach them a lesson they will never forget. They want to scare the young children so that they don't cause them any trouble in the future.

**Testimony 17**

**Name:** Muhamadiya K.  
**Age:** 48  
**Date:** 15 August 2017  
**Location:** Al Jalazun refugee camp, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid

**I, Muhamadiya K. of Al Jalazun refugee camp, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. In general, I find it hard to sleep, I am hypervigilant and my sleep is shallow. I might be able to fall asleep during the day but at night I don't. I am always listening to sounds around the house, and I wake up very easily.
2. On 15 August 2017, I was in bed trying to fall asleep when I heard footsteps around our house and people talking. It was around 2:30 a.m. I looked out the window and saw about 25 Israeli soldiers outside.
3. I quickly woke my husband and son. My husband opened the front door before the soldiers even came because he did not want them to destroy our door as they have done before. Soon there were around 10 soldiers in our home.
4. I started to shout at the soldiers. I wanted to know what they were doing in my home in the middle of the night. I told them to leave us alone. Within a short period of time they left our house without arresting anyone and without conducting a search.
5. In the meantime, all the neighbours woke up. My husband and I went and sat outside by the door to get some fresh air. Shortly afterwards young men from the camp started to throw stones at the soldiers to chase them out of our refugee camp. It was chaotic, people shouting and running in all directions. My husband and I went inside.
6. In March 2017, Israeli soldiers raided my house three times. They were looking for my son who was not staying with us after an argument with his father. On one of these occasions they searched our house and caused damage to our furniture. My 8-year-old son was so scared that he wet himself sitting on my lap.
7. On another occasion the soldiers came with a masked man who we suspected was a collaborator. I was desperate to remove his mask to see who it was. I find collaborators scarier than the soldiers themselves.
8. Not a single month goes by without Israeli soldiers entering our refugee camp in the middle of the night, if not once, multiple times. Sometimes they make arrests, other times they don't. This is what "a normal life" looks like; fear and insecurity, day in, day out.

**Testimony 18**

**Name:** Khawla E.  
**Age:** 45  
**Date:** 15 August 2017  
**Location:** Al Jalazun refugee camp, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Khawla E. of Al Jalazun refugee camp, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I haven't been able to sleep well since my 17-year-old son was arrested. I don't have any energy during the day and I am constantly stressed. I sleep on the couch in the middle room because I worry that Israeli soldiers might enter our home and arrest my other children.
2. On 15 August 2017, I fell asleep at around 2:30 a.m. About 15 minutes later I woke up when I heard sounds around our house. I looked out the window and saw my brother-in-law at our front door. Shortly afterwards my son's telephone rang. It was his friend telling him that soldiers were outside our house.
3. I quickly woke my other children and told them to get dressed. Shortly afterwards a soldier jumped over the fence and opened the front gate. Then I heard banging at our door. My husband asked who it was and a voice said it was "the army" and told him to open up.
4. About 20 soldiers entered our home. The commander asked for my older children. Then he asked specifically for our 17-year-old son. I told him to stay where he was and went to our son's bedroom to fetch him. I told our son that soldiers were asking for him.
5. As soon as the soldiers saw our son, two soldiers snatched him from me, pushed him against the wall and tied his hands behind his back with plastic ties. I tried to intervene but a soldier told me to shut up. I was scared to open my mouth because I did not want the soldiers to take it out on our son.
6. Then the commander took a photo of our son on his mobile phone and went outside and showed it to someone. Then he came back and asked to see our son's identity card. He also wanted his telephone. Then he asked my daughters for their telephones.
7. A short while later the soldiers dragged our son out of the house. I followed after him with his shoes and a soldier shouted at me. I miraculously managed to put his shoes on. I told him not to be scared and tried to hold back my tears. I was a wreck inside but I did not want to show him how I truly felt.
8. Our youngest daughter, who is 7-years-old, started to cry as she saw her brother being dragged away. I asked the commander to allow us to say goodbye to him and they brought

him back and we managed to give him a hug and say goodbye. As soon as he was taken outside my husband started to cry. I cried too.

9. Young men from the camp started to throw stones at the soldiers as they left. For two nights I could not sleep. I cried and cried the whole time. My other children were terrified and constantly cried. I can feel how stressed and scared they are.
10. A few weeks later I attended my son's hearing in the military court. I was very happy to see him. I managed to speak to him but I could detect weakness in his voice; god knows what he went through.

**Testimony 19**

**Name:** Taghrid A.  
**Age:** 39  
**Date:** 24 August 2017  
**Location:** Aida refugee camp, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Taghrid A. of Aida refugee camp, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I woke up with a torch shining in my face. It was 3:00 a.m. I opened my eyes and saw about 10 Israeli soldiers in my bedroom. I could not believe my eyes and I was terrified. The soldiers had quietly opened our front door with a device and entered our home without us knowing.
2. At first, I thought they had mistakenly entered our house but when they started to search I realised it was no mistake.
3. All of our children woke up. Our youngest daughter, who is 3-years-old, was terrified. The commander pointed to our 15-year-old son and told us he wanted to arrest him. He did not say why or for how long and did not give us any documents.
4. The commander tried to calm us down and said he would protect our son and make sure he was not hurt. I later found out in the military court that the commander himself had beaten our son.
5. The soldiers continued to search our home without telling us what they were looking for. One soldier deliberately broke the mirror in my bedroom with his gun and caused dents to the doors. They took everything out of the wardrobes. Then a soldier broke the door to our son's bedroom. He also cocked his gun and told me to thank god he did not have any bullets in his gun. I was terrified.
6. The soldiers remained inside our home for about an hour. Then they allowed us to say goodbye to our son. One soldier told our son that he would never see me again as he gave me a hug. Then they tied his hands behind his back with plastic ties, blindfolded him and took him away. I looked at our son and I could tell he was about to burst into tears but he was trying to be strong. He looked as if he was choking. Still, he managed to tell me not to worry about him.
7. Our neighbours came to our house when the soldiers were gone. They wanted to be with us to calm us down but I could not get rid of the deep sense of loss and sadness. For two days we did not know anything about our son. We did not know where he was detained and for what reason. They were the longest two days of my life.

8. Israeli soldiers enter our refugee camp on a daily basis. They fire tear gas and stun grenades. They deliberately provoke us in order to make arrests at night and then young boys confess to anything when they are beaten and sleep-deprived. This is the cycle of our daily lives and it does not look like it is going to end anytime soon.

**Testimony 20**

**Name:** Sana H.  
**Age:** 45  
**Date:** 12 September 2017  
**Location:** Jifna, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / arrest

**I, Sana H. of Jifna, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I was asleep when I heard loud banging at my front door and somebody shouting to open up. It was around 4:00 a.m. I quickly opened the door and about 25 Israeli soldiers entered our home.
2. The commander asked for my children. Then he forced me into the bedroom with one of my sons (10-years-old) and my daughter (12-years-old). They were both terrified and had no idea what was going on. My son wet his pants from fear and my daughter could not stop crying. The commander made fun of my daughter as she cried and did not allow us to use the toilet.
3. Meanwhile the other soldiers locked my older son, who is 20-years-old, up in his bedroom and turned it upside down while searching it. I could hear my son shouting.
4. Other soldiers searched our kitchen and caused damage to the cabinets. They also slit the couches and the curtains, broke the glass in the picture frames on the wall and broke the wardrobes. They even looked inside the water tanks on the roof, inside the car and in the garden.
5. The commander accused us of hiding weapons in the house and kept telling us to bring them out. By the time they left our home it looked like a rubbish tip, clothes on the floor, broken glass everywhere and damaged pieces of furniture. I felt faint just looking at it.
6. After they searched our house the soldiers tied my older son's hands behind his back with plastic ties, blindfolded him and told him to say goodbye to us because he was under arrest. I could see he was shivering and I tried to give him some words of encouragement. Then they took him away without telling us where they were taking him or why. They left without giving us any documentation.
7. After the soldiers left our neighbours and relatives came to our house. It was around 5:30 a.m. They helped me clean and tidy things up and gave me a lot of support. This is not the first time the military has raided my home, but this time it was truly terrifying.
8. The following day I received a phone call from the commander at around 2:00 p.m. He told me my son needed to be "disciplined" and his "ears twisted". He told me my son was



being held in Ofer prison, near Jerusalem. He also told me his military court hearing would be the following day and that I could attend.

9. Since this incident I've been finding it hard to sleep. I don't feel safe in my own home. I wake up in the middle of the night and find it hard to go back to sleep. I go from one window to the other, inspecting the neighbourhood and listening out for unusual noises and movements outside. I keep my telephone with me all the time in case someone tries to call me about my son. My younger daughter cries a lot and tries to hide it from me but I can tell from her swollen eyes.
10. I applied for a permit to visit my son in prison but I was denied a permit and I intend to file a complaint.

**Testimony 21**

**Name:** Ruqaya D.  
**Age:** 58  
**Date:** 12 September 2017  
**Location:** Deheisha refugee camp, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / arrest

**I, Ruqaya D. of Deheisha refugee camp, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I was up at around 4:00 a.m. getting ready to visit one of my sons who is in an Israeli prison when I heard a noise at the front door. Suddenly my front door was broken open and I was shocked to see around 12 Israeli soldiers enter my home. One of the soldiers was wearing a mask. I was terrified.
2. When I asked the soldiers what they wanted they told me to "shut up". I stood at the front door and saw many more soldiers outside. I also saw a service dog but thankfully they did not bring it inside my home.
3. The soldiers wanted to know who lived upstairs and I told them one of my sons and his family. I also told them they must not go upstairs with the dog because my son and his wife have two young daughters, aged 2 months and 11 months. I got into an argument with the soldiers over this.
4. At the time a friend of my son's was staying over and he asked the soldiers to treat me with respect. In response one of the soldiers pulled out a taser and tried to beat him with it. I stood between the two and managed to separate them. Then they tied the hands of my son's friend behind his back with one plastic tie and took him outside. When I asked why they were detaining my son's friend I was again told to "shut up".
5. Then one of the soldiers asked me to hand over my mobile phone. When I told him I did not have a mobile phone he threatened to demolish our house with us inside if I did not hand it over immediately. Then two soldiers started to shove items off a shelf onto the ground; books, vases, cups and plates, everything. They also broke the door to a cupboard in the hallway.
6. The soldiers left my apartment at around 6:00 a.m. and went upstairs to my son's home.
7. This is not the first time my home has been raided by Israeli soldiers. I've lost count how many times, but I think at least 20 times. The army deliberately enters our refugee camp and provokes riots.
8. I find it hard to sleep at night. I constantly worry about my children and my grandchildren who are growing up with a lot of violence around them. I feel physically and mentally exhausted during the day when I don't sleep at night. I have high blood pressure and I feel

pain in my joints. I keep my clothes next to my bed because I need them handy in case my house is raided. The minute I find out soldiers are in our refugee camp I prepare myself for the worse.

9. I constantly monitor the refugee camp's Facebook page to see if Israeli soldiers have entered the camp and which neighbourhood has been targeted. They won't leave us alone, not for one second. Sometimes I think they enter our camp for training purposes.

**Testimony 22**

**Name:** Samaher B.  
**Age:** 36  
**Date:** 25 September 2017  
**Location:** Al 'Arrub refugee camp, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Samaher B. of Al 'Arrub refugee camp, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I was asleep when I heard very loud banging at our front door. It was around 2:30 a.m. My husband got up and came back and told me Israeli soldiers were at our door. He told me to stay in the bedroom because I was six months pregnant and he did not want me to get hurt. I was in such shock that I started to shiver uncontrollably. A short time later the soldiers left.
2. A few minutes later the soldiers came back. They told my husband he only showed them three out of the four children registered in his identity card. I heard them ask my husband for our 15-year-old son.
3. There was a lot of commotion in the house but my husband did not want me to see and told me to stay in the bedroom. I could hear the soldiers going into my son's bedroom and taking him away. When I heard the soldiers tell my son to put his jacket on I could not help but open the bedroom door and try to say goodbye but the soldiers did not allow me.
4. At this point I felt as if someone had given me a blow to my head; my worst nightmare had come true and I started to feel wobbly. When the soldiers left with my son I started to cry. The soldiers took our son away without giving us any documentation.
5. During the one-and-a-half months my son spent in an Israeli prison I was miserable. I cried a lot but I also did my best to talk about my son to the other children as if he was still around. Whenever I cooked a dish he liked I mentioned him and told my other children how he would have loved to be with us. I blamed myself for not insisting on saying goodbye to him and giving him some advice.
6. I attended some of our son's hearings in the military court. When I saw him shackled in the dock I wanted to give him a hug but the guard pushed me away. But I must say I calmed down when I saw him in court and he seemed ok. My father gave me a lot of support during this time and he helped me become stronger.
7. My son is not involved in anything and he wants to graduate from school with good grades. Living in a refugee camp is not easy especially for young boys. This was the first time my home was raided by Israeli soldiers and I don't think I can find the right words to describe the fear I felt. I hope they will never come back again.

**Testimony 23**

**Name:** Aida S.  
**Age:** 24  
**Date:** 25 September 2017  
**Location:** Deheisha refugee camp, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / arrest

**I, Aida S. of Deheisha refugee camp, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I was fast asleep with my two daughters aged 1 and 3-years-old, when the telephone rang. It was around 4:00 a.m. It was a friend of my husband's telling us that Israeli soldiers were in our refugee camp. We did not make much of this as it is not unusual for soldiers to be in our camp in the middle of the night.
2. I went back to sleep but shortly afterwards my husband woke me up and told me that the soldiers were now in our neighbourhood. He went to the living room and then left the house. Shortly afterwards soldiers came to our front door. I was so scared that my knees started to shake.
3. Soon I heard the sound of a device which the soldiers sometimes use to open locked doors and within seconds they had opened our front door. About 15 soldiers entered our home. They had a torch and the whole house lit up. I froze in my place and did not move. Luckily my daughters did not wake up.
4. The soldiers walked into my bedroom and one of the soldiers asked me who was in the house. I did not answer; I think I was in shock. I was terrified but at the same time I did not want to show it. Then he asked me in broken Arabic for my name. Then he told me to go to the kitchen and I did. He asked me again who was in the house and I told him I was with my little daughters and begged him not to wake them up. Then he asked where my husband was and I told him he was at work on night shift.
5. The soldier told me I had to call him and ask him to come home immediately. Then the soldier compared a photo of my husband hanging on our wall to a photo he had with him. Then he gave me a weird look and told me I was too young to have children. I was scared he might hurt me and felt vulnerable. I pushed him away from me as he was too close and then I realised the soldiers had a dog with them. I was so scared that they might take the dog into my daughters' bedroom. I handed the soldier a piece of paper with my husband's number on it and told him to call him.
6. The soldiers and the dog remained inside my home for about two hours. They searched our house without telling me what they were looking for. Then they spotted a storage area above our bathroom and a soldier grabbed a stool and wanted to stand on it to look inside.

Then another soldier grabbed a ladder which he had folded in his backpack. I thought to myself how well prepared they were for any situation.

7. After turning our home into a mess they went downstairs to the apartment of my husband's family. As soon as they left I started to cry and could not stop. My 3-year-old daughter woke up and saw me crying.
8. Then I heard my husband's voice. Soldiers were shouting at him and ordering him to hand himself over but I think he walked away. My husband managed to leave the house just before the soldiers came; I think he did not want me to see him humiliated or hurt. He wanted to save me the trauma of watching him being arrested.
9. Later that day my husband came home, fixed the broken door, said goodbye to me and the girls and told me he was going to hand himself over.
10. My older daughter misses her dad badly; she sleeps in our bed and keeps calling him. I sometimes wake up in the middle of the night and hear her calling his name and crying.
11. Life in our refugee camp is hard. I live in fear and anxiety and I worry about my daughters' future in this violent environment. I have no idea how long my husband will be away from us but I know raising two young girls all by myself is not going to be easy; I don't think I can do it.

**Testimony 24**

**Name:** Khulud N.  
**Age:** 36  
**Date:** 25 September 2017  
**Location:** Jayyus, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Khulud N. of Jayyus, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I was asleep when I heard loud banging at around 1:30 a.m. All my children woke up too. I got out of bed and realised that Israeli soldiers were banging the back door to my in-law's home downstairs. I looked out the window and saw lots of soldiers surrounding our building, maybe 40 or more.
2. Shortly afterwards about 10 soldiers came to our home via the back door. I confronted the commander and told him there were small children in the house. The commander told me to move back and then told me he wanted to arrest our 15-year-old son.
3. The commander ordered our son back into his bedroom and started to search it. The soldiers threw his clothes on the floor and removed the mattress off the bed. My heart was pumping fast as I watched. Then the commander asked for my identity card but I was reluctant to go and get it and leave my son alone with the soldiers in his bedroom.
4. Then the soldiers followed me upstairs as I went to get my identity card. On the way back they stopped by my younger son's bedroom and tried to remove his duvet. I stopped them because my younger son was still asleep and he would be terrified if he woke up to see Israeli soldiers in his bedroom. He is just 3-years-old.
5. Then the soldiers put me in the living room as they took our older son away. They did not let me say goodbye to him. I tried to leave the living room but I was pushed back aggressively. The soldiers remained inside our house for about an hour-and-a-half. When they left I broke into tears.
6. This is not the first time Israeli soldiers have raided our home but this last raid made me sick. I had an asthma attack the following day and had to be rushed to hospital. I also find it hard to sleep well and I have lost my appetite. I constantly think of my son in prison and refuse to cook the dishes he likes the most. I hardly have hardly left the house for months.
7. Our village suffers from Israeli military night raids and arrests because the Wall was built on our land. My family lost a lot of agricultural land when the Wall was built and we need special permits to access our Olive trees during harvest. I cannot see an end to this cycle and the lives of generations have been affected.

**Testimony 25**

**Name:** Hana S.  
**Age:** 42  
**Date:** 20 October 2017  
**Location:** Tuqu, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Hana S. of Tuqu, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. My brother-in-law phoned at around 2:30 a.m. and told us to get ready because Israeli soldiers had come to his house looking for us. Shortly afterwards a large number of soldiers surrounded our home and banged at the door.
2. My husband opened the door and four soldiers entered our home and asked for my husband's identity card. Then the commander told my husband our son throws stones at soldiers and that they wanted to take him for questioning.
3. The soldiers then pushed me and my husband into the kitchen and searched the bedrooms. They did not break anything but they made a big mess. They never told us what they were looking for. Our younger daughters were terrified to see soldiers inside our home in the middle of the night. When they heard that the soldiers wanted their brother they could not believe it and started to cry.
4. The soldiers took our 16-year-old son outside without giving us any documents and without telling us where they were taking him or for how long. They did not beat my son in front of us but he later told us they slapped him in the back of the jeep.
5. The following day my husband received a phone call from somebody who told him our son was in Ofer prison, near Jerusalem.
6. Eleven days later my son was released but it was not clear to us whether the case against him was dropped or not. All we know is he will be monitored for the next six months. I don't know what "being monitored" means but I know that my son is anxious and stressed. He tells me he is afraid of being arrested again.
7. Since his release I have noticed that my son's behaviour has changed. He is short-tempered and is not working hard at school. My son's grades were excellent before he was arrested but now I am worried. He is absent-minded and seems to be pre-occupied with his own thoughts.
8. This was the first-time Israeli soldiers raided our home but it was enough to terrify us. I don't sleep well at night now and I wake up to the slightest sound outside. I constantly worry that the soldiers might return and arrest our son again.



**Testimony 26**

**Name:** Zeinab S.  
**Age:** 43  
**Date:** 22 October 2017  
**Location:** Tuqu, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Zeinab S. of Tuqu, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. It was around 1:30 a.m. when I woke up to the sound of very loud banging in the neighbourhood and lots of people shouting. My husband looked over the balcony and saw a large number of heavily armed Israeli soldiers in the street.
2. Shortly afterwards about 15 soldiers came running towards our house. I was terrified and my knees could no longer hold me.
3. Some of the soldiers stormed into our home without explaining themselves. Then they started to take photos and to film. They told my husband to bring all our children into the living room and then they said they wanted to take our 17-year-old son for questioning.
4. A soldier asked for our son's mobile phone but when he said he did not have a phone they went into his bedroom and started to search it. They threw his belongings on the floor and made a huge mess. They found an old broken telephone and took it away.
5. It was a chaotic scene, everyone shouting, everyone scared and tense. I cannot describe the fear I felt and the worry I had for my son. One of the soldiers threatened to pay us a visit every night. Another soldier wore a mask and spoke good Arabic.
6. We barely had time to say goodbye to our son before he was taken outside where he was tied and blindfolded. I was able to hold my tears until that moment but as soon as they left I burst into tears.
7. It was a night I will never forget. Israeli soldiers want to instil fear in our hearts and our children's hearts and that is why they are in our village every single day of the week. The Israeli authorities have their eye on this area and have built many settlements over the years. It is the settlements that make our lives miserable.

**2018****Testimony 27**

**Name:** Sana I.  
**Age:** 42  
**Date:** 1 February 2018  
**Location:** Qalqiliya, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Sana I. of Qalqiliya, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I woke up at around 3:30 a.m. to the sound of very loud banging at our front door. I was terrified and immediately woke my husband up and put my clothes on. My husband turned the outside lights on and the Israeli soldiers outside the house went crazy; they did not want the lights on.
2. When my husband opened the front door about 20 soldiers stormed in and aggressively pushed him against the wall. Our 17-year-old son was so scared that he buried his head under the duvet. I tried to comfort him but to no avail. My 9-year-old son was shivering out of fear.
3. The commander went into our older son's bedroom and started to look in the laundry bin for a particular T-shirt. He also looked in the wardrobe. Then he told our son he was under arrest. I was in shock when I heard the commander say this.
4. When I asked for the reason for his arrest a female soldier told me to shut up. When I wanted to make sure my son was dressed properly the female soldier did not allow me to do so. The commander then ordered her to leave me alone and allowed me to help my son put on proper clothes.
5. Within minutes my son was whisked out of the house. The commander gave my husband a document asking him to go to an Israeli police station inside a settlement in the morning. I wanted to follow my son outside but the soldiers did not allow me and forced me back into our house. I went inside and burst into tears.
6. Our younger boy was traumatised from this experience. His behaviour changed drastically. He is tense and shows aggressive behaviour and does not listen to me. There is nothing worse than soldiers raiding a home with young children present. My son beats his younger sister and shouts back at his father. I am very worried about him.
7. My husband went to the Israeli police station in the morning and asked to see our son but the soldier refused his request. Then a soldier showed my husband a photograph and told him our son was involved in throwing stones. When my husband denied this accusation the soldier told him he would allow him to see our son only if he confessed against him.

The soldier told my husband they took stone throwing incidents very seriously and that stones thrown at soldiers and settlers are a source of worry for the state of Israel.

8. My sleep habits have changed after this incident. I find it hard to sleep at night and the slightest sound wakes me up.

**Testimony 28**

**Name:** Nida T.  
**Age:** 45  
**Date:** 26 February 2018  
**Location:** An Nabi Saleh, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Nida T. of An Nabi Saleh, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I was asleep when I woke up to the sound of a commotion outside my house. It was around 3:00 a.m. I looked out the window and saw lots of Israeli soldiers in the neighbourhood. I also saw soldiers at our neighbour's house and expected the worse.
2. My husband was traveling at the time and I was home alone with our children, who are aged between 14 to 22 years. I was afraid and worried for our boys.
3. Shortly afterwards I heard loud banging at our front door. My 17-year-old son jumped out of bed and wanted to open the door. I tried to prevent him but he did not listen to me. When he opened the door about 10 soldiers entered our home, most of them were masked.
4. The commander told us to gather in the living room. I told the commander I wasn't going to wake up my 14-year-old daughter and begged him not to enter her bedroom. A soldier walked towards the bedroom and held the door handle to keep it shut but by this time my daughter was awake. She struggled to open the door and then joined us in the living room. I could see she was in shock. She sat close to me and I held her tight to calm her down.
5. Then the commander checked our identity cards. When he read my 17-year-old son's name he checked it against a list in his possession and told me he was under arrest. He did not give me any documentation and did not explain why my son was under arrest.
6. I pleaded with the commander to allow my son to put on some warm clothes because it was cold. I managed to give my son some money and wanted to give him a mobile phone but the commander shouted at me. I struggled to keep calm and not to answer him because I know if I argue with the commander he will take it out on my son.

**Testimony 29**

**Name:** Selma T.  
**Age:** 47  
**Date:** 26 February 2018  
**Location:** An Nabi Saleh, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Selma T. of An Nabi Saleh, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I woke up to the sound of noise outside our house. It was around 3:00 a.m. I immediately knew it was Israeli soldiers. Before I managed to wake up my family there was loud banging at our front door followed by the sound of breaking glass. About 10 soldiers entered our home.
2. When I complained to the commander and asked him why he broke the glass in the front door he told me because we were slow in answering. I told him they only banged once and I hardly had time to jump out of bed to open the door.
3. The commander then told me and my husband to bring everyone in the house to the living room. I told him I had very young children and I was not going to disturb them. Then he checked our identity cards and when he saw the name of my 14-year-old son he told us they wanted to arrest him.
4. When I objected and asked for the reason, the commander told me to leave the room and I responded by asking him to leave my house because he was not welcome. Then they searched my son's bedroom claiming they were looking for a T-Shirt. They searched and did not find anything.
5. My son barely had time to put on some clothes before the soldiers dragged him out of the house. When I tried to follow him outside a soldier told me to get back inside because they were going to ask him some questions in the jeep and would bring him back soon. I told him he was a liar and that they never bring anyone back that soon. I could not go back to sleep that night.
6. This was the eighth time that my home has been raided by Israeli soldiers in the last two years. Sadly, this is what our life is like in our village. Night raids and arrests are part of our daily lives. Soldiers often come to our village simply to put pressure on young people and collect information about our leaders.

**Testimony 30**

**Name:** Raifeh G.  
**Age:** 50  
**Date:** 28 February 2018  
**Location:** Al 'Ezariya, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Raifeh G. of Al 'Ezariya, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I was up at around 4:30 a.m. preparing a cup of tea and getting ready to go to work when I heard loud banging at our front door. At first, I thought it was my son-in-law who lives downstairs but then I heard Israeli soldiers telling us to open the door.
2. I woke my husband up and quickly ran back and opened the door. Five soldiers, including a female soldier, entered our home. As I opened the door they were just about to break it down.
3. One of the soldiers pointed his gun at me and pushed me back into the middle room. I was terrified. They wanted to go into my daughters' bedroom but my husband prevented them and told them he wanted to wake our daughters up himself.
4. I hoped the soldiers would just search our house and then leave. At one point some soldiers entered my bedroom and started to throw our clothes on the floor after taking everything out of the wardrobe.
5. Then a soldier told my husband they were looking for our 15-year-old son. They checked my husband's identity card and told him they wanted to arrest our son. I was in shock because I know my children are not involved in anything. Our children run home and hide during clashes when they see soldiers on the streets.
6. The soldiers then said they wanted to search our son's wardrobe told us they were looking for a T-shirt shown in a photograph they had with them. They stormed into our son's bedroom and threw all his clothes on the floor. When they did not find the T-shirt they were looking for they made me open the washing machine which had wet clothes inside. They also looked in the laundry bin and did not find what they were looking for.
7. Then the soldiers told our son to put his clothes on because he was under arrest. They did not give us any documentation but they told my husband they were taking to the settlement of Ma'ale Adummim for questioning.
8. I was in shock as this was the last thing I had expected. I nearly broke down but I held my tears back because I wanted to be strong in front of our son. The minute they took him outside I burst into tears. I was very worried about him. His sisters started to cry while he was still in the house and I could tell he was scared.

9. The soldiers remained inside our home for about an hour. They turned everything upside down and then left with our son. I felt a deep sense of emptiness and fear and could not stop crying.
10. Although our son was released 10 days later due to a lack of evidence, the experience has left him terrified of soldiers. He now runs home as soon as he sees a soldier in town.
11. Our youngest daughter, who is 13-years-old, was terrified by the experience. For weeks she would not go into the bathroom on her own. She is scared of the darkness and often tells me she wants to sleep somewhere else. She jumps each time there is a knock on the door or a sound outside the house.
12. This is not the first time that our house has been raided by Israeli soldiers. About six months ago soldiers came in the middle of the night but left without doing anything. The reason for the heavy military presence in our neighbourhood is the nearby military base. Military vehicles drive up the main street and young boys throw stones at them.

**Testimony 31**

**Name:** Ola A.  
**Age:** 37  
**Date:** 17 March 2018  
**Location:** Al Mughayyir, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Ola A. of Al Mughayyir, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I was asleep when I heard noises outside my bedroom window. It was around 2:30 a.m. Suddenly an Israeli soldier opened the window and looked into my bedroom. I was terrified and quickly got up and woke up my family.
2. Shortly afterwards we heard loud banging at our front door and it sounded like the soldiers wanted to break down the door. My son rushed to the door and opened it before it was broken and a group of about 10 soldiers stormed into our home. They pushed my son to the ground and shouted at him.
3. The soldiers then separated my 17-year-old son and pushed the rest of the family into the living room. A soldier stood by the door and prevented us from leaving. Whenever I asked a question the soldier told me to shut up and pointed his gun at me. When I asked what they were doing in my house in the middle of the night the soldier pointed his gun at me and started to count “one, two, three...” as if he was going to shoot me. I was terrified and stopped asking questions.
4. Then they tied my son’s hands to the back and blindfolded him and told us they were going to take him away for “a chat over a cup of coffee”. They gave my husband a document written in Hebrew which he did not understand. I wanted to object but kept quiet because I did not want them to take it out on my son. I felt I was choking seeing my son being taken away and not saying a word.
5. The soldiers searched the house quickly without causing any damage but they did take a Kufiyah. Then they took our son away and left the house. All this happened in no more than 15 minutes.
6. I was scared and angry and I felt totally helpless. I could not sleep and I was worried about my son. I hear that the military attempts to recruit young boys, they tell them their case is serious and in return for going easy on them, or offering them money, the boys have to provide information. We do not feel safe in the village, anyone could be an informant.
7. The house felt empty without our son. I worried about him all the time. I visited him once in prison.



**Testimony 32**

**Name:** Tamam N.  
**Age:** 48  
**Date:** 17 March 2018  
**Location:** Al Mughayyir, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Tamam N. of Al Mughayyir, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I woke up to the sound of a loud explosion that shook the house. It was around 2:00 a.m. I jumped out of bed and rushed to the part of the house where my children were asleep thinking it was a gas leak that had caused the explosion. My husband woke up and was in shock. Then I saw about 10 Israeli soldiers already inside our home and lots more outside. It was a terrifying scene.
2. Then the commander asked to see our identity cards and asked us for our names. Then he asked for our 17-year-old son. When he identified himself, the commander told us they were going to arrest him. My husband's face turned yellow and then he passed out and fell backwards nearly hitting his head. I managed to hold him and then one of the soldiers helped lay him down on the floor and then lifted his feet up. I wiped his face with a wet cloth and he slowly regained consciousness.
3. Then I asked the commander what he wanted with our son and he told me he wanted to take him to prison and we could find out more details about him later. I held my son close and did not want to let go of him. Then the soldiers told our son to say goodbye to his father and brothers and took him outside.
4. The minute the soldiers took our son outside I started to cry and could not stop. It was a terrifying night I will never forget. It took me a long time to get over the fear and stress I suffered.
5. Since a young man was shot dead by Israeli soldiers in our village earlier this year the soldiers do not leave us alone. They frequently raid the village at night and make arrests. Young boys are angry and frustrated and they want to clash with soldiers to express their anger and frustration. Soldiers do not leave us alone, they too want to clash with us and to suppress and intimidate us. They do this because they want to protect the settlers' road that passes right next to our village and cuts land that belongs to us in two.

**Testimony 33**

**Name:** Izdihar Z.  
**Age:** 52  
**Date:** 11 September 2018  
**Location:** Al Mughayyir, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid

**I, Izdihar Z. of Al Mughayyir, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. My family woke up at around 2:30 a.m. when we heard Israeli soldiers outside our house. Shortly afterwards the soldiers knocked at the door and my husband answered and told them to give us some time to get dressed. My 17-year-old son was terrified; he thought they had come for him.
2. About six soldiers entered our home and told us to gather in the living room. Then the soldiers checked all the rooms to make sure no one was there. They did not search the house. Then they asked my children for their names and ages and took their identity cards.
3. They kept us in the living room for about an hour, which for me felt like a long time. I was scared and tense and worried about them taking one of my children away. I could not think of whom they might have come for as my children are not involved in anything. I gathered all my courage and asked one of the soldiers what they wanted and why they were in my house in the middle of the night. He did not speak any Arabic and did not answer my question.
4. Then the commander compared my children's identity cards to a list he had and then realised they had come to the wrong house. Then they took my husband outside and asked him about our neighbours and wanted him to say who lived in each and every house in the neighbourhood.
5. Shortly afterwards the soldiers left and did not arrest any of my children. Still, it was a terrifying experience and I could not go back to sleep. The following day I had a headache and felt pain in my legs and back and had to take pain killers.
6. I do not recall how many times Israeli soldiers have raided my home, but it is many times. I recall once they blew off our front door with explosives. I woke up to the sound of shattered glass. I was terrified and thought it was settlers who had come to vandalise our home as they did in a nearby village where they burnt down a house and three members of one family were killed.
7. One time I got up I saw 10 soldiers crawling on the floor inside our house and aiming their guns at us. My younger daughters were shivering from fear. When I asked one of the soldiers what they wanted he told me to shut up and not ask any questions because the commander was a crazy man. He told me they had orders from the commander to enter

our house without knocking at the door. They did not arrest anyone and did not search the house and did not give us any explanation. It may have been a training exercise.

8. I do not feel safe or secure inside my own home. My house is a battle field for soldiers who feel they can go in and out as they please any time of the day or night.

2022

**Testimony 34**

**Name:** Sadiya H.  
**Age:** 52  
**Date:** 22 February 2022  
**Location:** Dheisheh refugee camp, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Sadiya H. of Dheisheh camp, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I woke up suddenly at around 3:45 a.m. when I heard a commotion inside my home. I looked around me and saw my son. He told me he had heard footsteps outside and thought there may be Israeli soldiers around. Suddenly I heard the glass on the front door break. Our front door was broken open and about 15 masked soldiers entered our home. When we checked our CCTV camera later it showed about 30 military jeeps and two service dogs around our house.
2. One of the soldiers put the back of his gun against my chest and told me not to cause any trouble. He pushed me back into my bedroom and on the bed. Another soldier grabbed my 16-year-old son, Yazan, and pushed him against the wall. When I saw this, I came out of the bedroom and told my son not to be afraid and he told me not to worry.
3. Then a soldier pulled out metal handcuffs and handcuffed Yazan's hands behind his back. Then one of the soldiers pushed me out. He grabbed me by my robe and pushed me into another room. I told the soldier I wanted to say goodbye to my son but he did not allow me.
4. Then the soldiers searched our house without telling us what they were looking for. They threw our clothes on the floor and stepped on them. Then within about 10 minutes they left in a rush and took Yazan with them. I could see that they had blindfolded Yazan. They did not give us any documents and did not say why they were arresting Yazan or where they were taking him. As they left the soldiers fired a smoke grenade and then a number of tear gas grenades into our home. I felt I was suffocating.
5. This is not the first time that my home has been raided by Israeli soldiers. I cannot remember how many times. I remember once they came to search our house and did not make any arrests. Another time they told us they had made a mistake and had come to the wrong house; another time they came to arrest my older son. I never get used to night raids; they are always scary no matter how many times I experience them and they leave me sick for days.
6. It took us three days to find out where Yazan was being held. He was later sentenced to one year in prison by a military court. Then, in June of this year he was arrested again and

now he is serving a four-month administrative detention order - detention without charge or trial. His lawyer told me his administrative detention order could be extended again and again. This time they did not present a charge sheet, and not even his lawyer knows what he is accused of. He won't get a trial.

7. I strongly believe my son is innocent but informants in the camp have falsely informed on him. I find having to deal with informants worse than dealing with life under occupation. I don't expect much from Israeli soldiers but I feel betrayed by my own people. I find this too hard to accept.

**Testimony 35**

**Name:** Fatima A.A.  
**Age:** 48  
**Date:** 27 July 2022  
**Location:** Beit Fajjar, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Fatima A.A. of Beit Fajjar, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. About five months ago I received a phone call from an Israeli policeman who told me my husband had to bring our 12-year-old son, Yousef, to the police station inside the settlement of Beitar Illit for questioning. He did not give details but said my husband had to bring our son to the police station immediately.
2. My husband and son did as instructed and were at the gate to the settlement by 10:00 a.m. A police car picked them up and took them inside where they waited for hours. During this time no one talked to them. Hours later a policeman told them to go home and come back the following day.
3. The following day my husband and son went again and the same thing happened; they waited at the police station and hours later they were sent home and told to come back the following day. This happened three times. On the fourth occasion my husband decided not to go as it was a waste of his time.
4. Ever since that day I have found it hard to sleep. I constantly worry that soldiers will come and raid our home in the middle of the night. When I do finally fall asleep I wake up to the slightest sound. As a result I am chronically tired. I check my phone constantly all night for updates on soldiers' activities in our town. I try to keep track of the soldiers' locations on Facebook as other families post updates. The soldiers come to our town every other night, making arrests and conducting searches. Meanwhile I am awake worrying that our home will be raided next.
5. Then, on or about 23 July 2022, soldiers arrested our neighbour's son who is my son's friend. I knew then that my son would be next and panicked. For four nights I could not sleep at all. I told my 12-year-old son to sleep in my bedroom because I wanted him to feel a bit more secure when the soldiers came.
6. Sure enough, four days later, on 27 July 2022, a white car stopped outside our house at around 1:30 a.m. The car left after about 30 minutes and then I started hearing voices outside. Soon afterwards my daughter came to my bedroom and told me she saw Israeli soldiers outside. I barely had time to wake our son before there was loud banging at our front door. A person shouted "open up, open up, the commander is here". My husband opened the door six soldiers entered our home.

7. The soldiers immediately asked for our phones. A female soldier took me and my daughter to the bathroom and searched us. She was rough and humiliated us in the way she touched our bodies. Then the commander told me, my husband and our two children to sit on the couch in the living room. A soldier aimed his gun at us for about two-and-a-half hours.
8. During this time I was so scared my knees were shaking. I was worried that the soldiers would trash our home. I felt dizzy and found it hard to breathe and nearly passed out. After my daughter fetched me a glass of water I felt a bit better.
9. Meanwhile the other soldiers searched my son's bedroom but did not find anything. Then, the commander gave my husband a document filled out in Hebrew and told him they wanted to arrest our 12-year-old son, Yousef. He circled a telephone number on the document and told my husband to call the number if he needed to check on our son.
10. The soldiers then took our son outside where they blindfolded him, tied his hands and took him away. I burst into tears and could not stop crying. My husband called the number on the document but no one answered; he tried many times but without success.
11. The house without Yousef is unbearable. I find it hard to eat without seeing him sitting at the dining table with us. He is too young to be in prison.
12. At the time I worked as a cleaner at a school in the nearby Israeli settlement. When I went to work the next day my Israeli employer told me my work permit had been revoked and I had to leave. I was devastated because I am the only breadwinner for our family as my husband is unemployed.
13. My son was released one week later after we accepted a plea bargain in an Israeli military court. My son was accused of being present when a Molotov cocktail was thrown. My son's sentence included time served (7 days); a suspended sentence; and a fine of NIS 1,700. We agreed to the plea bargain because we just wanted our son home. The fine is going to add to our difficult financial situation now that both my husband and I are unemployed.

**Testimony 36**

**Name:** Fathiyeh K.  
**Age:** 52  
**Date:** 3 August 2022  
**Location:** Qabatiya, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Fathiyeh K. of Qabatiya, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I was fast asleep when I heard a loud explosion coming from the direction of our living room. It was around 3:00 a.m. I jumped out of bed, drew the curtain open and saw a large number of masked Israeli soldiers making their way into our home. They had torch lights on their helmets and looked scary. I also saw a sniper shooter on the roof of our neighbour's house aiming his gun at our home. He had a service dog standing next to him. I was terrified and told my husband that soldiers had blown open our front door and were inside our home.
2. I started to scream out of fear. Soon a soldier pushed open my bedroom door and aimed his gun at me. He told me to shut up. I was trembling and could not control myself.
3. About 20 soldiers came into our home. Some soldiers went into my 29-year-old son's bedroom. He was still asleep and woke up to their guns pointing at him. They beat him and told him to get up. Then one of the soldiers asked us about our 16-year-old son, Izziddin. They named him and wanted to know where he was. My older son pointed to his bedroom and the soldiers rushed there. They told Izziddin to get up and then dragged him out of bed. He told them he needed to use the toilet. They followed him to the toilet and started to question him there.
4. The soldiers searched our home and did not leave anything unturned. My 13-year-old daughter was terrified and could not stop crying. They broke the wardrobes, spilled oil on the kitchen floor, threw our clothes on the floor - it was a complete mess. The sight of all this made me nauseous and I threw up. Cold sweat covered my body and I felt I could no longer breathe. One of the soldiers saw my condition and brought me a glass of water. Then he told me to show him where the guns were hidden. I told him we did not have any guns.
5. Meanwhile Izziddin was still locked up in the bathroom. The soldiers were rough with him and I could hear his voice. I told him not to worry. A soldier then swore at me, pushed me aggressively and aimed his gun at me and chased me out and down the stairs. My husband tried to intervene but he was beaten up by a soldier.
6. The soldiers remained inside our home for about half an hour. After an hour they tied Izziddin's hands behind his back and took him away. They did not give us any documents or explanation other than our son was going to spend a long time in prison.



7. For two months after the raid I found it hard to sleep. I felt sick and was trembling uncontrollably. I woke up many times during the night unable to fall back to sleep.
8. Izziddin spent four-and-a-half months in prison, including 35 days in solitary confinement at Al-Jalama interrogation centre. When I saw him in the military court for the first time after the arrest, I could not hold my tears back. He looked frail and had lost a lot of weight.
9. This experience has changed my son a lot. He is now short-tempered, and does not talk much. He sometimes tells his older brother what happened to him, but when I ask him questions he covers his ears and walks away and tells me he does not want to speak. He spends a lot of time sitting quietly by himself. He does not want to go back to school but I keep encouraging him. I took him to see a doctor but refused to tell the doctor what had happened to him in prison; he told the doctor he did not want to be reminded.

**Testimony 37**

**Name:** Nadine A.  
**Age:** 38  
**Date:** 12 October 2022  
**Location:** Beit Sira, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Nadine A. of Beit Sira, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I woke up to loud banging at the front door and the sound of my daughter frantically calling me. It was around 3:30 a.m. My husband and I got up to see what was going on. Then we heard footsteps in the stairwell and a voice shouting “open up, it's the army”.
2. My husband, who was still in his boxer shorts, opened the front door and around eight Israeli soldiers entered our home. They had broken open the door downstairs with a sledge hammer before coming up to our apartment. More soldiers surrounded our house outside.
3. The soldiers went straight to the bedroom of our 13-year-old son without saying a word. My son was still in bed and thought he was having a nightmare when he woke and saw soldiers over his head. He later told me a soldier kicked him in the knee while he was still in bed and then grabbed him by his T-shirt and pushed him against the wall. He then passed out.
4. Meanwhile, when I went back to my bedroom to get properly dressed I was followed by a soldier who did not allow me to leave the bedroom. My other son was being held in the kitchen.
5. About 30 minutes later the soldiers gathered us all in the living room and sat us down on the couch. One of the soldiers aimed his gun at us and did not allow us to move or speak. I told the soldier that my two-month-old daughter was still in her crib and I pleaded with him to allow me to fetch her but he refused. I was terrified that the soldiers might accidentally harm her as they roamed around our home. All I wanted was to hold her in my arms.
6. When my other daughter stood up to go and fetch the baby a soldier threw a chair at her and aimed his gun at her head. I thought he was going to shoot her. I was also worried the soldiers might use tear gas inside our house and I was panicking that my infant daughter would suffocate.
7. The soldiers remained in our home for about an hour. They prevented my daughter from filming them. They took away her smart phone and deleted the footage. Then they asked for the phone of my son they had come to arrest and threatened to search the house for it. My husband told them he would hand it over and pleaded with them not to search the house because of the damage they would cause.

8. At one point a soldier showed my husband a document filled out in Hebrew and asked him to sign it. Then he took back the document without giving us a copy. Then they took my 13-year-old son outside. I looked out the window to say good bye to him and to tell him to be strong, but a soldier aimed his gun at me and yelled at me to shut the window.
9. When the soldiers left we all burst into tears, sobbing and crying uncontrollably. We could not sleep for the following two nights. Family and friends came to our house to comfort us. My husband blamed himself for allowing the soldiers to take our son away and started to bang his head against the wall expressing his regret. It was a hellish night I will never forget. Our son was released on bail two days later.
10. Our village is very close to the Green Line and to a cluster of settlements including Maccabim and Modi'in Illit. We are close to a road which the villagers refer to as the "road of death". It is used by settlers to commute back and forth to Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem and no Palestinian is allowed to go near it.

**Testimony 38**

**Name:** Rima S.  
**Age:** 45  
**Date:** 29 October 2022  
**Location:** Azzun, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Rima S. of Azzun, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. I woke up at around 4:00 a.m. to the sound of a loud explosion. I jumped out of bed and found my younger children, aged 6, 11 and 12 years, already in my bedroom terrified and shouting “soldiers ... soldiers”. Within a minute about 30 Israeli soldiers had spread out all over our home, including some female soldiers.
2. My older children came out of their bedrooms one by one. I stood by my bedroom door and asked the soldiers what they were doing inside our house at 4:00 a.m. The soldiers were tense and immediately started to push us around aggressively.
3. One of the female soldiers grabbed my 22-year-old daughter by her arm and twisted one of her fingers out of its joint. It swelled up and caused her pain. Then the soldier pushed her down to the floor. We were all screaming in shock not believing what we were seeing.
4. At the same time other soldiers wanted to push me into one of the rooms and lock the door and separate me from my children. I resisted with all my might and strained my ankle. A female soldier then punched me in the chest and caused me a lot of pain. I was not able to take a deep breath for a whole week.
5. Then a soldier asked me to collect all our mobile phones and identity cards but did not allow me to leave the room to get them. We were all stressed and in shock, so much so that we could not easily find our identity cards or remember where we had kept them. It was olive harvest season and we spent most of our days in the fields harvesting olives and we did not take our identity cards with us so they were not in their usual places. The raid couldn't have come at a worse time.
6. The soldiers then started to search our home, throwing everything on the floor and deliberately breaking shelves, turning chairs and couches upside down and throwing the contents of the cupboards and wardrobes on the floor. Within a few minutes the house was trashed. My kitchen pots were dented, my daughter's bridal gifts were thrown off the top of the wardrobe and broken, all our clothes were on the floor.
7. I was worried that they might spill our freshly pressed olive oil but thankfully the olive oil containers got covered under the blankets and duvets which the soldiers threw off our beds.

8. Meanwhile the other soldiers continued to assault us. A female soldier hit my 14-year-old daughter and pushed her aggressively. When my 19-year-old son tried to intervene to protect his sister, another soldier pushed him to the floor and tied his hands behind his back. When my 12-year-old son tried to intervene, a soldier slapped him hard on the face causing his lip to bleed.
9. The soldiers then pushed my 22-year-old son into the small area outside the bathroom, and pushed my 16-year old son into his bedroom and forced him to sit on his bed. We were all screaming and shouting, trying to defend ourselves. It was chaotic and tense, and we felt like we were in the middle of a battle field, not in our own home.
10. The soldiers remained inside our house for about two hours. When my husband came back from dawn prayers at the mosque they would not let him enter his own home.
11. After about two hours one of the soldiers told us they wanted to arrest our 17-year-old son. They did not give us any documents and did not tell us where they were taking him or why. By the time they left we were all completely drained. I cried my eyes out as they took my son away on foot to the nearby settlement of Karni Shomron.
12. I could not sleep or eat for three days. It took us a month to tidy up our house and restore some order. The lock on our front door was completely destroyed; the metal parts were turned into very small pieces of metal, the size of sand grains. We were without a lock for three months and we pushed a couch against the door each night. We had to replace the front door and some chairs and pots and pans which cost us a lot of money.
13. This was the most aggressive night raid I have experienced, but it was not the first time our house was raided by Israeli soldiers. Our house has been raided dozens of times over the last 10 years or so, on average the army comes twice a year. After each raid my younger children refuse to sleep in their own bedrooms for fear that the soldiers will come at night. When they finally calm down and go back to sleeping in their own beds, the soldiers come again and the cycle repeats.
14. I wake up multiple times each night, listening carefully to the sounds outside our house and inspecting my children's' bedrooms to make sure they are all safe. The sound of wind and rain wakes me up. My sleep is shallow and interrupted; I don't feel safe in my own home.

**Testimony 39**

**Name:** Amal E.  
**Age:** 49  
**Date:** 2 November 2022  
**Location:** Aida refugee camp, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Amal E. of Aida refugee camp, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. My 16-year-old son woke me up at around 3:00 a.m. I immediately knew something bad was happening because as this only occurs when Israeli soldiers raid our home. Sure enough, soldiers were at our front door. This was the 13<sup>th</sup> time the Israeli military has raided my home. My heart sank and I was worried about my 20-year-old son who had recently been shot by the army and had just been released from the hospital two days earlier.
2. My husband rushed to open our front door and about 20 soldiers entered our home. Many of the soldiers were masked and looked like they were on a battlefield. The commander immediately asked for my wounded son. My 7-year-old daughter was terrified and started to cry. The only thing on my mind now was to protect my wounded son. I pushed one of the soldiers away from my son's bedroom with such force I did not know I had. The soldier aggressively pushed me away and shouted at me saying "don't force us to beat him up".
3. The soldiers searched our home but did not tell us what they were looking for. When I asked for information a soldier told me I would find out soon enough. They had a special device and used it to locate mobile phones. They were able to find my younger son's phone inside the oven where he had hidden it. They broke a wardrobe and made a huge mess in our house. They remained inside our house for about an hour.
4. After about an hour the soldiers told us they wanted to arrest both my 20-year-old son and his younger brother, who is 16. I was so scared I would lose my mind. I was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. The soldiers pushed my husband into one corner and when he moved towards our son, a soldier pushed him away and caused him pain in the chest. Then they told my two sons to get dressed and we were allowed to say goodbye to them. We were not given any documents nor were we told where they were being taken or why. On the way out a soldier pushed me into a bedroom and shut the door because he did not want me to follow my sons outside. I pushed the door open and followed my sons as they were taken out of the house. I told them to be brave and not worry about us.
5. Israeli soldiers are always in our refugee camp, patrolling the streets especially near the playground where children play football. They often fire tear gas to stir up a response from the boys, and then the parents try intervene to protect their children. The soldiers get information about us from social media and from informants. They know who is involved

in what and when. Although there are informants amongst us, we are aware of them and try to be as careful as possible.

6. Following the arrests, my husband's application for a permit to visit Jerusalem during Ramadan was rejected. They sent my husband an SMS at 5:30 a.m. saying his application for a permit to pray in Jerusalem had been rejected. He was also denied a prison visit although he was standing outside the prison gate. He wanted to visit our sons but he was not allowed to.

**2023****Testimony 40**

**Name:** Lubna H.  
**Age:** 47  
**Date:** 16 May 2023  
**Location:** Hussan, occupied West Bank  
**Event:** Night raid / child arrest

**I, Lubna H. of Hussan, after being warned under oath that what I say shall be the truth, or I shall be subjected to criminal penalty, declare as follows:**

1. Our neighbours phoned at around 1:30 a.m. to say Israeli soldiers were in our neighbourhood. I looked out the window and saw lots of soldiers on the streets. I also saw that they had opened the front gate to our house without making a sound. My husband and I woke up our children so as to prepare them for the imminent raid.
2. About one-and-a-half hours later there was a knock at our front door. My husband quickly looked out the window and told the soldiers to give us a minute to get dressed. I was surprised they gave us time and did not break in.
3. After we dressed my husband opened the front door and about 10 fully armed and masked soldiers entered our home. They looked like they were ready for war. They started by asking me and my husband questions about our family. The commander wanted to know who was at the hospital a few days ago. I told him it was my eldest son (25 years) who is severely handicapped and needs regular hospitalization. Then he wanted me to bring our disabled son for him to see but I refused.
4. Then the commander asked me to name all my children. I started to name them but he then interrupted and went on to name the ones I had not yet named. I was shocked and scared when I realized he knew the names of all our children. By now all our children were wondering who the soldiers had come to arrest. Our youngest daughter, who is 13, was terrified to see masked soldiers in our home.
5. When the commander named our 14-year-old son, A., he asked me to identify him. He then took A. to his bedroom but did not allow me or my husband to accompany him. They searched his room and asked him to take off his trousers to show him the gunshot wound he sustained a couple of months earlier during clashes with soldiers.
6. By this stage I was losing my temper and wanted to be with my son, but I decided against saying anything for fear they might take it out on A. I felt I was choking. About 15-minutes later the commander called me into A.'s bedroom and told me to prepare a backpack for my son because he was under arrest. The commander sarcastically told me he was going to take him on a trip.



7. At this point our 18-year-old son started to encourage his younger brother and gave him advice. I noticed the commander did not like this and so I put my hand over my son's mouth and told him not to say anything. My only worry was that they might take it out on A. once he was out of sight. I told the commander to take care of A. because he is only 14 years. The soldiers did not give us any documents and did not tell us the reason for A.'s arrest.
8. The soldiers remained inside our home for about 45 minutes. Then they took A. outside where a soldier blindfolded him and tied his hands behind his back with one plastic tie. Then he aggressively pushed A. into the back of a jeep and drove away. I could not go back to sleep immediately, but by 7:00 a.m. I was completely drained and fell asleep.
9. Later that morning my husband received a phone call from the interrogator at the police station in the nearby settlement of Bitar Illit. The interrogator wanted to know about A.'s gunshot wound and summoned my husband to the police station. My husband quickly dressed and rushed to the police station hoping he would see A. but the interrogator did not allow him in. A. ended up spending a week in prison and we were fined NIS 3,000.
10. Israeli soldiers are constantly in our village, they don't leave us alone. They placed concrete blocks at the entrance to the village and in the centre, to stop people as they go about their daily business and to harass children. Their presence is a constant cause of friction. I don't understand the reason for harassing us.
11. We often see Israeli settlers doing their shopping in our village, and lots of men from our village work at the settlement. Unfortunately, the soldiers' constant presence prompts some boys and young men to throw stones at them. One day, all our work permits to work at the settlement were revoked following an incident, but then the settlers objected because they need us to work at their settlement.