



# Military Court Watch

Monitoring the treatment of children in Israeli military detention

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## MONITORING THE TREATMENT OF CHILDREN HELD IN ISRAELI MILITARY DETENTION

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### SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

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**Date: 7 December 2021**

*Military Court Watch (MCW) is a registered non-profit organisation founded by a group of lawyers and other professionals from Israel, Palestine, Europe, the US and Australia with a belief in the rule of law. MCW is guided by the principle that all children detained by the Israeli military authorities are entitled to all the rights and protections guaranteed under international and other applicable law.*

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***"The clearest way to show what the rule of law means to us in everyday life is to recall what has happened when there is no rule of law."***

Dwight D. Eisenhower

## **1. Overview**

- 1.1 This report contains no new information. The treatment outlined in the following pages is known and has been reported on for decades - the only difference is that now it is the turn of the sons and grandsons to testify. That this situation persists is a testament to the lack of accountability.
- 1.2 Since June 1967 there have been consistent reports of the systematic use of solitary confinement by the Israeli Security Agency (ISA) ("Shin Bet") in installations controlled by the army, the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) and the police during the interrogation phase of Palestinian detainees, including children.<sup>1</sup>
- 1.3 In 2013, following an extensive evidentiary review of the treatment of children held in Israeli military detention, [UNICEF](#) noted that "some children have been held in solitary confinement for a period ranging from 2 days up to 1 month" and concluded that "the ill-treatment of children who come in contact with the military detention system appears to be widespread, systematic and institutionalized." These findings prompted UNICEF to recommend that "in no circumstances whatsoever should a child be held in solitary confinement."<sup>2</sup>
- 1.4 In 2013, at the time of UNICEF's call for a total prohibition on the use of solitary confinement of children held in Israeli military detention, the evidence indicated that **4 percent** of child detainees were being subjected to the practice - representing between **20 to 40 children** each year.<sup>3</sup>
- 1.5 Since UNICEF made its recommendation, MCW has collected [912 testimonies](#) from children detained by the Israeli military in the West Bank. Between 2013 and 2018, this evidence discloses that solitary confinement was used, on average, in **1.5 percent** of cases involving children.<sup>4</sup> However, since January 2019 there has been a surge in the use of solitary confinement in cases involving children with the evidence disclosing a rate of **19.7 percent** between 2019 and May 2021, with the trend continuing to rise.<sup>5</sup>
- 1.6 It is estimated that at this current rate, between **100 to 200 children** are now being held in solitary confinement each year.<sup>6</sup> The evidence does not disclose why there has been such a sharp increase in this practice in recent years. A schedule of the testimonies collected since January 2019 is included in **Annexure A** with all 45 testimonies included in **Annexure B**.

## **2. Basic principles**

- 2.1 While there is no universally agreed upon definition of solitary confinement the general consensus suggests that "the confinement of prisoners for 22 hours or more a day without meaningful human contact" amounts to solitary confinement. Furthermore, prolonged solitary confinement has been defined as "solitary confinement for a time period in excess of 15 consecutive days."<sup>7</sup>

- 2.2 Solitary confinement is of concern as it has a severe impact on mental and physical health. According to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, the "negative health effects can occur after only a few days in solitary confinement, and the health risks rise with each additional day spent in such conditions. Research shows that solitary confinement appears to cause "psychotic disturbances,". Symptoms can include anxiety, depression, anger, cognitive disturbances, perceptual distortions, paranoia, psychosis and self-harm."<sup>8</sup>
- 2.3 There is a lack of research into the latent effects of solitary confinement. While the acute effects of solitary confinement generally recede after the period of solitary confinement ends, some of the negative health effects are long term. The minimal stimulation experienced during solitary confinement can lead to a decline in brain activity in individuals after seven days. One study found that "up to seven days, the [brain activity] decline is reversible, but if deprived over a long period this may not be the case".<sup>9</sup>
- 2.4 Studies have found continued sleep disturbances, depression, anxiety, phobias, emotional dependence, confusion, impaired memory and concentration long after release. Lasting personality changes often leave individuals formerly held in solitary confinement socially impoverished and withdrawn, subtly angry and fearful when forced into social interaction. Intolerance of social interaction after a period of solitary confinement severely impairs their capacity to reintegrate into society when released from imprisonment."<sup>10</sup>
- 2.5 The serious consequence of holding individuals in solitary confinement prompted the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to declare that "the imposition of solitary confinement, of any duration, on juveniles amounts to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment" in violation of a number of international conventions and he called for an absolute prohibition on its use in the case of children.<sup>11</sup> This call for an absolute prohibition on the use of solitary confinement on children has been echoed by, among others, the UN Committee against Torture; the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child; and UNICEF.<sup>12</sup>

### **3. Evidence - a narrative report**

- 3.1 This section of the report provides a narrative account from Palestinian children arrested in the West Bank by Israeli soldiers and subsequently held in solitary confinement. The account is based on 45 testimonies collected from children detained between January 2019 and May 2021. (Annexure B)

#### ***The arrest***

- 3.2 For most children their ordeal begins with a military night-raid on their home - **58 percent** of children reported being arrested at night. Sometimes the soldiers [bang](#) at the front door or use a [hydraulic jack](#) to break in. On other occasions the [door](#) is simply [blown off its hinges](#) without warning. In some cases, the house is [searched](#) and property [damaged](#). Some children speak of a sense of [fear](#) or [terror](#), particularly in cases where [young children](#) are in the house. While the military authorities introduced a [programme](#) to issue written summonses in lieu of arresting children at night in 2014, this was used in just **2 percent** of cases. The remaining **42 percent**

of children who were not arrested at night were generally detained during [clashes](#) with the military near military [watchtowers](#), [checkpoints](#), the [Wall](#) and [settlements](#).

*"I woke up to the sound of a loud explosion ... It was around 3:30 a.m. My mother opened the front door and about 20 Israeli soldiers entered our home ... My younger sister started to cry and one of the soldiers approached her as if he was going to squirt pepper spray in her face. She was terrified and I was very worried for her."*

M.S.M.H. (13 years) – Bethlehem, 11 September 2019

- 3.3 Although the military authorities [informed](#) UNICEF in April 2013 that a standard form written in Arabic and Hebrew must be given to parents of children arrested at home ([Arabic/English](#)), this did not occur in **65 percent** of cases. In the 35 percent of cases where documentation was provided to parents, the details relevant to the specific case were handwritten in [Hebrew](#) in **78 percent** of cases and in some cases [no copy](#) of the document was left with the family. Documentation, where provided, does not include information about the child's legal rights while in custody. In most cases [no reasons](#) for the arrest, written or verbal, were provided to parents at the time of arrest.

*"[The soldier] then gave my mother a document filled out in Hebrew with details about my arrest. He made her sign the document and then he took it away. He did not leave a copy for my mother."*

S.M.D.J. (15 years) – Al 'Arrub refugee camp, 19 October 2020

- 3.4 Shortly after arrest every child was [zip tied](#) or [handcuffed](#) (**100 percent**). In **89 percent** of cases involving hand restraints the evidence indicates non-compliance with the military's own [Standard Operating Procedures](#) for their use introduced in 2010 following a petition to Israel's High Court of Justice.<sup>13</sup> Children frequently describe the restraints as being "[painful](#)", "[very tight and painful](#)" or "[severely painful](#)". In some cases, children report that their hands became [swollen](#), [turned blue](#) and [bled](#). Most children report remaining tied for [many hours](#) and some continue to be [restrained](#) inside the interrogation room.

*"Then, without giving my parents any documents, they took me outside where a soldier tied my hands to the front with three plastic ties: one on each wrist and another connecting the two. The ties were so tight that they cut into my wrists and I bled."*

M.A.K.U. (16 years) - Qabatiya, 31 January 2021

- 3.5 In addition to being tied, almost every child (**93 percent**) was also [blindfolded](#) even though [UNICEF](#) recommended an absolute prohibition on this practice.<sup>14</sup> While there is no obvious

security reason for blindfolding children, the evidence suggests it does help to “soften them up” for interrogation making it easier to obtain a confession. In August 2019, lawyers for the military authorities [informed](#) Israel’s High Court of Justice “that military orders and regulations forbid blindfolding of detainees, and action to clarify the rules has been taken and will continue to be taken on a continuous basis.” This statement cannot be reconciled with the [evidence](#).

*“He tied my hands behind my back with 2 plastic ties on top of each other and tightened them very hard. I had to bend backwards to ease the pain. He also covered my eyes with my Kufiyah and shackled my feet. Then the soldiers led me towards the military checkpoint where they made me kneel on the ground for about 2 hours. The soldiers beat me while I was tied and blindfolded.”*

H.H.I.Z. (16 years) - Hebron, 21 May 2021

### *The transfer*

- 3.6 Following arrest most children are put in the [back](#) of a military vehicle which eventually drops them off at an interrogation centre in a West Bank settlement or in Israel. As in previous years approximately half of all children (**49 percent**) report being forced to [sit](#), or [lie down](#), on the metal floor of the military vehicles - tied and blindfolded. While this practice causes further stress and injury to the child it appears, in most cases, to be logistical. If there are enough seats for the soldiers and detainees, then generally the children will be properly seated, [but not always](#). While on the floor the children are positioned between the [boots](#) of the soldiers.

*“Then they tied my hands behind my back with one plastic tie which was very tight and painful. They left the tie on my wrists for 2 days. Then they walked me into a nearby military base where I passed out again and the soldiers had to revive me. Later I was taken to the back of a military jeep where they blindfolded me and made me lie down on the metal floor face down. A soldier put his knee on the back of my neck to keep my head down on the floor.”*

K.M.A.N. (17 years) - Habla, 18 May 2021

- 3.7 As in the past, the journey from the place of arrest to the interrogation room is often indirect involving stops at military [watchtowers](#), [bases](#) and smaller [settlements](#) throughout the West Bank. Accordingly, the journey to interrogation can take [many hours](#). During this time children frequently report being left tied and blindfolded in [shipping containers](#) or [left outside](#) for [extended periods](#) exposed to the [elements](#). Some children report being treated with dignity, but in many cases, children report [abuse](#), [sleep deprivation](#), [humiliation](#), lack of [food](#) and [water](#), and limited access to [toilets](#). The result is that most children arrive in the interrogation room in a state of physical and mental exhaustion.

*"Then I was taken to the police station in Etzion settlement where I was left out in the cold and rainy weather until around 6:00 a.m. before being taken for interrogation. By then my hands were swollen and had turned blue."*

M.A.S.J. (17 years) - Al 'Arrub refugee camp 7 January 2020

- 3.8 Most children also experience physical (**64 percent**) and verbal abuse (**76 percent**) following their arrest. While abuse occurs at all points of detention, it is most common during the arrest and transfer stages. The most common forms of physical abuse include: [punching](#), [slapping](#), [kicking](#), striking with [objects](#) such as guns and pushing into objects such as [walls](#) or the sides of [military vehicles](#). The most common forms of verbal abuse generally refer to the child's [mother or sister](#). In a few cases children require [hospitalization](#) after being assaulted.

*"Then two large men entered the room and started to yell at me urging me to confess. One of them poked me with a baton in my stomach and chest telling me to confess. I told him I could not think straight because I was beaten badly. This lasted for about an hour and I continued to deny the accusations. The interrogator swore to god he was going to kill me if I did not confess and said no one would ever find out. Then he slapped me and pushed me against the wall."*

H.A.M.C. (16 years) - Bethlehem, 25 April 2021

- 3.9 At some point between arrest and interrogation, most children will be given a cursory [medical check](#), frequently inside a [shipping container](#) in a [military base](#) or [settlement](#) in the West Bank. In most cases this check appears to be more for the benefit of the bureaucracy, rather than the [well-being](#) of the child. Some children report remaining [tied](#) and [blindfolded](#) during the check while others report complaints of physical abuse are [incorrectly](#) recorded. Israeli military [regulations](#) require that detainees be given a medical check at this stage which perhaps explains why sometimes they appear to be no more than a box ticking exercise.

*"At the settlement I was given a medical examination. I told the person who examined me that I was beaten up when he asked me whether I had been beaten but I saw that he circled the wrong answer on the form."*

H.H.I.Z. (16) - Hebron, 21 May 2021

### ***The interrogation***

- 3.10 Eventually the child will find his way to an interrogation room in a West Bank settlement or inside Israel - generally five to [10 hours](#) after arrest.<sup>15</sup> Some children are interrogated at [night](#)



and virtually all children are exhausted, scared, bruised and sleep deprived. While there is no legal right under Israeli military law for a parent to accompany a child during interrogation in security offences, the military authorities have acknowledged that there is a [discretion](#) to permit their presence. No child is currently being afforded the benefit of this discretion.

*"The military commander phoned my father and told him to bring me over to Ofer prison, near Jerusalem. That same day I went with my father to Ofer at 7:00 p.m. At the entrance my father and I were searched. Then we were taken in a military jeep to another part of the base. The military commander phoned my father again and told him he was going to detain me and told my father to go home ... My father said goodbye to me and I was transferred to another jeep."*

S.M.H.A. (16 years) - Qalandiya refugee camp, 4 September 2019

- 3.11 Under Israeli military law a detainee has the right to consult with a lawyer prior to interrogation. There are exceptions but generally these do not apply to children. Although Israel's Supreme Court has identified this to be a fundamental right, it is only afforded to Palestinian children in **18 percent** of cases.<sup>16</sup> In cases where a child does [consult](#) with a [lawyer](#) this generally occurs during a brief telephone [call](#) with the interrogator sometimes [listening](#) in on speakerphone. Children also have the right to silence but this is only being respected in **13 percent** of cases. In some cases where the child is informed of the right, he is [yelled](#) at if he attempts to remain silent or told that silence "[implies guilt](#)". In other cases children are provided with a document containing their rights but report "[not understanding everything](#)".

*"When the interrogation was over the interrogator phoned a lawyer and allowed me to speak to him. The lawyer told me not to be scared and not to confess. Neither the lawyer nor the interrogator said anything about my right to silence. Then the interrogator gave me a document written in Hebrew and asked me to sign it but I refused to sign."*

S.S.I.D. (17 years) - Azzun, 10 January 2019

- 3.12 While [violence](#) is sometimes used during the interrogation of children, the predominant tactic is to deprive the exhausted child of his full legal rights and then combine [intimidation](#), [threats](#), [deception](#) and [inducements](#) to extract a confession or information. Threats were documented in **91 percent** of cases and typically involve: the threat of [long-term](#) detention; the [arrest](#) of other family members; cancellation of [work permits](#); [violence](#), including [death threats](#); falsely exposing the child as a [collaborator](#); [administrative detention](#); and [solitary confinement](#). In one case where violence was used during interrogation the child reported being [sexually assaulted](#).

*"The interrogator was aggressive and verbally abused me. He questioned me about things that had nothing to do with the accusation. He wanted to get information about people from my village. He also told me my friends had confessed against me. Then he threatened to arrest my parents and brother. I later found out he had summoned my older brother and questioned him about me for about 8 hours before he released him. He told my brother he was willing to issue my mother a permit to go for medical treatment in Israel if he cooperated with him."*

M.H.M.Z. (16 years) - Beit Ummar, 7 April 2021

### ***Solitary confinement***

- 3.12 While every Palestinian child detained by the Israeli military in the West Bank will experience some version of the treatment above, a minority will also be subjected to solitary confinement as part of their interrogation. Historically, less than **4 percent** of children would be subjected to this practice, but as mentioned, there has been a sharp increase in recent years to nearly **20 percent**. Of the 45 solitary confinement testimonies collected by MCW since 2019, isolation was used in 42 cases (**93 percent**) as part of the interrogation process. In the remaining 7 percent of cases the technique was used either as punishment for protesting prison conditions or for what appears to be logistical reasons (1 case).

*"Then I was taken to a tiny cell. My legs touched the wall when I slept. It did not have any windows and the sink leaked on the floor. The light in the cell flickered all the time. There was a blanket but I could not sleep. I was taken back and forth to the interrogation room."*

M.A.M.R. (16 years) - Etzion interrogation centre, West Bank, 25 August 2019

### ***Location of facilities***

- 3.13 The majority of children (**70 percent**) were held in solitary confinement in facilities located inside Israel - most commonly at: Al Jalama (Haifa), Al Mascobiyeh (West Jerusalem), Ashkelon and Petah Tikva. The significance of this is that these children were forcibly transferred from their homes in the West Bank in violation of international law which prohibits transfer out of occupied territory (see section 5 below). The remaining **30 percent** of children in solitary confinement were held in facilities located in military bases and settlements in the West Bank - most commonly at: Huwwara (near Nablus), Binyamin (near Ramallah), Etzion (near Bethlehem) and Salem (near Jenin).

*"At the settlement they made me sit on a chair in an outdoor area for about 13 hours. It was a cold night. Later I was taken to a shipping container but I was not given any food or water. Soldiers passing by slapped me and swore at me. At around 9:00 p.m. I was driven to Al Jalama interrogation centre in Israel where I was put in a small cell in solitary confinement for 15 days."*

A.T.R.A. (17 years) - Al Jalama interrogation centre, Israel, 11 January 2021

### ***Gender, age and duration***

- 3.13 All children held in solitary confinement were boys. The practice is generally reserved for older children (16-17 years) (**87 percent**) although children as young as [13 years](#) were also held in solitary. In most cases the standard practice appears to be for children to be periodically interrogated while held in solitary confinement until their spirit is [crushed](#) and a confession obtained. Each child spent, on average, **10.5 days** in solitary confinement, with the minimum being 24 hours ([1 case](#)) and the maximum 30 days ([1 case](#)).

*"Towards the end of the two weeks I became psychologically drained and I confessed. Spending two weeks in a small cell by myself was not easy and I just wanted the situation to end at any cost. My thoughts became very negative. When I confessed the interrogator made me sign a document written in Arabic."*

M.N.N.B. (15 years) - Ashkelon prison, Israel, 29 January 2020

### ***The cell***

- 3.14 The description of the cells provided by the children bare similarity to descriptions reported over 30 years ago. The cells are small - variously described as measuring [1 x 1 metres](#), [1 x 1.5 metres](#), [1 x 2 metres](#), [1.5 x 1.5 metres](#), [2 x 2.5 metres](#), [2 x 2 metres](#), [2 x 3 metres](#) and [3 x 3 metres](#). One child [described](#) his cell as follows: "[T]he cell was my body length when I laid down on the floor". According to a report published by the Israeli organisation B'Tselem in 1991: "During interrogation, suspects are placed in solitary confinement in the "Tzinok" (isolation cell) which is a small cell similar to isolation cells in other wings in prisons, and in two other much smaller cells: 1) Closet: This is a very small cell, in some prisons 1 x 1 meters, in others a smaller size, very dark and almost completely closed."<sup>17</sup>

*"The cell was so small that I could not stretch my legs to sleep. I was given a small rag to sleep on and I had to bend my legs to fit in the small space ... During this time I was beaten and the person who beat me told me he would stop beating me only if I confessed."*

S.K.I.D. (16 years) - Al Jalama interrogation centre, Haifa, Israel, 10 January 2019

### ***Physical conditions***

- 3.15 In addition to being small, conditions inside the cell are variously described as follows: some cells contain [mice](#) or [cockroaches](#) "crawling everywhere"; a lack of privacy, either due to the presence of [CCTV](#) or because a guard would insist on [accompanying](#) the child to the toilet; a [hessian bag](#) used as a blanket; mattresses on the [floor](#) or no [mattress or pillows](#) at all; "[smelly blankets](#)"; a [concrete](#) bed; most cells have a sink and toilet, described in some cases as "[filthy](#)"; some cells only have a sink which was used as a [toilet](#) while other cells only have a toilet, with [no sink](#); walls [painted black](#); [underground](#) windowless cells; and permanent air conditioning making the cell "[very cold](#)".

*"I was taken to a small cell measuring no more than 1 x 1 meters. I was left there by myself for 13 days. The cell did not have any windows and I could not tell day from night. It had a sheet and no mattress or pillow and a toilet but no sink. The air conditioner was on and very cold. I was very distressed and wanted to get out. During this time, I had two more interrogations."*

A.M.A.T. (16 years) - Al Mascobiye, West Jerusalem, 12 November 2020

### ***Sleep deprivation and disorientation***

- 3.15 Children describe the cells as either being windowless, or having very small openings which are [shuttered](#) to prevent day light entering. This leaves the child disorientated and unable to tell day from night. Further, most children report a [light](#) in the cell, controlled from outside, which is generally left on [24 hours](#) a day making sleep difficult, if not [impossible](#). Some children report wrapping their heads in [clothing](#) or [blankets](#) in order to shut out the light and feeling "[distressed](#)" not knowing day from night. Many children report being "[driven crazy](#)" by the constant light or experiencing pain in their eyes due to the "[flickering dim light](#)". In one case a child reports being held in a windowless cell where the light was mostly kept off - leaving him in [total darkness](#) for 11 days - he reports being left in "deep distress".

*"The cell was very small and had a mattress on the floor. The toilet was also in the same cell and I had no pillow. There were no windows and no daylight came through. The only way I could tell the time of day was from the types of meals they brought me. I found it very hard to sleep. There was a bright light in the cell which they sometimes dimmed. I slept on average about four hours a day. I fell asleep from exhaustion. During this time I was interrogated multiple times."*

A.T.R.A. (17 years) - Al Jalama interrogation centre, Israel, 11 January 2021

### ***The food and drink***

- 3.16 No child had anything positive to say about the quality or quantity of the food. Common descriptions include: inedible food still [frozen](#); [insufficient](#) or limited food, such as [yoghurt](#) and nothing else; "[lousy food](#)"; "[disgusting food](#)"; undercooked [rice](#) or [spaghetti](#); inedible chicken with [feathers](#) still in the skin; meat with a [terrible smell](#); "[murky water](#)" to drink; and a [dead lizard](#) in the food. In some cases children went on [hunger strike](#) in protest.

*"I was transferred from Ofer to Damoun prison inside Israel. The conditions there were terrible; cockroaches crawling everywhere and the food was lousy. I was locked up in a cell by myself twice as punishment because I took part in protests inside prison. The first time I spent 12 days in a cell by myself. It was very hard and I thought of my family the whole time. The second time I spent 9 days by myself in a cell measuring 2 x 1 meters. There was a toilet and a sink but there were no windows. The light was on 24 hours. It was hard to sleep with the light on. I asked the soldiers to turn it off at night and sometimes they did."*

N.A.Y.D. (16 years) - Damoun prison, Israel, 15 July 2019

### ***The impact***

- 3.17 The reported impact of solitary confinement on the children includes: weight loss - [10 kilograms](#), [12 kilograms](#) and [12 kilograms](#); self-harm including children [banging their heads](#) against the metal [door](#) of the cell begging to be released; [threatened suicide](#); pulling out their [hair](#); loss of [appetite](#); "[mentally very stressed](#)"; time passing very slowly causing "[distress](#)". [depression and the loss of hope](#) adding "[my time in solitary confinement destroyed me psychologically](#)"; One boy describes banging "[hysterically](#)" on the door wanting to get out, [adding](#) that "those 10 days were the most difficult of my entire life". One boy described the impact as "[psychological torture](#)" while another [stated](#) that "at first I denied everything because I wanted the interrogation session to last as long as possible because I did not want to go back to the cell". One child took to [talking to himself](#) and imagining that he was watching television. Another child reports being given sleeping pills by a sympathetic guard while in solitary, which has now resulted in an [addiction](#).

*"Then I was taken back to the cell which was monitored by CCTV cameras 24 hours. The food was disgusting and I could barely eat it. I felt so terrible that I wanted to kill myself. I broke a plastic fork they brought with the food and I cut my wrist and made more cuts along the inside of my arm until my elbow. The guards saw what I had done on the camera and quickly came to the cell. One of them yelled at me and wanted to beat me up. Then they took me to the clinic and a doctor examined my arm and gave me some band aids."*

A.N.H.H. (17 years) - Petah Tikva interrogation centre, Israel, 29 January 2021

*"The cell measured about 1.5 x 1.5 meters. It had one small window close to the ceiling which hardly let in any sun light. There were three terribly smelly blankets and a thin mattress on the floor. I used two blankets as a pillow. There was a light in the room which sometimes was kept on 24 hours a day. I was very stressed and could not sleep. On the first couple of days I felt palpitations in my chest and thought my heart was going to stop beating. One night I banged at the door in the middle of the night and asked to see a doctor. The following day a doctor examined me and told me I had palpitations at night because I was scared of being alone. I asked that they bring another person to be with me at night but the guard told me it was not possible."*

M.O.A.N. (17 years) - Huwwara military base, West Bank, 17 May 2021

*"On my 7th day in solitary confinement I lost my mind completely and was in despair. I felt I could do anything; like attack the guard. I started to bang my head against the rough walls until I bled. When the guard found out he called in some soldiers and they took me to the clinic. The doctor treated my wound and then I was handcuffed and shackled and taken to a room where I was tied to a chair for about three hours as punishment for hurting myself."*

O.O.M.H. (17 years) - Petah Tikva interrogation centre, Israel, 29 January 2021

### ***Punishment and solitary confinement***

- 3.18 In two cases children were placed in solitary confinement as punishment for [protesting](#) general prison [conditions](#). In other cases children were punished with [sleep deprivation](#) and [shackling](#) in uncomfortable positions for self-harming while already in solitary confinement.

*"By this time, I was very distressed. I could not stand to be in the cell one more minute. In order to get out I banged my head against the door to get attention. I hit my head very hard against the door and the prison guards came within a few minutes because they saw what I was doing on CCTV. I was taken out of my cell and into another room which had a mattress on the floor and two steps on both sides of the mattress. They made me lie down on the mattress and then lifted my arms and legs up and tied me with metal handcuffs and shackles to the side steps in a position that was very uncomfortable. I was left in that position for about two hours as punishment for banging my head against the door. The guards came into the room to wake me up whenever I tried to fall asleep."*

H.M.H.H. (17 years) - Petah Tikva interrogation centre, Israel, 29 January 2021

### *The collaborators' cell*

- 3.19 One interrogation technique in continuous use for decades is to move the detainee from an isolation cell into a cell with fellow prisoners who are in fact [collaborators](#). The collaborators seek to win the [trust](#) of the newcomer and [extract](#) further information. These conversations are frequently recorded and the target detainee is then returned to solitary confinement and interrogation. This technique is well known and fosters [mistrust](#) among the detainees.

*"After spending a week at Al Mascobiyyeh, I was transferred to Ashkelon prison inside Israel. I was left in a cell with other prisoners who I was very suspicious of. I felt they were informants because they kept asking me questions about the incident. I was very careful and did not give any unnecessary information. I spent five days in Ashkelon and then I was taken back to Al Mascobiyyeh."*

O.R.A.I. (15 years) - Ashkelon prison, Israel, 19 May 2020

### *Confessions and plea bargains*

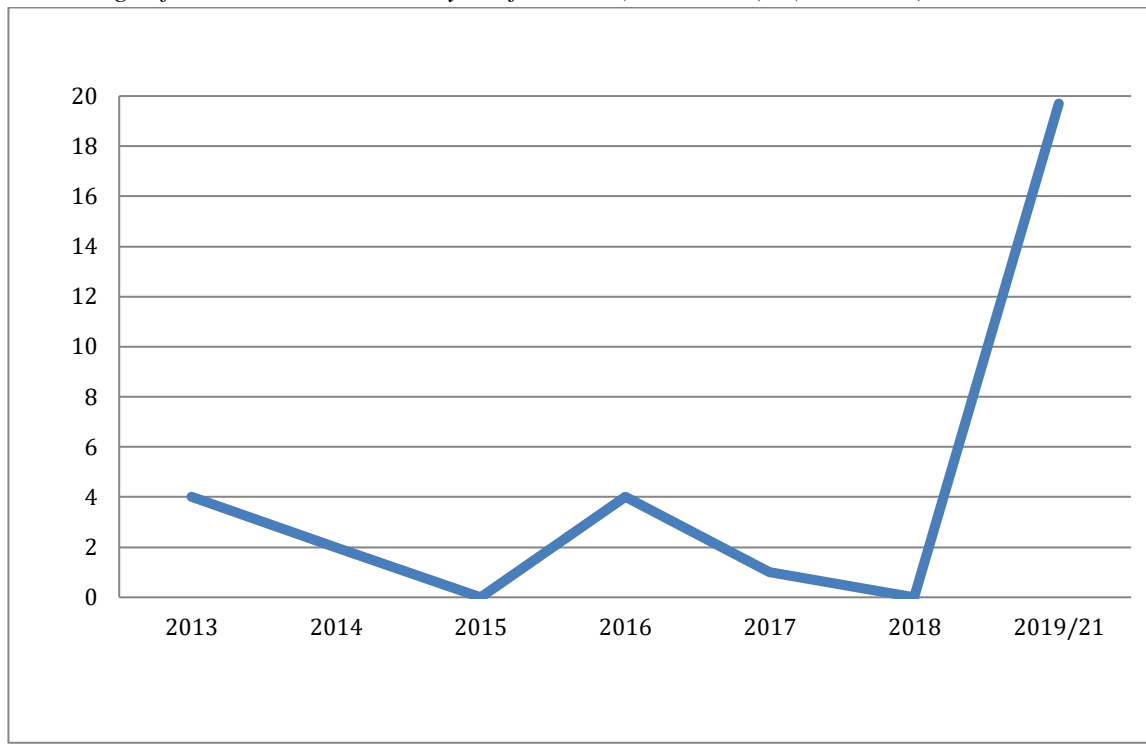
- 3.20 Some children report confessing or signing documents written in Hebrew - [too tired to object](#) or because they might be "[beaten up](#)" if they did not sign or simply because "[I could not take it anymore](#)". These documents are included in the child's court file which is viewed by a military judge. None of the judges raise concerns that some children are signing documents in a foreign language, including confessions. Almost every child (**89 percent**) ended up entering into a plea bargain in the military courts whereby in return for pleading guilty a lighter sentence was offered by the military prosecutor based on an inflated charge sheet. As for the other children (**11 percent**), two children were served with administrative detention orders ([4 months](#) and [12 months](#) respectively) - detention without charge or trial, while the other children were released on bail after spending [3 months](#) and [4 months](#) respectively in detention. Excluding the administrative detention cases and cases still pending, **100 percent** of cases ended in a conviction.

*"I confessed because I wanted to get out of that cell and because the food was disgusting. I thought by confessing to something I had a chance of release. The interrogator gave me a document written in Hebrew and asked me to sign it and I did because I could not care less, I just wanted to get out of the cell."*

O.R.A.I. (15 years) - Al Mascobiyyeh, West Jerusalem, 19 May 2020

#### **4. Evidence - Data**

*Percentage of children held in solitary confinement (2013-2021) - (912 cases)*



*Average time children held in solitary confinement (2019 - 2021) - (45 cases)*

Year	Time - Days		
	Min.	Max.	Average
2019	1	19	5.8
2020	2	30	12.8
2021	3	25	12.9
Average time	-	-	10.5 days

*Average age of children held in solitary confinement (2019 - 2021) - (45 cases)*

Year	Age		
	Min.	Max.	Average
2019	13	17	15.9
2020	14	17	16.3
2021	16	17	16.6
Average age	-	-	16.3 years



*Purpose of solitary confinement (2019 - 2021) - 45 cases*

Year	Interrogation	Punishment	Other
2019	82%	18%	-
2020	100%	-	-
2021	93%	-	7%
<b>Average %</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>2%</b>

*Issues of concern raised by children held in solitary confinement (2019 - 2021)- (45 cases)*

#	Issue of concern	Number	Percentage
1	Summons in lieu of night arrest	1	2%
1	Night arrest	26	58%
2	Hand tied	45	100%
3	Blindfolded	42	93%
4	Floor transfer	22	49%
5	Physical abuse	29	64%
6	Threats	41	91%
7	Verbal abuse	34	76%
8	Informed of right to silence	6	13%
9	Access to lawyer prior to interrogation	8	18%
10	Access to parent throughout interrogation	0	0%
11	Shown/signed documentation in Hebrew	33	73%
12	Strip searched	34	76%

## **5. Unlawful transfer and detention**

- 5.1 The majority of children (**70 percent**) whose cases are presented in this report were taken from their homes in the West Bank to interrogation facilities inside Israel where they were held in solitary confinement. Since the Second World War the transfer of civilians, including detainees, out of occupied territory has been prohibited under the Fourth Geneva Convention.<sup>18</sup> A recent example of this prohibition in action is the targeted sanctions imposed on Russia for, *inter alia*, transferring Ukrainian detainees from the Crimea to facilities in Russia.<sup>19</sup>

- 5.2 Israel's policy of transferring Palestinian detainees from the West Bank to Israel commenced in 1967 and currently affects hundreds of children and thousands of adults each year.<sup>20</sup> There is no domestic remedy in Israel for this violation<sup>21</sup> and claims that the Fourth Geneva Convention does not apply cannot be taken seriously, not least because Israel's military authorities continue to [rely](#) on Article 66 of the Convention to justify prosecuting Palestinians in military courts in the West Bank as well as over 40 UN Security Council resolutions.<sup>22</sup> (see **Annexure C**)
- 5.3 In 2013, [UNICEF](#) recommended that: "[I]n accordance with international law, all Palestinian children detained in the Israeli military detention system shall be held in facilities located in the occupied Palestinian territory." Based on the evidence included in this report as well as data provided by the [Israeli Prison Service](#), it is clear that this recommendation has been rejected.

*Children in solitary confinement - location of detention facility (2019 - 2021) - (45 cases)*

Year	Location					
	Israel		Palestine			
2019	Al Jalama	18%	64%	Binyamin	18%	36%
	Al MascobiyeH	9%		Etzion	9%	
	Ashkelon	9%		Oz	9%	
	Damoun	18%		-	-	
	Ramle	9%		-	-	
2020	Al Jalama	21%	73%	Ariel	5%	27%
	Al MascobiyeH	26%		Huwwara	11%	
	Ashkelon	16%		Salem	11%	
	Petah Tikva	5%		-	-	
	n/a	5%		-	-	
2021	Al Jalama	20%	73%	Etzion	7%	27%
	Al MascobiyeH	13%		Huwwara	20%	
	Ashkelon	7%		-	-	
	Megiddo	13%		-	-	
	Petah Tikva*	20%		-	-	
Average	70%			30%		

## **6. Accountability and the International Criminal Court**

- 6.1 Crimes that come within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC) (the Court) include unlawful transfer, torture or inhuman treatment. While Israel is not a state party to the Rome Statute of the ICC, the Court confirmed that its territorial jurisdiction extends to "the territories occupied by Israel since 1967" in a [judgment](#) issued on 5 February 2021. This jurisdiction extends to, *inter alia*, alleged crimes committed in the West Bank since 13 June 2014.
- 6.2 Accordingly, it would appear that the Court has jurisdiction over acts of torture or inhuman treatment arising out of the holding of children in solitary confinement in facilities located in the West Bank (30 percent of cases included in this report) as well as jurisdiction over the

remaining 70 percent of cases referred to in this report where the children were unlawfully transferred to detention facilities located inside Israel where they were then subjected to acts of torture or inhuman treatment - the act of transfer itself occurring on Palestinian territory.

- 6.3 The Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC has been in possession of evidence relating to the unlawful transfer of Palestinian child detainees from the West Bank to detention facilities inside Israel since 9 March 2015 - since that date it is estimated that between **2,000 - 4,000 children** have been transferred - some of whom were subsequently subjected to solitary confinement.
- 6.5 Following the ICC's ruling on jurisdiction, Israeli [media](#) reported that "senior security officials said a number of ICC member states have agreed to give advance warning to Israel of any intent to arrest Israelis on their arrival in those countries or if a request for an arrest warrant is issued." Subsequently, both the [United Kingdom](#) and [Germany](#) have indicated that they reject the Court's jurisdiction and although not a party to the Rome Statute, the [Biden Administration](#) has also reportedly been lobbying to block access. It should be noted that these states are not alone in seeking to restrict access to the Court.

## **7. Concluding words**

- 7.1 Palestinian children have been forcibly transferred from the West Bank to prisons inside Israel for 54 years and subjected to solitary confinement during interrogation for at least 30 years, possibly much longer. To date there has been no accountability and so it is that the situation persists, and in some cases, deteriorates.
- 7.2 A genuine rules-based order requires the application of agreed upon principles objectively, without fear or favour. Applying the rules selectively against strategic adversaries, while turning a blind eye in favour of strategic partners is understandable in terms of an interests-based system, but has no relationship to the rule of law. Be that as it may, no one should be under any illusion that this approach does not have profound real-life consequences.
- 7.3 Finally, there are inherent dangers associated with blocking access to courts - first, at some point people may simply lose faith in the ideal of the rule of law altogether, and secondly, lose confidence in the institutions promoted to deliver justice - the alternatives will almost certainly be less palatable.

**ANNEXURE A**  
**CHILDREN HELD IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT (2019-2021)**

#	Name	Age	Date of Arrest	Residence	Facility	Location	Solitary (days)
<b>2019</b>							
1	S.S.I.D.	17	10 Jan	Azzun	Ramle	Israel	3
2	S.K.I.D.	16	10 Jan	Kafr Qaddum	Al Jalame	Israel	3
3	Q.H.M.H.	16	14 Feb	Al Jalazun	Binyamin	Palestine	1
4	Y.A.Y.A.	17	29 Apr	Askar	Ashkelon	Israel	19
5	N.A.Y.D.	16	15 Jul	Kafr Ein	Damoun	Israel	12
6	M.A.M.R.	16	25 Aug	Bethlehem	Etzion	Palestine	3
7	J.J.J.J.	17	3 Sep	Allar	Al Jalame	Israel	12
8	S.M.H.A.	16	4 Sep	Qalandiya	Al Mascobiyeh	Israel	2
9	M.S.M.H.	13	11 Sep	Bethlehem	Etzion	Palestine	4
10	H.A.S.R.	15	26 Nov	Aida	Damoun	Israel	2
11	M.A.S.B.	16	4 Dec	Al Azza	Oz		3
<b>2020</b>							
12	N.A.M.Q.	17	5 Jan	Sourif	Ashkelon	Israel	23
13	M.A.S.J.	17	7 Jan	Al Arrub	Petah Tikva	Israel	30
14	A.M.H.A.	17	8 Jan	Beit Rima	Al Jalama	Israel	21
15	K.A.A.A.	17	13 Jan	Beit Ummar	Ashkelon	Israel	17
16	J.H.J.H.	17	28 Jan	Tubas	Al Jalama	Israel	4
17	M.N.N.B.	15	29 Jan	Al Arrub	Ashkelon	Israel	14
18	L.Y.K.I.	16	26 Feb	Askar	Salem	Palestine	7
19	L.A.M.A.	17	28 Mar	Kafr Qaddum	Huwwara	Palestine	17
20	F.H.S.U.	16	25 Apr	Ta'amreh	n/a	n/a	6
21	O.R.A.I.	15	19 May	Abu Dis	Al Mascobiyeh	Israel	10
22	A.F.A.S.	16	15 Jul	Balata	Ariel	Palestine	7
23	A.M.F.H.	17	23 Jul	Balata	Salem	Palestine	4
24	M.K.R.N.	17	3 Aug	Qabatiya	Al Jalame	Israel	20
25	A.R.A.Q.	17	9 Sep	Azzawiya	Al Jalame	Israel	16
26	S.M.D.J.	15	19 Oct	Al Arrub	Al Mascobiyeh	Israel	7
27	A.M.A.T.	16	12 Nov	Qalandiya	Al Mascobiyeh	Israel	13
28	K.M.I.K.	17	24 Nov	Al Khader	Al Mascobiyeh	Israel	2
29	S.Z.S.A.	14	16 Dec	Beit Ummar	Al Mascobiyeh	Israel	7
30	M.Z.S.A.	16	16 Dec	Beit Ummar	Huwwara	Palestine	18
<b>2021</b>							
31	A.T.R.A.	17	11 Jan	Qabatiya	Al Jalama	Israel	15
32	A.S.E.K.	16	19 Jan	Hizma	Ashkelon	Israel	14
33	A.N.H.H.	17	29 Jan	Balata	Petah Tikva	Israel	8
34	H.M.H.H.	17	29 Jan	Balata	Petah Tikva	Israel	8
35	O.O.M.H.	17	29 Jan	Balata	Petah Tikva	Israel	11
36	M.A.K.U.	16	31 Jan	Qabatiya	Al Jalama/Petah	Israel	15 + 10
37	I.A.S.L.	17	7 Feb	Qabatiya	Huwwara	Palestine	15
38	M.M.A.S.	17	24 Mar	Jenin	Huwwara	Palestine	17
39	M.H.M.Z.	16	7 Apr	Beit Ummar	Etzion	Palestine	18
40	H.A.M.C.	16	25 Apr	Bethlehem	Al Mascobiyeh	Israel	20
41	M.M.A.Z.	16	30 Apr	Jerusalem	Al Mascobiyeh	Israel	7
42	M.A.H.M.	17	12 May	Qarawa B' Zaid	Al Jalama	Israel	7 + 3
43	M.O.A.N.	17	17 May	Tulkarem	Huwwara	Palestine	10
44	K.M.A.N.	17	18 May	Habla	Megiddo	Israel	5
45	H.H.I.Z.	16	21 May	Hebron	Megiddo	Israel	10

## ANNEXURE B

### 45 TESTIMONIES FROM CHILDREN HELD IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT (2019-2021)

#### Testimony 1

**Name:** S.S.I.D.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 10 January 2019  
**Location:** Azzun, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Weapon possession

**On 10 January 2019, a 17-year-old youth was stopped at a flying checkpoint by Israeli soldiers at 10:00 p.m. He was searched and found in possession of a Swiss Army knife. He reports being held in solitary confinement for 3 days at Ramle prison.**

1. I was going home after work when the car I was in was stopped at a temporary Israeli military checkpoint. It was around 10:00 p.m. The soldiers searched me and found a Swiss Army knife in my pocket which I use at the car wash where I work.
2. The soldiers immediately tied my hands behind my back with one plastic tie which was tight and painful and left marks on my wrists. Then they took me to the back of a military jeep where I was blindfolded and I sat on a seat.
3. The jeep drove to the nearby military base at Zufin. At the base I was taken to a room where I sat on a chair tied and blindfolded until the afternoon of the following day. I could not sleep during this time because soldiers slammed the door and woke me up each time I fell asleep. I was able to use the toilet but I was not given any food or drink.
4. In the afternoon I was taken to the police station in Ariel settlement where I waited for about an hour before being taken for interrogation.
5. The interrogator removed the tie and the blindfold and started to question me. He accused me of possessing a knife. I told him I had the knife in my pocket because I use it at work and had no intention of causing harm to anyone. He became angry and swore at me calling me “a son of a whore”. The interrogation lasted for about an hour and I continued to deny that I intended to harm someone.
6. When the interrogation was over the interrogator phoned a lawyer and allowed me to speak to him. The lawyer told me not to be scared and not to confess. Neither the lawyer nor the interrogator said anything about my right to silence. Then the interrogator gave me a document written in Hebrew and asked me to sign it but I refused to sign.
7. After the interrogation I was shackled, handcuffed and blindfolded and taken to Huwwara military base where I was strip searched before being taken to a cell. The shackles, handcuffs and blindfold were removed and I spent a night in the cell. They brought me some food but I could not eat it because it was cold and unappetizing.

8. In the morning I was examined by a doctor and then I was transferred to Megiddo prison inside Israel. At Megiddo I was strip searched again and taken to the juvenile section.
9. The following day I was taken to a military court. My parents attended and the hearing was adjourned. The military judge refused to release me on bail. I had three military court hearings.
10. At the last hearing I told the military judge I wanted to go back to school and to work to support my family. My lawyer and the prosecutor agreed on a plea bargain where the court would be satisfied by the 17 days I had already spent in prison in addition to a fine of 2,000 shekels. However, the judge rejected the plea bargain and sentenced me to two months in prison. After court I was taken back to prison.
11. The following day I was taken to Ofer military court for an appeal hearing. On the way I was taken to Ramle prison where I was left in a cell by myself for three days. During this time I did not see any human being and I was not given any food or drink. I was terrified and felt I was forgotten in that room and no one knew where I was. I banged at the door to get attention but no one responded. I had no shower but there was a toilet in the room. There were no windows in the room and the light was on all the time and I could not tell whether it was day or night. There were mice in the room.
12. After three days I was taken to court at Ofer where the military judge decided to respect the plea bargain and decided to release me immediately. My parents had to pay 2,000 shekels and I was given a suspended sentence of 28 months in prison valid for five years.
13. My parents were notified and they waited for me from around 2:00 p.m. until around 10:00 p.m. My father was told I would be released at Al-Jalama checkpoint and that was where he waited for me. My mother waited by Al-Jib checkpoint near Ofer. I was released at Ofer checkpoint and because I did not expect my parents to be there I took a taxi to Ramallah and called my mother who met me in Ramallah. I was shivering as I waited in the centre of Ramallah. My mother told me I looked pale and bewildered. I arrived home just after midnight.
14. I am still suffering from the experience and I am taking it easy now. I haven't been to school or work yet; my mother advised me to stay home to recover while she takes care of me.

## Testimony 2

**Name:** S.K.I.D.  
**Age:** 16  
**Date:** 10 January 2019  
**Location:** Kafr Qaddum, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones

**On 10 January 2019, a 16-year-old minor from Kafr Qaddum was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 12:30 a.m. He reports being interrogated multiple times without first being informed of his legal rights. He reports being held in solitary confinement for three days at Al Jalama.**

1. I was at my brother's house when I heard lots of vehicles outside. It was at around 12:30 a.m. I looked out the window and saw about five Israeli military jeeps. Then I saw soldiers enter my parents' house which is next door. They banged on the door loudly and woke up the neighbourhood; all the neighbours came out to see what was going on.
2. Shortly afterwards around 20 soldiers, accompanied by my father, came to my brother's house where I was. They banged on the door and my brother answered. They entered the house and searched it, turned the furniture upside down and smeared the carpets with their muddy boots.
3. A soldier asked for me and told me he had given my father a document about my arrest. Then he told me they wanted to take me for questioning for five minutes and would bring me back. He also asked for my identity card - I told him it was at home. Then he tied my hands to the front with three plastic ties: one on each wrist and another connecting the two. The ties were very tight and caused me a lot of pain. Then he blindfolded me and the soldiers led me the short distance to our house.
4. A soldier made me stand against the wall as the soldiers tried to arrest my 14-year-old brother. I could not tolerate hearing my brother crying and vomiting and clinging to my mother. I had an argument with a soldier and he slapped me hard on the face and banged my head against the wall and called me "a son of a whore". I swore back at him and then he dragged me outside.
5. The commander approached me and told me he had shown me respect in front of my father and accused me of not respecting him in return. He cut off the ties and tied my hands behind my back with metal handcuffs. He painfully twisted my hands to the back and tightened the handcuffs. I complained and told him I was in pain but he did not listen to my complaint.
6. Then I was taken to a troop carrier where I sat on the metal floor. The soldiers were having fun; singing loudly and making fun of me. I swore at one of the soldiers and he pushed me in the back with his elbow.
7. I was taken to a nearby military base where I was left outside on the ground. They made me kneel and it was cold and rainy. I was left there for about 20 minutes. I was so tired and in pain and begged the soldiers to take me inside.
8. After about 20 minutes I was taken to a small room with the air-conditioning turned on. It was very cold. They made me kneel down for about 30 minutes. Then I was examined by a doctor.

9. The doctor removed the blindfold and asked me if I was in pain. Then he mumbled something which I did not understand. Then I was taken to a small room where I remained until around 7:00 a.m. Then I was taken in a jeep to a place I did not recognise; I think it was a police station. At around 8:00 a.m. I was taken for interrogation.
10. The interrogator removed the blindfold and welcomed me. He was in the room with lots of soldiers who surrounded me. I told the interrogator I wanted to speak to a lawyer and named one for him. He did not allow me to speak to the lawyer until half way through the interrogation. Without informing me of my rights he accused me of throwing stones and of harming soldiers. He showed me photographs and video footage of clashes with soldiers and accused me of taking part. I denied the accusation but he insisted I was in the photographs.
11. Then he asked me if I wanted the "easy way" or the "hard way". He said this in a calm tone of voice. He wanted to know how I spent my time and what I did with my friends. He wanted to know whether my friends and I threw stones at soldiers. I told him we did not. He questioned me for about an hour and threatened to arrest my father and younger brother.
12. About half-way through the interrogation he handed me a phone and told me the person was a lawyer. At first, I did not believe it was a lawyer and it took me a while before I was sure. The lawyer wanted to know the accusation and asked me whether I had confessed. The interrogator listened in as we spoke.
13. After the interrogation I was taken to another room and the lawyer came in. He told me not to be scared and warned me they were going to question me again. At around 2:00 a.m. I was taken for another round of interrogation.
14. It was the same interrogator but this time he spoke without an interpreter. He turned a voice recorder on and started to question me without informing me of my rights. He showed me the same photographs and accused me of throwing stones which I denied. He questioned me for about one-and-a-half hours. Then he showed me documents in Hebrew and asked me to sign them but I refused to sign because I did not understand what was written. Then they took my photograph and my fingerprints and then took me to Huwwara military base.
15. At Huwwara six soldiers took me to a room and started to question me about throwing stones without informing me of my rights. One of them punched me in the stomach and then the others joined him in beating me. During this time I pushed one of the soldiers away from me after he beat me. Then he tied me to the chair. They gave me documents in Hebrew to sign but I refused to sign.
16. Later I was taken to a cell where I was searched in my underwear. I spent one night there and I was not given any food. Later that day, at around 9:00 a.m., I was taken to another place, maybe an interrogation centre, but I could not tell where it was. I later found out it was Al Jalama interrogation centre, near Haifa, inside Israel.
17. At that place I was left in a very small cell by myself for three nights. The lights were turned on 24 hours and I could not tell day from night. The cell was so small that I could not stretch my legs to sleep. I was given a small rag to sleep on and I had to bend my legs to fit in the small space. I



ate yogurt and nothing else. During this time I was beaten and the person who beat me told me he would stop beating me only if I confessed.

18. After three days I was taken for a closed military court hearing. My parents did not attend and the hearing was adjourned. For 16 days following my arrest I was taken from one place to another. I spent five nights at Huwwara, three nights at Al-Jalama, six nights at a checkpoint near Megiddo and one night in a troop carrier at Al-Jalama. I cannot describe how tired I was. I found it hard to sleep during this time and I lost about 12 kg in two weeks.
19. On 26 January 2019, I was taken to Megiddo prison inside Israel where I was strip searched before being taken to the juvenile section.
20. I had nine military court hearings which my parents attended. My charge sheet said I was accused of throwing stones during the Friday weekly protests. At the last hearing, which was on 2 April 2019, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to six months in prison fined NIS 2,000. My mother objected and the sentence was changed to five months in prison and a fine of NIS 3,000. I also received a suspended sentence of nine months in prison valid for three years. I accepted the plea bargain because I would be released within a month.
21. I spent my sentence at Megiddo prison where I chatted to my cousin and friend who were in prison with me. I also played table tennis and lifted weights and attended mathematics and Arabic classes. My parents visited me five times. Towards the end of my sentence I was transferred to Al Damoun prison, also in Israel, because I had a fight with someone at Megiddo. I was released on 26 May 2019 and I went home with my father. I arrived home late at night.

### Testimony 3

**Name:** Q.H.M.H.  
**Age:** 16  
**Date:** 14 February 2019  
**Location:** Al Jalazun, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones

**On 14 February 2019, a 16-year-old minor from Al Jalazun refugee camp was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 3:30 a.m. He reports being interrogated multiple times and held in solitary confinement for 24 hours.**

1. Two days before I was arrested the Palestinian preventative security forces summoned me to their offices in Ramallah. I went and the officer made me sign a document saying I promise not to harm the state of Israel and that I regret having done so in the past and that it was wrong to be engaged in such acts.
2. Two days later, on 14 February 2019, Israeli soldiers raided our home at 3:30 a.m. I got up and went to the living room. My father opened the door and about 15-20 soldiers entered our home.
3. A soldier asked my father for me by name and then told him I was under arrest. They gave my father a document written in both Hebrew and Arabic and made him sign it but did not give him a copy. When my father asked why I was being arrested the commander refused to tell him.
4. The soldiers immediately took me outside where they tied my hands to the front with one plastic tie. The tie was very tight and painful and left marks on my wrists for two days. Then they led me to the main entrance of our refugee camp where they blindfolded me.
5. After I was blindfolded I was led to the nearby settlement of Beit El where I was examined by a doctor. The doctor pulled down the blindfold and removed the tie and then put them on again as before. Then I was taken to a shipping container where I was left with another detainee for about two hours.
6. After about two hours I was taken to the back of a military jeep where I sat on the metal floor. The jeep then drove to the police station in Binyamin settlement where I was interrogated. I was without food or drink the whole time and when I asked to use the toilet a soldier told me he would accompany me so I refused. I entered the interrogation room at around 8:00 a.m.
7. The interrogator removed the blindfold and the tie and shackled me. Before he started to question me, he gave me a document written in both Hebrew and Arabic informing me of my right to consult with a lawyer and my right to silence. Then he phoned a lawyer and allowed me to speak to him. The lawyer told me to remain silent and not to talk about anything I knew nothing about or anything I was not involved in. Then he told me to take care of myself.
8. Then the interrogator told me his name was "Yossi" and he asked me whether I threw stones at soldiers. He gave me a date back in 2017 and accused me of throwing stones on that date. I denied the accusation. I decided not to remain silent because I thought the interrogator would go mad if I did.

9. The interrogator named some boys from my refugee camp and showed me their interrogation files and told me the boys had confessed against me. When I denied the accusation again he started to shout at me telling me I had to confess. He questioned me for about three hours and kept urging me to confess. Most of the time he was aggressive to make me confess but I did not. I was not given any documents to sign at the end of the interrogation.
10. After the interrogation I was taken to Ofer military court, near Jerusalem. My father was not there because he had not been informed about the hearing. The interrogator was there and my lawyer. The interrogator told the military court he needed more time to interrogate me. The military judge decided to extend my detention for eight days to allow for more interrogation.
11. After the hearing I was taken to Ofer prison where I was strip searched and told to crouch up and down while naked. Then I was taken to section 13 where I had a meal for the first time since my arrest.
12. Three days later I was taken for another interrogation at the police station in Binyamin settlement. The interrogator showed me a document about my rights but did not allow me to speak to a lawyer. He questioned me for about 30 minutes about the same incident and accused me of throwing stones. I denied the accusation. After the interrogation I was taken back to prison.
13. I was interrogated about 15 times over many days. I was given the document about my rights at the beginning of each interrogation but I did not speak to a lawyer. I was not given any documents to sign at the end of the interrogations.
14. After one of the interrogations I was taken to a very small room measuring about 1 x 1 meters, where I was left for hours together with another detainee. There were no windows in the room and the light was left on 24 hours. There was not enough room for me to stretch my legs and there was nothing in the room, not even a mattress. The other boy went crazy and both of us kept banging at the door asking that they move us somewhere else. After repeated begging the other detainee was taken to another cell and I was left alone.
15. This was the hardest thing during my entire arrest and imprisonment. I was scared and almost went crazy. They brought me frozen food which I could not eat. When I asked to go to the toilet a soldier insisted on going in with me. This time I accepted because I was desperate. I thought they would hurt me and no one would ever find out. I was left in that room for 24 hours; from 5:00 a.m. until 5:00 a.m. the next day. Had I been left there one more hour I would have gone mad.
16. During these repeated interrogations my detention was extended for four days, then another four days and then a further six days. I also had many military court hearings. The last hearing was on the same day I was released. During that hearing I was sentenced in a plea bargain to 13 months in prison and fined NIS 1,000. I was also given a suspended sentence of one year valid for five years.
17. The evidence against me was based on the confessions of other boys who claimed I was with them. My relationship with these boys has been affected; we no longer hang out together and our families hardly speak to each other. I accepted the plea bargain because it meant I would go home that day.

18. I spent the whole time at Ofer prison and my father visited me regularly. I was released on 19 February 2020 and I went home with my father. We arrived home early evening. I dropped out of school before I was arrested and I would like to find a job but it is very hard; all the businesses are closed because of the Corona Virus restrictions.

#### Testimony 4

**Name:** Y.A.Y.A.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 29 April 2019  
**Location:** Askar, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Weapon possession

**On 29 April 2019, a 17-year-old minor from Askar refugee camp was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 3:00 a.m. He reports being interrogated multiple times without always being informed of his legal rights and being held in solitary confinement for 19 days in Ashkelon prison, Israel.**

1. My father woke me up at around 3:00 a.m. and told me Israeli soldiers were in our home asking for me. About 30 soldiers entered our house and scared all of us, especially my 4-year-old sister.
2. The Commander checked our identity cards and when he checked mine he immediately took me aside and told me to "hand over the weapons". I told him I had no weapons. Then the Commander told my father I would be taken away for two days for questioning and then he would bring me back. He told my father I was a trouble maker. He did not give my father any documents.
3. Then a soldier tied my hands behind my back with three plastic ties: one on each wrist and another connecting the two. He tightened them hard and caused me a lot of pain. Then the soldiers led me towards the military jeeps on the street and blindfolded me just before they put me in the back of one of the jeeps. They made me sit on the metal floor of the jeep. Inside the jeep I sat between the soldiers' legs. They beat me on my shoulder and waist. I was in pain.
4. The jeep drove me to Huwwara military base where I was strip searched. After being searched I was taken to a shipping container where I waited until 5:00 a.m. At one point a soldier came into the container and swore at me. Then he told me he was going to make me "regret" my actions.
5. Later than morning I was taken to Megiddo prison, inside Israel, where I was strip searched again before being put in the minors' section. Five days later I was taken for interrogation at Salem interrogation centre, near Jenin.
6. The interrogator was in civilian clothes and had a camera in the room. He told me I had the right to consult with a lawyer. He then appeared to phone a lawyer and then told me there was no answer. Then he told me I had the right to remain silent but warned me that remaining silent would not serve my interests.
7. The interrogator then asked me about pipe bombs and accused me of throwing stones. He mentioned dates back in 2017 and showed me photographs. I denied the accusations. He questioned me for about 90 minutes and I continued to deny the accusation. He threatened to arrest my father if I did not confess. Then he told me I could call my father but warned me if I told my father where I was or that I was being interrogated about he was going to hang up. He then called my father and I spoke to him.

8. After the interrogation I was taken to Ofer prison, near Jerusalem. I had a military court hearing on 2 May 2019. My detention was extended and the hearing was adjourned. My father did not attend the first hearing.
9. About a week later I was taken for another interrogation at Ashkelon police station, inside Israel. This interrogator did not call a lawyer for me but gave me a document written in both Hebrew and Arabic informing me of my rights.
10. The interrogator wanted to know where I got the pipe bombs from and how I used them. He wanted to know the distance between me and the military jeep he alleged I threw the pipe bombs at. I told him I did not throw pipe bombs at jeeps and I denied the accusation. The interrogator became angry when I denied the accusation. He thumped the table aggressively and raised his voice at me urging me to confess.
11. After the interrogation I was taken to a small cell measuring a few square metres. It did not have any windows and the light was on all the time. It had a bag on the floor, similar to the bags that flour comes in. It was scratchy and I could not sit or sleep on it. There was nothing else in the cell, no pillow or mattress. I spent 19 days in the cell by myself. During this time I was interrogated multiple times. I did not know whether it was day or night and I could not sleep. I felt I was going crazy and I thought of my family the whole time.
12. I was probably interrogated 10 or 11 times over this period of 19 days. I was not informed of my rights and I did not speak to a lawyer. At the last interrogation session I confessed because I felt I could take it no more, I was choking. When I confessed the interrogator made me sign a document in Arabic.
13. Also during this time I had about 15 military court hearings. At the last one, which was on 7 January 2020, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to 10 months in prison and fined NIS 2,000. I was also given a suspended sentence of five months valid for five years. I accepted the plea bargain because I was released on the same day having already served the time.
14. I spent one week of my detention at Ofer and then I was transferred to Megiddo prison, inside Israel. My parents visited me five times. I was released on 7 January 2020 at Al Jalama checkpoint. I went home with my father; we arrived home at 8:00 p.m.
15. The most difficult part of this whole experience was the first few hours of arrest. Spending time in solitary confinement in a small cell was also very difficult. I felt I had lost my mind and was willing to do anything to put an end to it. I left school before my arrest; now I want to look for a job to help support my family.

## Testimony 5

**Name:** N.A.Y.D.  
**Age:** 16  
**Date:** 15 July 2019  
**Location:** Kafr Ein, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Shooting

**On 15 July 2019, the family home of a 16-year-old minor from Kafr Ein was raided by Israeli soldiers at 3:00 a.m. and told to bring him for interrogation later that day. He reports spending 12 days in solitary confinement in Damoun prison as punishment for protesting conditions.**

1. We had a party at our house for my brother who was getting married. At around 3:00 a.m. about 70 Israeli soldiers suddenly surrounded our house. Some of us were asleep, others still awake. I was not at home when they came.
2. The commander asked my mother for me and told her I would be arrested. When my mother told him I was not home the commander arrested my brother, whose wedding we were celebrating, and told her he was going to detain him until I turned myself in at Ofer interrogation centre, near Jerusalem. He gave her a document written in Hebrew which she could not read.
3. At around 11:00 a.m. I went with my father to Ofer as ordered. We waited outside the intelligence officer's office. Then a soldier approached us and told me to take off my shirt and trousers. Then he told my father to wait at the gate where my brother would be released. Then he took me inside after allowing me to put my clothes back on.
4. I was taken to an office where I waited from around 11:30 a.m. until around 4:00 p.m. I was not given any food or drink and I was not allowed to use a toilet. At around 4:00 p.m. I was shackled and handcuffed to the front with metal handcuffs, which were not painful, and taken in a vehicle to Ashkelon police station in Israel for interrogation.
5. I arrived at Ashkelon at around 7:00 p.m. I was strip searched and then blindfolded. Then I was taken to a cell where I waited for about an hour before being taken for interrogation. The cell did not have any windows but there was a light. I was tired and sleepy and I slept on a mattress on the floor.
6. The interrogator removed the blindfold and asked me how I was. He was in civilian clothes. He gave me a document in Arabic about my rights but he did not call a lawyer for me. Then he accused me of shooting and told me one of my friends had confessed against me. He showed me my friend's testimony in Arabic which had his signature on it. I denied the accusation. The interrogator was calm most of the time and he questioned me for about an hour. At one point he told me they had brought my mother and brother to the interrogation centre and told me to confess if I wanted them released. This turned out not to be true; he just wanted to put pressure on me to confess.
7. The interrogator showed me photographs and wanted me to give him names of people I am in contact with but I did not. He lost his temper once and wanted me to confess. In the end I confessed to having had a conversation with the person he claimed had confessed against me. Then he

showed me my statement in Arabic and asked me to sign it and I did because it was identical to what I had said.

8. After the interrogation I was taken to court where I saw a lawyer for the first time since my arrest. The judge extended my detention for further interrogation. Then I was taken to Ofer prison where I was strip searched before being taken to section 13. I arrived there at around noon.
9. Three days later I was taken to Ofer military court. My parents were not informed and that was why they did not attend the hearing. My lawyer was there and the hearing was adjourned. I had about 15 military court hearings.
10. At the last hearing, which was about six weeks before I was released, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to 10 months in prison, fined NIS 1,000 and given a suspended sentence of 12 months valid for five years. I accepted the plea bargain because I was expecting a longer sentence and my lawyer told me there was no other option for me but to plead guilty.
11. On 13 January 2020, I was transferred from Ofer to Damoun prison inside Israel. The conditions there were terrible; cockroaches crawling everywhere and the food was lousy. I was locked up in a cell by myself twice as punishment because I took part in protests inside prison. The first time I spent 12 days in a cell by myself. It was very hard and I thought of my family the whole time. Towards the end they brought two other prisoners into my cell. The second time I spent nine days by myself in a cell measuring 2 x 1 meters. There was a toilet and a sink but there were no windows. The light was on 24 hours. It was hard to sleep with the light on. I asked the soldiers to turn it off at night and sometimes they did.
12. I was released on 14 May 2020, at Salem checkpoint. My parents were waiting for me at Al Jalama checkpoint because that was where they were told to wait. I was able to contact them and they came to Salem and took me home. We arrived home at around 7:00 p.m. My mother had prepared a nice rice and chicken meal which I really enjoyed.
13. In prison I used to help in the kitchen and I also lifted weights and exercised to keep fit. My family visited me four times but only six months after my arrest because it took a long time for the permit to be issued.
14. During the last two months the prison management installed pay phones for us and I was able to call my family three times a week for about 15 minutes each time. This was because of the Corona Virus regulations when family visits were suspended.



## Testimony 6

**Name:** M.A.M.R.  
**Age:** 16  
**Date:** 25 August 2019  
**Location:** Bethlehem, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones / Molotovs

**On 25 August 2019, a 16-year-old minor from Bethlehem was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 3:00 a.m. He reports being interrogated without first consulting with a lawyer or being informed of his right to silence and spending 3 days in solitary confinement at Etzion.**

1. My mother woke me up at around 3:00 a.m. and told me Israeli soldiers were in our house. I got up and saw about 40 soldiers scattered all over our home. More were on the roof and outside.
2. The commander asked my father for my name. Then the commander held me tight by the neck and took me to my bedroom and asked to see my phone and identity card. The other soldiers searched the house causing damage to our furniture. They slit open our couches and did not leave anything untouched. They did not tell us what they were looking for. The commander told me if I had “anything” I should turn it over immediately.
3. Then, without giving us any documentation, a soldier tied my hands behind my back with two plastic ties on top of each other and tightened them very hard. The ties were very painful and my hands turned blue and I lost sensation which was scary. The ties left marks on my wrists for days. Then they took me outside where I was blindfolded. The soldiers then led me towards a military jeep. On the way soldiers swore at me before throwing me on the metal floor of the jeep.
4. They left me on the metal floor for about 30 minutes and went back to the house to search again. Then I was allowed to sit on a seat and the jeep drove me to a nearby military base where I was given a medical examination. I was left inside a watchtower for about two hours and then I was taken outside. Then I was taken to the police station in Etzion settlement for interrogation.
5. The interrogator removed the blindfold and told me I was at the interrogation centre and that my friends had confessed against me. He told me because my friends had confessed against me I had to confess. He accused me of throwing a hand grenade at soldiers. I denied the accusation and told him I had done nothing wrong and that my friends were liars. He started to yell and shout at me and accused me of lying. He questioned me without informing me of my right to silence and threatened to lock me up in prison for three years if I did not confess.
6. Half-way through the interrogation he phoned a lawyer for me. The lawyer told me the interrogator had no right to yell at me. The interrogator put the phone on speaker and listened to the conversation which lasted for less than a minute. Neither the lawyer nor the interrogator informed me of my right to silence.
7. Then I was taken to a tiny cell. My legs touched the wall when I slept. It did not have any windows and the sink leaked on the floor. The light in the cell flickered all the time. There was a blanket in the cell but I could not sleep. During this time I was taken back and forth into the interrogation room over about four hours.

8. At the end of the interrogation I was asked to sign a document in Hebrew but I refused to sign. Then I was taken back to the cell where I remained for three days. I found it hard to sleep because of the light and the small size of the cell. I was given terrible food, some rice which sometimes was not cooked properly and sometimes they brought me some sour cream with the rice other times not. I would fall asleep for an hour at a time and then wake up. I was not able to tell whether it was day or night.
9. After three days I was taken to Ofer prison where I was strip searched. The following day I was taken to Ofer military court. My parents were there and my lawyer and the hearing was adjourned.
10. I had about 10 military court hearings and at the last one I was sentenced in a plea bargain to eight months in prison and fined NIS 2,000. I was also given a suspended sentence of one year in prison valid for three years. The plea bargain was based on my friends' confessions. I accepted the plea bargain because I only had three months left in prison and I thought it was better to be sentenced than not. I wanted certainty and closure.
11. I spent about five months at Ofer prison and then I was transferred to Damoun prison, inside Israel, where the conditions were terrible. I was beaten during the prisoners' protests against the conditions. I was beaten on my back.
12. My family only visited me four times. During the Corona Virus months we were allowed to make phone calls to our families. I called my family three times.
13. I was released at Salem checkpoint on 23 April 2020. I went home with my father, we arrived home at around 6:00 p.m.

## Testimony 7

**Name:** J.J.J.J.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 3 September 2019  
**Location:** Allar, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Planning an attack

**On 3 September 2019, a 17-year-old minor from Allar was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 2:00 a.m. He reports not being informed of his legal rights prior to interrogation and being held for 12 days in solitary confinement at Al Jalama interrogation centre, in Israel.**

1. I was arrested by the Palestinian Authority (P.A.) and held without trial for three months. One day after my release from P.A. detention, Israeli soldiers blew off our front door at around 2:00 a.m. I woke up to the sound of the explosion.
2. About 30 soldiers entered our home and spread out in all the rooms. The commander was yelling my name and when he saw me he ordered me to raise my hands up. Then he told me “no more messing around, you know why we are here”. Then he tied my hands to the front with two plastic ties on top of each other. The ties were not painful. Then I was blindfolded and taken outside. The soldiers did not give us any documents.
3. The soldiers led me for about 100 meters to where the military jeeps were waiting. I was pushed into the back of a jeep and made me sit on the metal floor between the soldiers’ legs.
4. The jeep drove to the settlement of Dotan where I was taken to a shipping container. I was examined by a doctor who removed the blindfold during the examination. I was left in the shipping container until around 10:00 a.m. Then I was taken to Al Jalama interrogation centre, inside Israel, where I waited in a cell for about two hours before being taken for interrogation.
5. The interrogator removed the ties and the blindfold. He then told me I was not allowed to speak in court. He told me my parents are allowed to attend the hearing and I was going to be taken to prison after the interrogation. He did not inform me of my rights and did not allow me to speak to a lawyer before the interrogation. He told me he wanted me to tell him what had happened if I did not want to be beaten. He told me not to lie or I would spend at least 10 years in prison.
6. Then he accused me of planning a terrorist attack against Israeli citizens. He claimed that a relative of mine, whom they had arrested, had confessed against me. I denied the accusation. He questioned me for about four hours and was joined by another interrogator who played bad cop. He yelled and shouted at me when I denied the accusation.
7. At the end of the interrogation the first interrogator allowed me to speak to a lawyer. The conversation was very short and not very useful. The lawyer told me to say what is suitable and to leave out what is not suitable to say. Then the interrogator wanted me to sign my statement in Hebrew. He translated it for me into Arabic and when I realised it was identical to what I had said I signed it.

8. After the interrogation I was taken to a military court and my detention was extended. Then I was taken to a cell which measured about 1 x 2 meters. It did not have any windows and the light was on all the time. There was a mattress on the floor and two blankets. It also had a sink and a toilet. I spent 12 days in the cell by myself and I went crazy. I thought of my family the whole time. During the 12 days I was taken for another interrogation.
9. The second interrogator wanted to know whether indeed I had denied the accusation during the first interrogation. I told him I had. He did not inform me of my right to silence but allowed me to speak to the same lawyer at the end of the interrogation. After 12 days in the cell I was taken to Megiddo prison, also in Israel, where I was strip searched before being taken to the minors' section.
10. I had about 10 military court hearings and at the last one, which was on 22 October 2019, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to six months and one day in prison and a suspended sentence valid for 18 months. I accepted the plea bargain because I was desperate to go home.
11. I spent two months at Megiddo prison and then I was transferred to the adult section in the Negev, inside Israel, when I turned 18. I was released on 13 February 2020 at Al Thahiryia checkpoint and I went home with my brother and a friend of mine. I arrived home in the evening.

## Testimony 8

**Name:** S.M.H.A.  
**Age:** 16  
**Date:** 4 September 2019  
**Location:** Qalandiya, West Bank  
**Accusation:** None - administrative detention

**On 4 September 2019, a 16-year-old minor from Qalandiya refugee camp was arrested at Ofer after receiving a phone summons. He reports being held for 2 days in solitary confinement in Al Mascobiye interrogation centre, Jerusalem.**

1. The military commander phoned my father on Wednesday afternoon and told him to bring me over to Ofer prison, near Jerusalem. That same day I went with my father to Ofer at 7:00 p.m. At the entrance my father and I were searched over our clothes. Then we were taken in a military jeep to another part of the base.
2. The military commander phoned my father again and told him he was going to detain me and told my father to go home. He told my father he was going to put me under administrative detention. My father objected but the commander did not change his mind.
3. My father said goodbye to me and I was transferred into another jeep. I was tied with my hands to the front with three plastic ties: one on each wrist and another connecting the two. The ties were not painful. I was also blindfolded. Soldiers inside the jeep made fun of me and accused me of throwing stones. They told me the Palestinian leader knows nothing about anything and that he betrayed his people.
4. I was taken to a room where I was strip searched and then I was taken to section 13 at Ofer. By this time, it was around 10:00 p.m. The following morning, I was taken for interrogation by an intelligence officer.
5. As soon as I entered the room the interrogator showed me a document detailing my rights. It said I had the right to consult with a lawyer and the right to remain silent. Then he allowed me to speak to my father and then he called a lawyer and allowed me to speak to him. The lawyer told me not to worry. The interrogator left the room during the conversation with the lawyer which lasted less than a minute.
6. Then the interrogator told me there were confessions against me that I was involved in shooting in the air and possessing illegal weapons. He also told me I was accused of membership in a banned organization. I denied the accusation and told him I was going to practice my right to remain silent. He got very upset and told me I was causing him problems by remaining silent and it would go against me in court. He questioned me for about 30 minutes. Then I was taken back to prison.
7. The following day I was told to prepare myself for another interrogation. I was taken to Al Mascobiye interrogation centre in Jerusalem. I was strip searched and then I was taken to a small cell no bigger than 3 x 3 meters. It had no windows but there was a ventilator near the ceiling. The

light was left on the whole time. I stayed there for about 30 minutes and then I was taken for interrogation.

8. The interrogator was female and she gave me a document about my rights. Then she named a person and asked me whether I knew him. I told her I did not. Then she asked me whether I had heard of terrorist attacks recently. I told her I knew about the stabbing attack my brother was involved in during which he was shot dead. She then asked me about another attack which involved explosives and I told her I had not heard about it.
9. Then she warned me, she said if I behaved myself with her she would be good with me and that the opposite would also be true. She questioned me for about 30 minutes and then I was taken back to the small cell. I was left in the cell by myself for two days. Then I was taken to Ofer prison.
10. I had three military court hearings and at the last one I was served with an administrative detention order for four months. I was not charged with anything. I spent the whole time at Ofer prison, near Jerusalem. It was a very hard experience because I knew the authorities could renew the administrative detention order at the last minute. But thankfully they did not. I was released on 2 January 2020 and I went home with my father. I arrived home at around 2:00 p.m.
11. In prison I attended Arabic and Hebrew classes and exercised a lot to keep fit. My family visited me only once because it took a long time for the permit to visit to be issued.

## Testimony 9

**Name:** M.S.M.H.  
**Age:** 13  
**Date:** 11 September 2019  
**Location:** Bethlehem, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing Molotov cocktails

**On 11 September 2019, a 13-year-old minor from Bethlehem was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 3:30 a.m. He reports being held for 4 days in solitary confinement in Etzion interrogation centre, West Bank.**

1. I woke up to the sound of a loud explosion which sounded close by. It was around 3:30 a.m. My mother opened the front door and about 20 Israeli soldiers entered our home and with more spread out around the house.
2. The commander asked me for my name while the other soldiers searched our house. They even looked inside our washing machine to find particular items of clothing. The commander then tied my hands to the front with one plastic tie which was very tight and painful.
3. The commander told my parents I was under arrest but did not say why and did not give us any documents. My younger sister started to cry and one of the soldiers approached her as if he was going to spray pepper spray in her face. She was terrified and I was very worried for her. All this took about 10 minutes; the soldiers seemed to be in a hurry.
4. Then they took me outside where I was blindfolded and pushed into the back of a jeep and made me sit on a seat. They drove me to a nearby military base and along the way the soldiers swore at me.
5. At the base I was examined by a doctor. He examined me without removing the tie or the blindfold. I waited many hours before I was taken to the police station in Etzion settlement for interrogation. During this time I could hear soldiers cock their guns and say "shoot, shoot". I was scared because I was blindfolded and could not see what was going on. Sometime later I was interrogated
6. The interrogator removed the blindfold and turned a voice recorder on and told me I had to say yes to anything I knew and that I had to tell him what I knew. He then phoned a lawyer but the lawyer did not answer his telephone. The interrogator did not inform me of any other rights.
7. The interrogator asked me about a person he said was my age but I told him I did not know that person. Then he asked me whether I knew where Rachel's Tomb was. He also asked me about the separation fence. I told him I did not know anything. He then turned off the voice recorder and talked to me firmly and said this was the last time he was going to speak nicely to me. Then he turned the voice recorder on again.
8. Then he told me he wanted me to tell him who made the Molotov cocktail and who threw it. Then he named one of my friends and told me he had confessed against me. Then he showed me pipe bombs and Molotov cocktails and told me he had collected them from the house of the boy who

confessed against me. I denied the accusation. He questioned me for about four hours and kept repeating the same thing. I continued to deny the accusation. He did not show me any documents.

9. After the interrogation I was taken to a cell where I was strip searched. I spent four days alone in this cell at Etzion. The cell did not have any windows and there was a bright light which flickered all the time and was on 24 hours per day. I could not sleep and did not know whether it was day or night.
10. Four days later I was taken to Ofer military court. My mother was in court and my hearing was adjourned. After court I was taken to Ofer prison where I was strip searched again and before being taken to section 13.
11. I had four military court hearings and at the last one I was sentenced in a plea bargain to two months and two days in prison and fined NIS 1,500. I was also given a suspended sentence of 10 months suspended for five years. This last hearing took place 10 days before I was released and that was why I accepted it. Also, my lawyer told me I would have received six months in prison had I rejected the plea bargain.
12. I was released on 30 October 2019. I arrived home at around 5:00 p.m. My mother visited me once in prison.



## Testimony 10

**Name:** H.A.S.R.  
**Age:** 15  
**Date:** 26 November 2019  
**Location:** Aida refugee camp, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones / pipe bombs

**On 26 November 2019, a 15-year-old minor from Aida refugee camp was arrested by Israeli soldiers during clashes at 9:00 p.m. He reports spending 2 days in solitary confinement in Damoun prison, Israel, as punishment for protesting conditions.**

1. There were clashes with Israeli soldiers near the military watchtower in our camp. It was around 9:00 p.m. and I happened to be in the area. Soldiers were chasing boys who were throwing stones and I was watching.
2. Suddenly, about 15 soldiers ran towards me and started to beat me. I was hit on the head by one of the soldiers and I was in severe pain. He swore at me and called me “a son of a whore”
3. One of the soldiers tied my hands behind my back with one plastic tie which was very tight and painful. He also blindfolded me before leading me towards the military watchtower at Rachel’s Tomb. I was left outside the watchtower for about an hour before being taken to the back of a jeep where I sat on a seat.
4. The jeep took me to Atarot police station in East Jerusalem for interrogation. At Atarot I was left outside in the cold for about an hour and then I was taken to the interrogation room. By then it was around 11:30 p.m.
5. The interrogator removed the tie and the blindfold and shackled my feet. He told me my file was ready. Then he told me I had the right to consult with a lawyer and the right to remain silent. He also told me I had the right for one of my parents to attend my interrogation. Then he asked me if I wanted a lawyer and I told him it was up to him. He then told me in that case there was no need for a lawyer. He also did not call my parents to attend the interrogation.
6. Then he accused me of throwing stones and pipe bombs at soldiers. I denied the accusation. He then showed me video footage of clashes with soldiers and accused me of taking part. I denied the accusation again. Then he placed his pistol on the table in front of him in a threatening gesture and told me if I did not confess he was going to place a knife next to me and accuse me of attempting to stab him. When I told him I was not going to confess to something I did not do he told me there was no need for me to confess because he had all the evidence he needed to convict me. He questioned me for about 10 minutes and then he showed me documents in Hebrew before verbally translating them for me. He asked me to sign the documents then and I did.
7. After the interrogation the interrogator called my father and told him I was detained. Then I was taken to Ofer prison, near Jerusalem, where I was strip searched before being taken to section 13.

8. The following day I had a military court hearing which my parents did not know about. My lawyer was there and the military judge extended my detention and the hearing was adjourned.
9. I had about 10 military court hearings and at the last one I was sentenced in a plea bargain to three months in prison and fined NIS 1,000. I was also given a suspended sentence of 10 months valid for two years. My lawyer advised me to accept the plea bargain and I did. He told me if I rejected it I would be sentenced to a longer time in prison.
10. I spent two months at Ofer and then I was transferred to Damoun prison inside Israel where the conditions were worse. There were protests against the prison authorities and I was moved to a cell by myself as punishment for taking part in the protests. I was left in the cell for two days. The cell had one small window near the ceiling and was hardly long enough for me to stretch my legs while sleeping. I then joined the other detainees and we all went on hunger strike for three days. I refused to eat anything but I drank water.
11. I was released at Al Jalama checkpoint on 12 February 2020. My parents did not know I was going to be released on that day. I called my father and told him to come and pick me up. I waited for him at Al Jalama and we both went home together. We arrived home at around 10:00 p.m. In prison I exercised and I helped with the cleaning. My family visited me twice.

## Testimony 11

**Name:** M.A.S.B.  
**Age:** 16  
**Date:** 4 December 2019  
**Location:** Al 'Azza, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones

**On 4 December 2019, a 16-year-old minor from Al 'Azza was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 2:00 a.m. He reports being held in solitary confinement for 3 days in a base called Oz.**

1. I had just come home from night shift working at a hotel when Israeli soldiers blew off our front door. It was around 2:00 a.m. About 30 soldiers entered our home. The soldiers sat me and my brother down in the living room while they searched our house. Then they asked me for my name and told me I was under arrest.
2. A soldier tied my hands to the front in front of my family. The commander told my father he wanted to take me for two days for questioning and would then bring me back. He did not give my family any documents. Then the soldiers took me outside and re-tied my hands behind my back with a single plastic tie which was tight and painful. It left marks on my wrists for days. Then a soldier blindfolded me and made me kneel on the ground outside the house for about 15 minutes while the soldiers continued to search the house. They also brought service dogs into the house.
3. Then the soldiers led me away on foot for about 10 minutes to Rachel's Tomb. At Rachel's Tomb I was put in the back of a military jeep where I sat on a seat. There was also another detainee in the jeep.
4. On the way the soldiers slapped and kicked me. I was taken for interrogation at a place called Oz. I was first put in a caged area where I was left for about two hours. Then I was taken for interrogation.
5. The interrogator did not tell me I had the right to consult with a lawyer and did not say anything about my right to remain silent. He told me if I did not speak he was going to arrest all my family. Then he asked me whether I threw stones at soldiers. I told him I did not. He swore at me and called me "a son of a whore" and he cursed god. Then he pulled out a voice recorder and placed it on the table in front of him.
6. The interrogator named a boy and asked me if I was friends with him. I denied knowing that person. He questioned me for about an hour and then he took me to a cell without windows. There was a metal bench in the cell and I was left there for three days. I was interrogated multiple times during the three days. I could not sleep or eat the disgusting food they brought me. I thought of my family the whole time and wondered whether they knew where I was. I could not tell day from night.
7. I was interrogated around 20 times over the period of three days. The questioning was about that one boy. Then the interrogator showed me documents in Hebrew and asked me to sign them but I refused to sign.

8. Then I was taken to Ofer prison, near Jerusalem where I was strip searched before being taken to section 13. The following day I was taken to Ofer military court. My mother and sister were in court. The military judge extended my detention and the hearing was adjourned.
9. I had four military court hearings and at the last one I was sentenced in a plea bargain to three months in prison and fined NIS 1,500. I was also given a suspended sentence of 10 months valid for three years.
10. I spent one month at Ofer prison and then I was transferred to Damoun prison inside Israel. The conditions there were terrible, crawling insects and lousy food. We were punished for protesting and I was beaten on my head with a baton. I was denied phone calls with my family as punishment and I went on hunger strike with the other prisoners. A whole month was terrible and I barely slept.
11. I was released on 19 February 2020 and I went home with my family and some friends. I arrived home in the evening.

## Testimony 12

**Name:** N.A.M.Q.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 5 January 2020  
**Location:** Sourif, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones / protesting

**On 5 January 2020, a 17-year-old minor from Sourif was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 3:00 a.m. He reports spending 23 days in solitary confinement in Ashkelon prison, Israel.**

1. I woke up at around 3:00 a.m. when I heard commotion around my grandparents' house nearby. Then a group of about 20 Israeli soldiers came to our building from all directions; some came from the roof and started to bang at the front door very aggressively.
2. My father opened the door and the commander told him they were looking for me and wanted me to bring my phone. Then he gave my father a document filled out in Hebrew with details about my arrest. Within 15 minutes they took me outside where they handcuffed my hands to the front with metal handcuffs. They were not too tight and did not cause me pain. They also blindfolded me and took me to a troop carrier where I sat on a seat.
3. I was taken to the police station in Etzion settlement where I was examined by a doctor. About an hour later I was taken to Ashkelon prison inside Israel. I was strip searched and then, at around 9:00 a.m., I was taken for interrogation.
4. The interrogator removed the handcuffs and re-handcuffed me to the chair behind my back. He also removed the blindfold and gave me a document about my rights. I read that I had the right to remain silent. I also read I had the right to consult with a lawyer but I did not have access to a lawyer.
5. The first interrogation took place over a period of about 10 hours. The interrogator was sometimes calm and at other times he was aggressive; he alternated between these two methods. He accused me of throwing stones and taking part in protests. He also accused me of being a member of a banned organization. I denied all the accusations. He told me he had confessions against me from other young men from my village. I continued to deny the accusations. Then he threatened to lock me up in a cell by myself for a long time. He told me I was never going to see other prisoners. He did not give me any documents to sign.
6. After the interrogation I was taken to a small cell where I spent the following 23 days. The cell had a sink and a toilet. There were no windows and a white light was left on day and night. I had to wrap my head with my jacket in order to sleep. I did not sleep well. I was thinking about what might happen to me and when will I go home. I thought about my family who probably did not know where I was. Spending 23 days in that cell was psychological torture for me, I found it very hard.

7. During the 23 days I had many interrogations, about one a day. They all focused on the same accusations. I did not speak to a lawyer except in court and I was not informed of my rights except during the first interrogation. I continued to deny all the accusations. At the end of the last interrogation I was given a document written in Arabic and the interrogator asked me to sign it. I signed after I read it.
8. On the 27 January 2020 I was transferred to Ofer prison, near Jerusalem. I was strip searched and then I was taken to section 13. I had many military court hearings; the first one was on 27 January 2020 and the last one was on 2 November 2020. At the last one I was sentenced in a plea bargain to 12 months in prison and fined NIS 4,000. I was also given a suspended sentence 12 months suspended for five years. My lawyer negotiated this plea bargain with the prosecutor and convinced me it was the best he could do. He told me they wanted a 16-month imprisonment for me and encouraged me to accept 12 months instead.
9. I spent my prison time at Ofer where I exercised and studied for my high school exams. I studied very hard and I passed which made my parents very happy. I was unexpectedly released on 2 December 2020 at Beitunia checkpoint. My parents did not know I was going to be released and they were not there to take me home. I went to my uncle's house in Ramallah where I spent the night and in the morning my parents picked me up and took me home.

### Testimony 13

**Name:** M.A.S.J.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 7 January 2020  
**Location:** Al 'Arrub refugee camp, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones

**On 7 January 2020, a 17-year-old minor from Al Arrub refugee camp was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 3:00 a.m. He reports being held for one month in solitary confinement at Petah Tikva interrogation centre, Israel.**

1. I had just fallen asleep when there was a loud explosion. It was around 3:00 a.m. My father opened the door and a large number of Israeli soldiers entered our house. The soldiers were masked and looked like they were on a battle field. My younger brother and sister, who are 6 and 11, were terrified and could not stop crying. The commander asked for me but I kept quiet and did not answer.
2. The commander then went into my bedroom, took my identity card off the table and told me to get ready because I was under arrest. The soldiers then searched my wardrobe which upset me and had an argument with them.
3. Without giving my parents any documents, the commander tied my hands behind my back with three plastic ties: one on each wrist and another connecting the two. They were very tight and painful and I asked him to loosen them but he told me it was forbidden.
4. Then they took me outside where they blindfolded me and took me to the back of a jeep and made me sit on a metal box in the middle of the floor. Inside the jeep soldiers swore at me and called me "a son of a whore" and when I swore back at them they slapped and kicked me.
5. Then I was taken to the police station in Etzion settlement where I was left out in the cold and rainy weather until around 6:00 a.m. before being taken for interrogation. By then my hands were swollen and had turned blue.
6. The interrogator removed the blindfold but kept me tied. He asked me for my name and I did not respond. He asked me again and I kept quiet. Then he phoned a lawyer and told me I could speak to him. The lawyer told me to remain silent and not to answer questions except to say my name. The conversation lasted for less than a minute and the interrogator was listening because he had the phone on speaker.
7. Then the interrogator told me if I cooperated with him and answered his questions he would finish the session quickly. I told him I had nothing to say. Then he placed my phone, which had been stolen from me a few weeks earlier, on his desk and then showed me a picture on it. I was very surprised to see my stolen phone on his desk and it made me realise whoever had stolen it from me had connections to the interrogator. He did not inform me about my right to silence.

8. The interrogator showed me video footage of clashes with soldiers and accused me of participating in the clashes. Then he showed me a satellite image of my refugee camp on his computer screen and pointed to our house which had an arrow pointing at it. Then he showed me a picture of me with a green X across my face. I understood this to mean a green light to shoot to kill me if I am spotted. I was terrified.
9. Then the interrogator accused me of throwing stones, Molotov cocktails and pipe bombs. When I denied the accusation, he grabbed my knee and pressed very hard on the bullet wound I had sustained during clashes with soldiers. I felt the interrogator knew exactly where to press and he caused me severe pain. I could not take it and at that point I confessed to throwing two stones at soldiers which missed.
10. Then he told me he would bring my sister and mother and "fuck them" at the police station if I did not confess to throwing Molotov cocktails and pipe bombs. I got so upset and stood up but a soldier, who stood behind him, struck me with the back of his gun on my neck and I passed out. When I gained consciousness, I was at a clinic. Later I was taken to a cell at Etzion where I was strip searched.
11. The following day I was taken to Ofer prison where I was strip searched again before being taken to section 13. Two days later I had a military court hearing. My parents did not attend and the hearing was adjourned.
12. A few days later I was taken to Petah Tikva police station for another interrogation. I was kept alone in a small cell with no windows for about a month.
13. My hands were shackled to my feet just before I was taken to the interrogation room. My back was bent down and I was very uncomfortable. There was a picture of a lion and another of a rabbit on the wall of the interrogation room. The interrogator welcomed me in and told me to sit down. Then he offered me a cigarette and left the room. About 15 minutes later he came back and asked me whether I had given the matter some thought. Then he asked me whether I wanted to confess. I told him I had nothing to confess about. I was not informed of my rights and I did not speak to a lawyer.
14. Then he wanted to know where I had thrown the stones and in what circumstances. He was calm and questioned me over a period of about five hours. He questioned me about weapons possession and told me other boys had confessed against me. He did not name the boys and I denied the accusations.
15. Then the interrogator showed me documents written in both Hebrew and Arabic and asked me to sign them and I did because I was tired and wanted to get done with it. Then I was taken back to the cell where I spent about a month. At the end of the month I felt I was going crazy. I used to sing to myself to pass the time. It was very hard.
16. After about a month I was taken to Damoun prison inside Israel. During this time, I had about seven military court hearings. At the last one, which was in July, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to 11 months in prison and fined NIS 2.000. I was also given a suspended sentence of one year



suspended for five years. I accepted the plea bargain because I wanted to go home. I was upset with my lawyer for the long-suspended sentence, but there was nothing I could do at that time.

17. When I turned 18 I was transferred to Megiddo prison, inside Israel. During my entire time in prison I had one family visit a week before I was released. In prison I was in charge of my section. I helped distribute the food and I cleaned the floors.
18. I was released at Al Jalama checkpoint on 15 November 2020 and I went home with my father. We arrived home in the evening.

## Testimony 14

**Name:** A.M.H.A.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 8 January 2020  
**Location:** Beit Rema, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones / Molotov cocktails

**On 8 January 2020, a 17-year-old minor from Beit Rema is arrested by Israeli soldiers at 3:3 a.m. He reports being held in solitary confinement for three weeks, in Al Jalama interrogation centre, Israel.**

1. I was sleeping over at my aunt's house the night I was arrested. My parents later told me there was very loud banging at our front door at around 3:30 a.m. They got up to open the front door but it was broken in before they could get there. About 15 masked soldiers then entered our home. The commander told my father to name all his children and when he mentioned my name the commander asked him to identify me. My father told the commander I was not home.
2. Then the soldiers searched the house, broke wardrobes and threw our clothes on the floor. They told my father they were looking for weapons but they did not find anything. Then they came to my aunt's house nearby where I was staying. I heard the commotion and jumped out of bed to see what was going on and saw a soldier aiming his gun at me. They asked me for my name and then searched the wardrobes and threw the clothes on the floor.
3. The soldiers then took photos of the room I was sleeping in and asked me to hand over the weapon. I told them I did not have any weapons in my possession. Then they told me I was under arrest. They did not give my family any documents.
4. I was taken outside and led back to my home. I was able to say goodbye to my mother. Outside my house a soldier tied my hands behind my back with two plastic ties on top of each other and tightened them very hard. The ties left marks on my wrists for many days. Then they blindfolded me and took me to the back of a jeep and made me sit on the metal floor.
5. The jeep drove to a nearby checkpoint and a soldier made me take off my trousers and sat me down on the side of the road for about five minutes. A soldier swore at me and called me "a son of a whore". Then they took me to a clinic where a doctor gave me a quick medical examination. The doctor removed the blindfold during the examination.
6. After the medical check I was taken to Al Jalama interrogation centre inside Israel. I was put in a tiny cell which had a sink and toilet which were filthy. There were no windows and the light was left on for 24 hours. It had a ventilator and a fan that blew in cold air. I spent three weeks alone in the cell.
7. My first interrogation was on the first day at around 7:00 p.m. The interrogator removed the blindfold but kept my hands tied. He also tied my feet with plastic ties. As soon as I entered his room he asked me how I was and wanted to know what I had done. Then he accused me of throwing stones, Molotov cocktails and pipe bombs at soldiers in the military watchtower at the

entrance to the neighbouring village of An Nabi Saleh. He told me he had confessions from another boy against me.

8. When I denied the accusations, he shouted at me and called me a liar. Then he brought in three large men, one stood behind me and the two others stood on each side and the interrogator stood very close to me and then spat at me. He told me he employed the three men to take care of me and if I did not confess he was going to kill me. Then he made a rude gesture with his middle finger and that scared me.
9. He questioned me for about five hours and was very aggressive. He yelled and shouted and tried to put enormous pressure on me to confess but I did not. He questioned me without informing me of my rights and without allowing me to speak to a lawyer. He did not ask me to sign any documents.
10. Then I was taken back to the cell and a soldier brought me some disgusting food which had a piece of chicken with feathers still on the skin. I could not eat it. Then I went on hunger strike because the conditions I was under were unbearable. The interrogator wanted to punish for going on hunger strike. He took me to another room with a metal bed frame and he tied my hand up behind my head to a metal pipe on the wall and shackled my legs to the bed. I was left in that position for about three hours. I fell asleep from exhaustion. Then I was taken for another round of interrogation.
11. It was the same interrogator. He did not inform me of my rights and did not allow me to speak to a lawyer. He questioned me for about four hours and accused me of the same accusations. He wanted me to confess but I denied all the accusations. This was repeated over the next three days.
12. On the third day the interrogator brought me some yogurt and jam and after I ate them he took me back to a cell which had cameras. I could not go to the toilet without being filmed and I found that to be humiliating. I was left there for nine days and I could not sleep because the soldiers woke me up to search the cell.
13. During these nine days I had five more rounds of interrogation. I was not informed of my rights and I did not speak to a lawyer. The interrogator repeated the same accusations and I denied them all.
14. I had my first military court hearing eight days after my arrest. My parents were not informed and they did not attend and my detention was extended. It was during this hearing that I saw my lawyer for the first time. My lawyer told me not to confess.
15. At the last interrogation the interrogator told me he did not want to untie me because he thought I was going to hurt him. Then he changed his mind and untied me. He accused me of shooting during a funeral of a young man who was killed by Israeli soldiers. I denied the accusation. He also accused me of throwing a Molotov cocktail during the same funeral and told me that incident happened on 17 December 2019. The interrogator did not inform me of my rights and did not allow me to speak to a lawyer.

16. At first, I denied the accusations but then I confessed to throwing stones and a Molotov cocktail at the military watchtower in An Nabi Saleh. After I confessed I was driven to An Nabi Saleh to re-enact the incident. They made me wear a very heavy helmet and they shackled me for fear that I might run away. I could not keep my back straight from the weight of the helmet.
17. My last interrogation was by a policeman. He did not inform me of my rights and typed what I told him on a computer. Then he printed out the statement in Hebrew and asked me to sign it and I did.
18. Then I was taken to a cell at Megiddo prison, inside Israel, and they put me there together with informants. They wanted me to confess against my brother. One of the informants brought me a copy of the Quran and urged me to “tell him everything” then he brought me a piece of paper and told me to write a letter to my family which he promised to deliver. I was very suspicious from day one and did not give any information. I spent three days in that cell and then I was taken to the juvenile section at Megiddo prison. I was strip searched and asked to crouch up and down while naked.
19. I had 10 military court hearings and at the last one, which was on 16 November 2020, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to 14 months in prison and fined NIS 3,000. I was also given a suspended sentence of three years suspended for five years. I accepted the plea bargain because I was expecting a much tougher sentence. I was in tears when the judge said he wasn’t obliged to accept the plea bargain but in the end he did.
20. I spent three days at Megiddo and then I was transferred to Ofer prison, near Jerusalem, where I spent the rest of my prison sentence. In prison I attended classes and I exercised. I had two family visits. I was released on 7 February 2021 and I went home with my brothers and cousins. We arrived home at around 5:30 p.m.

## Testimony 15

**Name:** K.A.A.A.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 13 January 2020  
**Location:** Beit Umma, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones / pipe bombs

**On 13 January 2020, a 17-year-old minor from Beit Ummar was arrested by Israeli soldiers 1:30 a.m. He reports being interrogated multiple times without always being informed of his legal rights and being held in solitary confinement for 17 days in Ashkelon prison, Israel.**

1. There was loud banging at our front door at around 1:30 a.m. I woke up and my father opened the door. About 20 Israeli soldiers entered our home. We were terrified to see such a large number of heavily armed soldiers inside our small house.
2. My younger sister, who is three-years-old, could not stop crying. They searched our house and took out all our clothes and threw them on the floor. They did not tell us what they were looking for. Then the commander, who told us his name was Captain Omar, told me I was under arrest. He gave my mother a document filled out in Hebrew with some details about my arrest.
3. Then a soldier tied my hands behind my back with a single plastic tie which was tight and painful. He tied me while inside the house in front of my parents and siblings. When I complained that the tie was too painful the soldier replaced the plastic tie with metal handcuffs. These handcuffs were not painful.
4. The soldiers remained in our house for about 30 minutes and then they took me outside and walked me towards the nearby settlement of Karmi Zur. At the entrance to the settlement a soldier blindfolded me. I was taken to a shipping container where I was left for about four hours. Every time I fell asleep a soldier slapped me.
5. At around 6:00 a.m. I was taken to the back of a jeep where I sat on the metal floor between the soldiers' feet. The jeep then drove me to the police station in Etzion settlement. At Etzion I was given a medical examination. The doctor removed the handcuffs and the blindfold during the examination. Then I was taken to a cell where I remained until around 2:30 p.m. and then I was transferred to Ashkelon detention centre, inside Israel, for interrogation.
6. As soon as I arrived at Ashkelon an interrogator introduced himself and then showed me a document written in both Arabic and Hebrew about my rights and obligations. I read that I had the right to contact a lawyer. I don't remember reading anything about the right to silence. I was given about five minutes to read the document and then I was taken to a cell where I was left until around 6:00 p.m. before being taken for interrogation.
7. The interrogator told me I had the right to call a lawyer but he did not call one for me. He did not inform me of my right to silence. The interrogator was in civilian clothes. Then he asked me whether I had ever thrown pipe bombs and Molotov cocktails at soldiers. I told him I had not. When I denied the accusation, he raised his voice at me and insisted I had to confess. I did not

confess. This lasted for about two hours and then I was taken to a small cell which measured around 2 x 2 metres.

8. Two days later I was taken to a military court but nothing happened and the hearing was adjourned. It was in court that I saw a lawyer for the first time. I was then taken back to the cell.
9. I spent 17 days in that cell where the light was on 24 hours. I was not able to tell day from night and I could not sleep. I sometimes covered my head with the blanket in order to sleep. There was a small sink and a toilet and the walls were painted black. I was interrogated 15 times over the course of 17 days. Each interrogation session lasted for about two hours and the interrogator did not inform me of my rights and did not call a lawyer for me. He kept repeating the same accusation.
10. Towards the end of the 17 days I went crazy in the cell and I could not think straight. I started to doubt myself and say maybe I threw pipe bombs and Molotov cocktails without realizing. My behavior changed and I no longer knew what to say to the interrogator.
11. During this time I was taken to Ofer prison where I spent time with other prisoners. I was later told those prisoners were informers. Then I was taken back to Ashkelon. I suffered a lot during those 17 days and I could no longer take it. That was when I told the interrogator I threw pipe bombs at soldiers on Route 60. When I confessed he made me sign on a document written in both Hebrew and Arabic. I read it and then I signed it when I was sure it was identical to what I had said.
12. Then I was taken to Ofer prison where I was strip searched. I was asked to crouch up and down while naked which I found very embarrassing. Then I was taken to section 13.
13. I had about seven or eight military court hearings and at the last one I was sentenced in a plea bargain to three-and-a-half months in prison and a fine of NIS 2,000. I was also given a suspended sentence of 10 months in prison valid for five years. I accepted the plea bargain because I was expecting a longer sentence and my lawyer advised me to accept it because it was not going to get any better for me.
14. I spent the whole time at Ofer prison. My parents visited me only once and then family visits were suspended because of the Corona Virus. No phones were provided by the prison. In prison I was worried about the school days I had missed. I want to sit for my final school exam. I studied Hebrew, Arabic and Mathematics in prison until classes were suspended due to the Corona virus. The classes I attended were not helpful.
15. I was released from Ofer on 27 April 2020.

## Testimony 16

**Name:** J.H.J.H.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 28 January 2020  
**Location:** Tubas, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones

**On 28 January 2020, a 17-year-old minor from Tubas was arrested by Israeli soldiers at the 5:30 a.m. He reports being interrogated multiple times without being informed of his right to silence or his right to consult with a lawyer. He reports being held in solitary confinement for 4 days at Al Jalama interrogation centre, Israel.**

1. I was asleep and woke up to the sound of a loud explosion at our front door. It was around 5:30 a.m. About 20 Israeli soldiers entered the building and went into my uncle's apartment upstairs. They searched their house and caused damage to the furniture. They smashed the T.V. screen and broke chairs. Then they came to our apartment.
2. Many of the soldiers were wearing masks and they looked scary. My four-year-old brother was terrified. They asked for our names and when I mentioned my name I was separated from my family and taken to my bedroom.
3. Then the soldiers searched our house and caused a lot of damage to the furniture. Then the commander spoke to my father and told him they wanted to arrest me. He gave my father a document filled out in Hebrew with details about my arrest. They did not tell us why they were arresting me.
4. Then I was taken outside where a soldier tied my hands behind my back with two plastic ties on top of each other. He tightened them hard and they caused me a lot of pain in my wrists. I was then led a short distance before being blindfolded. I was then put in the back of a troop carrier where I was made to sit on the metal floor. I was then driven to a nearby settlement.
5. Once we arrived at the settlement I was taken to a very small kitchen where I was left for about five hours. Some of the soldiers who passed by swore at me. After about five hours I was taken to Huwwara military base. I was searched in my boxer shorts and then I was put in a cell measuring about 3 x 3 meters. It had one small window and I was left there for about two hours.
6. After about two hours I was taken by vehicle to Al Jalama interrogation centre, in Israel, where I was put in a tiny cell. The cell did not have any windows and was underground. I was still tied but the blindfold was removed. I slept on a mattress in the cell until around 5:00 a.m. I was given a breakfast and at around 9:00 a.m. I was taken for interrogation.
7. The interrogator was in civilian clothes. I was not blindfolded when I was taken into the interrogation room but I was still tied and the interrogator did not remove the ties. He asked me for my name but he did not inform me of my rights and I did not speak to a lawyer.
8. The interrogator accused me of throwing stones and wanted me to confess but I did not. He told me he was going to give me a reduced sentence if I confessed. He was sometimes calm and at

other times he was aggressive and spoke in a loud voice and swore at me calling me “a bastard”. I denied the accusation and challenged him to present me with evidence. He questioned me for about two hours. After the interrogation I was taken back to the cell.

9. I spent four days alone in the cell and during this time I was interrogated three more times. I was not informed of my rights and did not speak to a lawyer. The interrogations were harsh and the interrogator brought his face close to mine and spoke in a loud voice accusing me of throwing stones and wanting me to confess. He thumped the table a few times to scare me. I did not confess and I did not sign any documents.
10. On the third day after my arrest I was taken to Salem military court. My parents did not attend because they were not informed. A lawyer was in court to represent me and the hearing was adjourned. I attended about 20 military court hearings. During this time informants were brought into my cell to try to get information from me. I immediately spotted them and I hardly spoke to them.
11. I spent 20 days at Al Jalama and then I was taken to Megiddo prison inside Israel. At Megiddo I was searched with my clothes on and then I was taken to the juvenile section. My last military court hearing was on the day I was released. The military judge decided to release me on bail and my parents had to pay NIS 5,000. The lawyer told me they would get in touch with me about the date for the next hearing but they haven’t contacted me yet.
12. I was released on bail on 28 May 2020 at Al Jalama checkpoint. My parents were not informed about my release and I went home in a taxi. I arrived home at around 10:00 p.m. and my father paid the taxi driver.



## Testimony 17

**Name:** M.N.N.B.  
**Age:** 15  
**Date:** 29 January 2020  
**Location:** Al 'Arrub refugee camp, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing Molotov cocktails

**On 29 January 2020, a 15-year-old minor from Al' Arrub refugee camp was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 2:00 a.m. He reports being interrogated multiple times and not being informed of his legal rights prior to each interrogation. He reports being held in solitary confinement for 14 days in Ashkelon prison, Israel.**

1. I woke up when an Israeli soldier kicked me in the head while I was sleeping in my bed. It was around 2:00 a.m. I did not hear the soldiers enter our home. I was shocked to see soldiers in my bedroom. About 20 soldiers were spread out throughout our house. The commander asked my mother for her identity card and then told her he wanted to arrest me for questioning about stone throwing. He gave my mother a document filled out in Hebrew with details about my arrest. He told my mother to sign the document and then kept it.
2. The soldiers remained in our home for about one-and-a-half hours. They searched the house for a black T-shirt. They caused damage to the furniture and they broke doors and wardrobes. Then a soldier tied my hands behind my back with four plastic ties. He tightened them which caused me a lot of pain. At the front door I was blindfolded before being taken outside. Once outside I was beaten and verbally abused. My mother saw and heard everything.
3. The soldiers led me towards the market where military vehicles were waiting. I was taken to the back of one of the vehicles where I sat on the metal floor. I sat between the soldiers' legs and some of them beat and kicked me on my arms and head. The vehicle drove to Ashkelon prison inside Israel. The trip took more than three hours and I was exhausted.
4. On arrival at the prison I was taken to a small cell where I was left by myself for two weeks. During the two weeks I was interrogated multiple times.
5. The first time I was interrogated I was questioned by someone wearing civilian clothes. He had a camera in the room. Before questioning me, he informed me of my right to silence. Then he accused me of throwing a Molotov cocktail at soldiers during a memorial march for Yasser Arafat. I denied the accusation. Then he showed me some photographs of me and my brother. Half way through the interrogation he phoned a lawyer for me and allowed me to speak to him. The lawyer told me not to worry because everything was going to be all right. The interrogator was listening to our conversation which lasted for less than a minute.
6. On the first occasion I was interrogated for about an hour. The interrogator switched moods during the interrogation. He sometimes was calm and polite and then suddenly would switch to being angry and aggressive. I continued to deny the accusation and did not confess to anything. Then he showed me a document written in Hebrew and Arabic and asked me to sign it. I signed after reading the Arabic version.

7. I was interrogated almost every day for two weeks. I was informed of my right to silence only before the first interrogation and I spoke to a lawyer only once half way through the first interrogation.
8. Towards the end of the two weeks I became psychologically drained and I confessed. Spending two weeks in a small cell by myself was not easy and I just wanted the situation to end at any cost. My thoughts became very negative. When I confessed the interrogator made me sign a document written in Arabic.
9. At the end of the two weeks I was taken to Ofer prison where I was strip searched and taken to section 13. The following day I was taken to Ofer military court. My parents did not attend because they were not informed. The hearing was adjourned. I had about 18 hearings. My lawyer focused on a suspended sentence I had from a previous imprisonment; he was trying to get it cancelled.
10. On 18 May 2020, I had my final court hearing which was conducted via video link due to the Corona Virus. I was sentenced to eight months in prison and fined NIS 2,000. I was also given a suspended sentence of 16 months valid for five years. I accepted the plea bargain because my lawyer told me if I rejected it I would be sentenced to 18 months in prison instead of eight. I felt it was a good deal and my father was able to reduce the sentence by two months by paying an extra NIS 2,000, so I spent six months in prison.
11. There were no school classes in prison during the Corona Virus months. I spent my prison sentence at Ofer prison, near Jerusalem and I passed my time by cleaning the cells and cooking. I was released on 29 July 2020, and I went home with my brother. We arrived home at around 7:00 p.m.

## Testimony 18

**Name:** L.Y.K.I.  
**Age:** 16  
**Date:** 26 February 2020  
**Location:** Joseph's Tomb, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Attempting to throw a Molotov cocktail

**On 26 February 2020, a 16-year-old minor from Askar was arrested by Israeli soldiers during clashes at Joseph's Tomb in Nablus at midnight. He reports being interrogated without first being informed of his legal rights. He reports being held in solitary confinement of 7 days in Etzion, West Bank.**

1. Clashes broke out between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers who were guarding settlers who had gathered at Joseph's Tomb at midnight. I was with a group of young men who were ambushed by soldiers. I tried to run away but I fell to the ground and injured my head. Soldiers grabbed me and started to kick and beat me all over my body. I was bleeding from my head. They swore at me and called me "a son of a whore".
2. One of the soldiers searched my backpack and found a bottle containing petrol. He also found a balaclava and some flags. He took them away and tied my hands behind my back with two plastic ties on top of each other. The ties were very tight and caused me a lot of pain and left marks on my wrists for days. Then he blindfolded me and took me to the back of a jeep and made me sit on a metal box in the middle of the floor. Inside the jeep I was beaten some more and sworn at.
3. I was left inside the jeep for about one-and-a-half hours until the clashes stopped and the settlers left. Then I was taken to Huwwara military base. Then I was transferred to a troop carrier which took me to the police station in Ariel settlement. I arrived there at around 7:00 a.m. and I was immediately taken for interrogation.
4. The interrogator removed the blindfold but kept me tied. He spoke to me in broken Arabic and another soldier was in the room to help with translation. Then he showed me the items that were taken out of my backpack and asked me whether they belonged to me. Then he accused me of throwing stones and attempting to manufacture explosives. He questioned me for about 10 minutes.
5. At the end of the interrogation he phoned a lawyer for me and allowed me to speak to him. The lawyer told me not to confess but I had already confessed. Neither the lawyer nor the interrogator told me I had the right to remain silent. Then the interrogator showed me a document written in Hebrew and asked me to sign it and I signed.
6. Then I was taken to Za'tara checkpoint where I was tied to a pole inside a wire cage. I was left there until around 5:30 p.m. During this time, I was allowed to use the toilet once and I was given something to eat.
7. At around 5:30 p.m. I was taken to the police station in Etzion settlement where I was searched in my boxer shorts before being taken to a cell. I spent one night there and, in the morning, I was taken to Salem military court. My parents did not attend the hearing because they were not

informed. My detention was extended for more interrogations and the hearing was adjourned. After the hearing I was taken back to Etzion.

8. The following day I was taken to Salem again where I had a second interrogation. The interrogator told me anything I said would be taken into consideration in court and remaining silent would imply guilt. He also told me if I did not confess he would consider me a liar. He did not arrange for me to speak to a lawyer.
9. Then he asked me why I had planned to throw a Molotov cocktail at soldiers and how many did I actually throw. He also wanted to know whether I was sent by someone to throw Molotov cocktails. He questioned me for about 25 minutes and he was mostly calm. Whenever I spoke to defend myself he told me soldiers had testified against me and they had incriminating photos of me.
10. At the end of the interrogation he asked me to sign documents written in Hebrew and I signed without understanding what they said. Then I was taken to Ofer prison but I was not admitted and instead I was taken back to Etzion police station where I was left in a cell by myself for a week. During this time two lawyers visited me and took a testimony from me.
11. I lost my mind in the cell by myself and I started to bang my head against the door demanding that they take me out. Then the commander came and talked to me and told me they were going to transfer me to Megiddo prison. The following day I was taken to Megiddo prison, inside Israel, where I was strip searched before being taken to the juvenile section.
12. I had about six military court hearings which my mother attended. At the last hearing, which was on 11 August 2020, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to 14 months in prison and fined NIS 2,000. I was also given a suspended sentence of eight months suspended for three years. They dropped the charge of manufacturing explosives and throwing stones and I confessed to attempting to throw a Molotov cocktail. I accepted the plea bargain because my lawyer told me the prosecutor had asked for 32 months in prison.
13. I spent my prison sentence at Megiddo where I worked in the kitchen and helped prepare meals for the prisoners. I also worked as a cleaner and I attended classes. I missed a lot of school days and I missed my final high school exams. The lessons I attended in prison do not qualify me to sit for the exams. My mother visited me twice.
14. I was released at Al Jalama checkpoint on 4 April 2021 and I went home with my father. I arrived home in the early hours of the evening.

## Testimony 19

**Name:** L.A.M.A.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 28 March 2020  
**Location:** Kafr Qaddum, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones / protesting

**On 28 March 2020, a 17-year-old minor from Qafr Qaddum was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 4:00 p.m. He reports not being informed of his right to silence or consulting with a lawyer prior to each interrogation. He reports being put in solitary confinement for 17 days at Huwwara military base, West Bank.**

1. Our house is very close to an area where protests against the Israeli military's closure of a road take place each week. I was taking a nap at around 4:00 p.m. when I heard loud banging at our front door. I got up and found a large group of soldiers inside our home. They told my parents they were looking for my younger brother. We were all in shock and my grandmother, who is very old, was terrified.
2. Then the soldiers grabbed my younger brother and as they dragged him outside I tried to intervene. A soldier pushed and slapped me hard on the face and told me to go back inside. He swore at me and then tied my hands behind my back with two plastic ties on top of each other. He tightened them very hard and my palms swelled and turned blue and were very painful. The ties left marks on my wrists for weeks. Then he blindfolded me and walked me towards the nearby settlement where I was made to sit by the gate.
3. By the gate a masked soldier, who spoke good Arabic, approached me and started to question me without informing me of my rights. He showed me some selfies which I had taken in the village and then he showed me a video of my arrest which my family had taken and posted on Facebook soon after I had been taken away. The soldier wanted me to give him the names of everyone in the video. Then he accused me of throwing stones at soldiers and wanted me to confess. He threatened to shoot me if I did not confess and told me it was in my interest to confess to him rather than be taken for an interrogation at the police station in Ariel settlement. I was kept by the gate until around 8:00 p.m.
4. At around 8:00 p.m. I was taken to a military base inside the settlement. I was left on a chair in an outdoor area and I could not sleep at all. At around 3:00 a.m. I was taken into a shipping container where I was left on the floor and I could not sleep there either because I was tied and blindfolded.
5. At around 5:30 a.m. I was taken to Ariel settlement where I was taken to a room where my fingerprints were taken. At around 9:00 a.m. I was taken for interrogation.
6. The interrogator removed the blindfold but kept me tied. He had a voice recorder on his desk. He asked me if I wanted to speak to my parents to ask them to appoint a lawyer for me. I told him yes and I was not going to answer any questions before I spoke to my father. Then he called my father and my father told me not to be scared and then the line was cut off. Then I told the interrogator I wanted to speak to a lawyer but he did not call one for me. Then he told me I could either speak or remain silent and that both options were my right.

7. Then he showed me some photographs of clashes with soldiers and wanted me to give him names. I told him I did not know anyone. Then he accused me of taking part in an illegal protest and of throwing stones at soldiers. He told me two soldiers had testified against me. I denied the accusation. Then he told me if I confessed this time he was going to send me home. I continued to deny the accusation. He questioned me for about 10 minutes and then he showed me documents in Hebrew and asked me to sign them but I refused to sign before he translated them to me but he never did.
8. Then I was taken to Huwwara military base where I was searched in my boxer shorts before being taken to a cell. I was left in that cell by myself for 17 days. I went crazy and nearly pulled my hair at the end on the 17 days. On the third day I had a military court hearing which was conducted via video link. No one from my family attended the hearing. Not much happened and the hearing was adjourned. After spending 17 days at Huwwara I was taken to Ofer prison. At Ofer I was searched in my boxer shorts and then I was taken to the juvenile section.
9. I had four more military court hearings and at the last one I was offered a plea bargain. I was sentenced to four months in prison and given a suspended sentence of one year in prison valid for three years. I accepted the plea bargain based on my lawyer's advice. My father then paid NIS 1,000 and my sentence was reduced to three months in prison.
10. In prison I cut the hair of the other prisoners which I liked and it gave me a lot of experience; I used to cut the hair of 8-10 prisoners a day. I did not have any family visits because of the Corona Virus regulations. I had no official telephone communication with my family.
11. I was released on 29 June 2020 and I went home with my father. I arrived home in the evening.

## Testimony 20

**Name:** F.H.S.U.  
**Age:** 16  
**Date:** 25 April 2020  
**Location:** Ta'amreh, West Bank  
**Accusation:** None - administrative detention

**On 25 April 2020, a 16-year-old minor from Ta'amreh was arrested by Israeli soldiers from home at 4:30 a.m. He was held in detention for 12-months without charge or trial under administrative detention orders. He reports being held in solitary confinement for 6 days somewhere inside Israel.**

1. I woke up at around 4:30 a.m. when I heard somebody breaking open our front door with some sort of device. My father and brother went to see what was going on and found 10 Israeli soldiers in our hallway. They did not knock or wait for us to open the door. More soldiers were waiting outside.
2. The commander asked my father for me and my father pointed at me. Then the commander told my father he wanted to have "a chat" with me for "five minutes" and would then bring me back home. He did not give my father any documents.
3. I was then taken outside where I was blindfolded and my hands were tied behind my back with two plastic ties on top of each other. The ties were very tight and painful. Then they took me to the back of a military jeep and made me sit on the metal floor between the soldiers' feet. The jeep drove me to a nearby military base where I was left outside until around 10:00 a.m.
4. At around 10:00 a.m. I was driven to a police station inside Israel where I was left in a small cell which measured about 2 x 2 metres. They removed the ties and the blindfold and I was left in the windowless cell for six days. I could not sleep and I lost my appetite and I was treated like an animal by the guards. A doctor tested me for Corona. The light was on 24 hours and I did not know day from night. On the sixth day they tied my hands and I was taken for interrogation.
5. The interrogator removed the ties and asked me how I was. Then he handed me a telephone and told me I could speak to a lawyer. The lawyer told me not to worry and that the authorities had no evidence against me and, god willing, I would be sent home in two days. The conversation lasted a few minutes and the interrogator was listening. Then the interrogator told me I had the right to remain silent but if I had anything to say I could say it.
6. The interrogator started by telling me I was a trouble maker. I told him how could that possibly be when I had just been released from prison 20 days earlier, 14 days of which I was in Quarantine and did not leave my room. I told him even if I wanted to cause trouble I did not have the time.
7. Then he accused me of incitement on Facebook but when he opened my Facebook page he did not find anything. He also accused me of being in contact with people from Gaza. I denied the accusation. Then he threatened to arrest my mother and the rest of my family if I did not confess. Then two other interrogators joined him. One was very aggressive and occasionally screamed in my face and made sounds like a wild animal. Then he told me he was going to issue me with an administrative detention order.

8. The interrogation lasted for about two hours and at the end I was shown a document written in Hebrew and told to sign it. I signed the document without knowing what it said.
9. After the interrogation I was taken to Megiddo prison, inside Israel, where I was strip searched and then I was taken to the quarantine section.
10. The following day I had a military court hearing via video link. My parents did not attend the hearing because they were not informed about it. During the hearing I was handed an administrative detention order for six months. I spent the six months in Megiddo.
11. When my six-month detention was about to end and I was getting ready to go home I had another military court hearing and I was given another Administrative Detention order for six months. That was on 25 October 2020. I was devastated as I was looking forward to going home.
12. During these 12 months I had one family visit, but I was allowed to make phone calls once every two weeks. I was released on 24 April 2021 at Salem checkpoint and I went home with my uncle and his friend. I arrived home at around midnight.
13. I found the first six months very hard and I did not get used to being back in prison easily. Administrative detention is a very harsh punishment because I was not tried and no evidence was presented against me. I missed my family and wanted so badly to go back to my school.



## Testimony 21

**Name:** O.R.A.I.  
**Age:** 15  
**Date:** 19 May 2020  
**Location:** Abu Dis, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing Molotov cocktails

**On 19 May 2020, a 15-year-old minor from Abu Dis was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 6:00 a.m. He reports being interrogated multiple times without always being informed of his legal rights and spending 10 days in solitary confinement in Al MascobiyeH interrogation centre, Jerusalem.**

1. It was the month of Ramadan and I was up at around 6:00 a.m. when my friend phoned me and told me Israeli soldiers were in our village. Shortly afterwards I heard banging at our front door. My father opened the door and four soldiers walked in and told my father they were looking for me. They took my mobile phone and then told me and my father to get ready because they wanted to take us both. They did not give us any reasons or documents.
2. Within about 10 minutes I was taken outside where a soldier pushed me into the back of a jeep and made me sit on a seat. Inside the jeep I was blindfolded and handcuffed to the front with metal handcuffs which were not painful. My father was put in another jeep. The jeep drove to a nearby military base and I was transferred into another jeep which took me to an interrogation centre at Ofer, near Jerusalem. A soldier removed the blindfold and I was immediately taken for interrogation.
3. The interrogator was in civilian clothes. He removed the handcuffs and told me it was in my interest to be straightforward with him and if I cooperated nicely he would send me home. Then he told me he was trying to call a lawyer for me but the lawyer was not answering his phone. I did not believe him. Then he told me I had the right to remain silent but if I did he would interpret it as an admission of guilt.
4. Then he asked me about the boys who set a military jeep on fire about 10 days earlier. I told him I did not know anything about the incident. He accused me of taking part. I denied the accusation. He kept asking me about other boys and wanted me to confess against them but I did not confess against anyone. He was calm in the beginning but then he changed his attitude and became aggressive. He raised his voice when he asked me questions and threatened to lock me up in prison for a long time if I did not confess. He accused me of not telling the truth when I told him I did not know the boys whom he named.
5. He questioned me on and off from around 8:00 a.m. until around 4:00 p.m. At the end of the interrogation he told me to go and say goodbye to my father in the next room because he was going to send me to Al MascobiyeH police station in Jerusalem for more interrogation. My father told me to take care of myself and hoped I would be released soon. Then I was taken to Al MascobiyeH where I waited in a small cell for a while before I was taken for another interrogation.

6. The interrogator told me I had the right to remain silent but did not arrange for me to speak to a lawyer. He accused me of setting a military jeep on fire in the village together with a group of other boys. I denied the accusation. The interrogation lasted for about 30 minutes and I was not given any documents to sign. Then I was taken back to a small cell where I spent a whole week.
7. The cell was tiny. It had a sink and a toilet and a mattress on the floor. There were no windows and the light was kept on most of the time except when occasionally they would turn it off. I was interrogated once a day during this week.
8. The interrogator informed me of my right to remain silent but did not allow me to speak to a lawyer and did not give me any documents to sign. He accused me of taking part in the incident when a military jeep was set on fire and wanted me to confess against other boys. I denied the accusation and did not confess against other boys.
9. On 21 May 2020, I had a military court hearing via video link. My father attended and my detention was extended to allow for more interrogations. After spending a week at Al Mascobiyeh, I was transferred to Ashkelon prison inside Israel. I was left in a cell with other prisoners who I was very suspicious of. I felt they were informants because they kept asking me questions about the incident. I was very careful and did not give any unnecessary information. I spent five days in Ashkelon and then I was taken back to Al Mascobiyeh.
10. I was taken back to the same cell as before and I was left there for three more days. I was mentally and psychologically very stressed. I was interrogated three more times. I did not speak to any lawyers but I was informed of my right to silence. During the third interrogation I confessed to throwing a Molotov Cocktail at the Wall. I confessed because I wanted to get out of that cell and because the food was disgusting. I thought by confessing to something I had a chance of release. The interrogator gave me a document written in Hebrew and asked me to sign it and I did because I could not care less, I just wanted to get out of the cell.
11. Then I was taken to the interrogation centre at Ofer. My father was brought in and he testified that I was at home when the incident in which a military jeep was set on fire happened. Then I was taken to Megiddo prison, inside Israel, where I was strip searched before being taken to the quarantine section. I spent 14 days there. During this time, I was taken for another interrogation.
12. The interrogator phoned a lawyer before questioning me and allowed me to speak to him. The lawyer wanted to know why I was taken for yet another interrogation. I told him because there were more confessions against me and new charges brought against me. He told me not to confess to anything. The interrogator was listening to the conversation which lasted a few minutes.
13. Then, without informing me of my right to silence, the interrogator told me some boys had confessed against me and he named them. He told me they had confessed that I had manufactured explosives and Molotov cocktails. He also accused me of membership in a banned organization. I denied all the accusations. The interrogation lasted for about 15 minutes and I was not asked to sign any documents. After the interrogation I was taken back to Megiddo.
14. During my time in prison I attended about 20 military court hearings. At the last one which, was on 13 September 2020, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to 14 months in prison and fined NIS

1,000. I was also given a suspended sentence of one year suspended for three years. I accepted the bargain because my lawyer told me the military judge would sentence me to 34 months in prison if I rejected it.

15. After the time I spent in quarantine I was taken to the juvenile section at Megiddo where I was strip searched and spent a week there. Then I was transferred to Ofer prison where I spent the rest on my term.
16. In prison I exercised and I attended classes in Arabic, Hebrew and Mathematics. I also was in charge of my section which kept me busy and helped me pass the time. During my time in prison I had two family visits.
17. I was given unexpected early release because my father told the court I wanted to go back to school. I was released on 31 January 2021, about 6 months earlier than expected. My father had to go to Jordan because my grandfather died, so he was not there to meet me. I was very sad that I did not have the chance to say good bye to my grandfather before he passed away.

## Testimony 22

**Name:** A.F.A.S.  
**Age:** 16  
**Date:** 15 July 2020  
**Location:** Balata refugee camp, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones / pipe bombs

**On 15 July 2020, a 16-year-old minor from Balata refugee camp was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 4:00 p.m. He reports being interrogated five times without first being informed of his right to silence or consulting with a lawyer. He reports spending 7 days in solitary confinement at Huwwara military base, West Bank.**

1. I was crossing an Israeli military checkpoint at Awarta at around 4:00 p.m. At the time there were clashes between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers. Suddenly a group of soldiers grabbed me and tied my hands behind my back with one plastic tie. The tie was very tight and painful and left marks on my wrists for days. They also shackled my legs and beat me all over my body. They kicked me and beat me with the back of their guns which caused a lot of pain.
2. After I was tied the soldiers took me to the back of a jeep and made me sit on the metal floor between their legs. They swore at me calling me “a bastard”. The jeep drove a short distance and then stopped. I was taken out and a soldier made me stand against a wall as he took a photo of me with his mobile phone. Then he blindfolded me and I was left there for about an hour. Then they took me back to the jeep.
3. The jeep drove to Huwwara military base where I was strip searched. I was then left outside for four days between interrogations. It was difficult to sleep. During this time I was given a medical examination and I was given some food and water and I was allowed to use the toilet. The food was disgusting; I was given rotten eggs and once I saw a dead cockroach in the rice.
4. On the first night, at around 9:00 p.m. I was taken to the police station in Ariel settlement for interrogation. The interrogator removed the blindfold but kept me tied and shackled. He wanted to know why I was in his office and started to yell and shout at me and accused me of throwing pipe bombs at soldiers. He wanted me to confess and to tell him who made the pipe bombs. I denied the accusation and told him I did not know anything about pipe bombs.
5. He also accused me of throwing stones at soldiers and he was very aggressive. He questioned me without informing me of my rights and without allowing me to speak to a lawyer. The interrogation lasted a long time; from around 9:00 p.m. until around 1:00 a.m. I was exhausted. Then he told me he had photographic evidence against me. Still, I did not confess. At the end of the interrogation he wanted me to sign documents written in Hebrew. When I refused to sign documents I did not understand he yelled at my urging me to sign and I signed because I was tired and scared. After the interrogation I was taken back to Huwwara.
6. I was interrogated four times over the course of the next four days. I was not informed of my rights in any of the interrogations and I did not speak to any lawyers. All the interrogations focused on the same accusations which I completely denied.

7. On the fifth day I was taken to a cell. I was left in the cell by myself for a week. The room was very small and had a sink which I used to wash and to pee in because there was no toilet. There were no windows in the cell and I could not tell whether it was day or night except from the call to prayer from a nearby mosque.
8. After seven days I was taken to Megiddo prison inside Israel. At Megiddo I was strip searched before being taken to a special section where new detainees were quarantined. I spent 14 days in that section before I was transferred to the juvenile section.
9. The day after I arrived at Megiddo I had a military court hearing via video link. My detention was extended to allow for more interrogations and the hearing was adjourned.
10. The following day I was taken for another interrogation. I was accused of the same offences and I continued to deny them. At the end the interrogator told me I had the right to consult with a lawyer. Then he phoned a lawyer for me and allowed me to speak to him. The lawyer told me to talk about things that concerned me only and then the line was cut off. The interrogator did not inform me of my right to silence.
11. In all the interrogations I was shown documents in Hebrew and I was asked to sign them. I signed all of them without understanding anything. I was too tired to object.
12. I had six military court hearings and at the last one I was sentenced in a plea bargain to three months in prison and fined NIS 1,000. I was also given a further 15 months in prison suspended for three years. I accepted the bargain because I was tired of being interrogated again and again and I wanted the whole thing to come to an end.
13. I was released on 11 October 2020 at Al Jalama checkpoint and I went home with my family. We arrived home in the evening.

## Testimony 23

**Name:** A.M.F.H.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 23 July 2020  
**Location:** Balata refugee camp, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Possession of pipe bomb

**On 23 July 2020, a 17-year-old minor from Balata refugee camp was arrested by Israeli soldiers at a military checkpoint. He reports consulting with a lawyer prior to interrogation but not being informed of his right to silence. He reports spending 4 days in solitary confinement at Huwwara military base, West Bank.**

1. I was near an Israeli military checkpoint when I was approached by a group of about 20 soldiers. It was around 9:30 p.m. They aimed their guns at me and told me to stop and to sit on the ground. I obeyed their orders and a soldier tied my hands behind my back with three plastic ties: one on each wrist and another connecting the two. The ties were very tight and my wrists swelled and caused me a lot of pain. I soldier also swore at me as I was blindfolded. The same soldier also slapped me hard on my ear which caused me a lot of pain.
2. I was left on the ground for about four hours before being taken to the back of a jeep where I sat on a seat. The jeep took me to Huwwara military base. At Huwwara I was left in an outdoor area near two trees and then I was taken to a tent where a doctor examined me. I was left in the tent from around 2:00 a.m. until around 11:00 a.m. I was allowed to use the toilet but I was not given any food. At around 11:00 a.m. I was taken to Salem for interrogation.
3. The interrogator removed the blindfold but started to interrogate me while I was tied. At the beginning he asked me if I wanted a lawyer. Then he gave me some options and I picked one randomly and he phoned him for me. The lawyer told me he was my lawyer and that I should only tell the interrogator about things I had done. The conversation lasted for about two minutes and the interrogator was listening.
4. Then, without informing me of my right to silence, the interrogator accused me of possessing pipe bombs. I denied the accusation. The interrogator repeated the same accusation many times and wanted me to confess. He was calm and did not raise his voice at me. He also showed me video footage. He questioned me on and off for about two hours. In the end I confessed and he showed me a document in Hebrew and asked me to sign. I signed without understanding anything. I felt I was in deep trouble and signing was not going to make much difference.
5. Then they took my fingerprints and a DNA sample from my mouth after which I was strip searched. Then I was taken to a cell where they removed the ties. The following day I had a military court hearing via video link and my father was there. My detention was extended and the hearing was adjourned.
6. I was left in the cell by myself for four days. The food was not enough and not appetizing. Once I found a dead lizard in my food. I did not speak to anyone or see anyone and I went crazy because I smoked and they did not give me any cigarettes. I banged my head against the wall and threatened

to commit suicide. I was taken to a hospital and I told the doctor I banged my head because I wanted cigarettes.

7. After hospital I was taken to Megiddo prison, inside Israel, where I was searched in my underwear before being taken to the quarantine area. Two days later I had another military court hearing. I had a third hearing about two months before I was released. At the last hearing I was sentenced in a plea bargain to three months in prison and fined NIS 1,000. I was also given a six-month suspended sentence. I accepted the bargain because my lawyer told me it was a good deal and that it was better than one year in prison.
8. I spent my entire sentence at Megiddo prison where I exercised and I was in charge of my section. I also was in charge of cleaning. I did not have any family visits because of the Corona Virus. I made phone calls to my family once every two weeks for about 10 minutes.
9. I was released at Al Jalama checkpoint on 14 October 2020 but my parents were not informed of my release and they were not waiting for me. I called my mother and she sent someone to pick me up. I arrived home at around 9:00 p.m.

## Testimony 24

**Name:** M.K.R.N.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 3 August 2020  
**Location:** Qabatiya, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Entering Israel without a permit

**On 3 August 2020, a 17-year-old minor from Qabatiya was arrested while on a beach in Israel without a permit. He reports being interrogated multiple times without always being informed of his legal rights and held in solitary confinement for 20 days in Al Jalama interrogation centre, Israel.**

1. It was a holiday and I went with some friends to a beach inside Israel to spend the day. At around 4:30 p.m. my friends and I spotted a group of about 12 men in civilian clothes pointing and walking towards us. I did not make much of it and I thought they were on a trip like us. One of my friends was live streaming on Facebook.
2. The group of men kept approaching us and when they got very close they pushed us aggressively to the ground. One of the men pushed me to the ground face down, swore at me and then tied my hands behind my back with four plastic ties on top of each other. The ties were so tight that my hands swelled and I was in pain. He also shackled my feet and then blindfolded me.
3. Then they walked me up a hill and sat me down on a rock and a military commander came and started to question me without informing me of my rights. He wanted to know what I was doing at the beach and accused me of entering Israel without a permit. He wanted to know whether someone had sent me to do a terrorist act and I told him my friends and I were just having a day by the sea. He questioned me for about 45 minutes and wanted to see my identity card and I told him I did not have one.
4. At around 6:00 p.m. I was taken to a police station in the city of Hadera. I was strip searched and then taken to a room where they turned the air conditioner on very cold. I was freezing cold as I was in beach clothes. About 30 minutes later I was taken to a courtyard and an interrogator started to question me. I was still tied and shackled.
5. The interrogator did not inform me of my rights. He asked me whether I knew why I was arrested and accused me of entering Israel without a permit with the intention of implementing a terrorist act. I denied the accusation and told him I was on an outing with my friends. He laughed and said “outing” was a new name for a “terrorist act” he had never heard of before. Then he accused me of being a member of a banned organization called “Jihad Islami” and that they had sent me to stab soldiers. I denied the accusation.
6. The interrogator was sometimes calm and sometimes aggressive. He questioned me about throwing stones and shooting. When I denied the accusation, he raised his voice and repeated the accusation many times. He questioned me until midnight. I asked for some water and he gave me a glass of water. He did not ask me to sign any documents.



7. Then another interrogator came in. He introduced himself as "Abu Tamer". He told me I had destroyed my life and that I was going to spend 15 years in prison. Then he looked at me and told me it was written on my forehead "stabbing attack". I denied ever having thought of something like that. He questioned me for about 20 minutes and did not inform me of my rights and did not ask me to sign any documents.
8. Then the area commander spoke to me. He asked me how I was and what was my news. Then he wanted to know what I was doing at Al-Karama checkpoint a year ago. I told him I was going to visit my grandparents. Then he said a month later I was at Al-Jalama checkpoint and wanted to know where I was going. I told him I had a permit and wanted to cross to Israel to have fun with my friends. Then he told me to take care of myself and left. He did not inform me of my rights and did not ask me to sign any documents.
9. At around 1:00 p.m. I was taken to Al Jalama interrogation centre where I was taken to a cell. I was left in that small cell by myself for 20 days. There were no windows and the light was left on all the time. I did not know day from night and could not sleep well except on the first day when I was exhausted and I slept many hours. The food was disgusting. One day they gave me turkey cuts which smelled horrible. Another day they gave me half cooked spaghetti and a piece of chicken with feathers still on the skin. I could not eat it.
10. During the 20 days I had six more interrogations. Each time by a different interrogator none of whom allowed me to speak to a lawyer or informed me of my right to silence. They asked me the same questions and accused me of the same accusations.
11. Then I was questioned by a policeman. He read out my statement and asked me to answer with a "yes or no". Then he showed me a document written in Arabic and Hebrew about my rights. Those 20 days were very difficult. I was very stressed and anxious and could not sleep.
12. The cell was about 3 x 3 meters with a toilet and sink and a mattress on the floor. They wanted to break my spirit so that I would confess but I did not. On the 17<sup>th</sup> day they took me to a cell with other detainees whom I was sure were informants. They tried to put words in my mouth and to make me confess but I did not. One of them asked me for my parents' telephone number which made me suspicious. Then I was taken back to the other cell.
13. After 20 days I was taken to the quarantine section at Megiddo prison, inside Israel. I was strip searched and spent 14 days there. Then I was taken to the juvenile section at Megiddo.
14. On the second day after my arrest I had a court hearing on video link. My parents were not informed and they did not attend. My detention was extended and the hearing was adjourned. I had about 15 hearings which my mother attended. She once asked to speak to the judge and he allowed her. She told him she was worried about my school and that she wanted me out of prison as soon as possible. She told the judge she would be responsible for my behavior if he allowed me out. And then she burst into tears.

15. At the last hearing, which was on 12 January 2021, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to six months and one day in prison and fined NIS 1,300. I was also given a suspended sentence of one year suspended for three years. I accepted the plea bargain because it meant I would be released the following day. My lawyer told me if I rejected the plea bargain I would spend a whole year in prison.
16. In prison I had one family visit. My mother visited me once but I was able to make phone calls on average once every two weeks for 10 minutes each. I got used to the routine in prison and I passed the time chatting, watching television and studying. I wanted to prepare myself for my final high school exams but there were no books in prison to help me keep up. I was one of the top students in my class and wanted to get a high average to qualify me to study medicine. Now I am not sure I can do it because I missed six months.
17. I was released on 13 December 2020 and I went home with my father. I arrived home at around 5:00 p.m.

## Testimony 25

**Name:** A.R.A.Q.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 9 September 2020  
**Location:** Azzawiya, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Weapon possession

**On 9 September 2020, a 17-year-old minor from Azzawiya was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 1:30 a.m. He reports being interrogated multiple times without always being informed of his legal rights and held in solitary confinement for 16 days at Al Jalama interrogation centre, Israel.**

1. Israeli soldiers banged at our neighbour's door looking for me at around 1:30 a.m. Then they came to our house. My parents woke up when they heard banging at our front gate. My father opened the gate and about 40 soldiers entered our home. Then they asked my mother for me and she told them I was in bed. Then my parents, accompanied by the soldiers came into my room and woke me up. I opened my eyes and saw soldiers standing over my head.
2. One of the soldiers asked to see my identity card and then told me to get ready because I was under arrest. He did not give me a reason. Then he forced my mother and siblings into one of the rooms and did not allow them to leave. They kept me in the living room and took my mobile phone. Then the soldiers searched the house and causing a big mess. They took all our clothes out of the wardrobes and dumped them on the floor. They searched the kitchen and even the laundry basket. Some soldiers climbed up the trees in the garden searching for something.
3. At one point the soldiers sat me down on the couch and told my mother that if she really wanted to see me again she should tell me to cooperate with them. Then they brought in two service dogs and made them sniff around the house. The dogs urinated on a mattress and on the carpet.
4. The soldiers remained inside our home for about one-and-a-half hours. Then they gave my father a document written in Hebrew and Arabic with information about my arrest scribbled in Hebrew. They asked my father to sign it and then took it away. Then one of the soldiers tied my hands behind my back with two plastic ties on top of each other. The ties did not cause me any pain. Then I was taken outside where I was blindfolded.
5. The soldiers walked me for about 15 minutes and then took me to the back of a military jeep and made me sit on the metal floor. One of the soldiers, who was masked, swore at me. Then they drove to my uncle's workshop and called my uncle who opened the workshop and they searched it thoroughly but did not find anything.
6. After my uncle's workshop the soldiers drove to a nearby military base where I was taken to a shipping container and I was given a quick medical examination. Then I was left in the container together with a soldier who kept talking to me to prevent me from falling asleep. Later that morning I was taken in a military vehicle to Al Jalama interrogation centre in Israel for interrogation. I arrived there at around noon.
7. The interrogator cut off the ties and then tied me to the chair in an uncomfortable position. He shackled my feet and removed the blindfold. Then he gave me a document informing me of my

rights. I read it and it said I had the right to contact a lawyer and the right to remain silent. Then the interrogator phoned a lawyer but the lawyer did not answer.

8. Then interrogator accused me of being a terrorist. He also accused me of weapons possession but I denied the accusation. He was aggressive and told me an informant told him I had weapons in my possession. He swore at me and called me "a son of a bitch" and told me I had to tell him where I hid the weapons. He raised his voice at me and thumped the table. He threatened to bring my father and mother to the interrogation center if I did not confess and to revoke my father's work permit. He questioned me for about two hours and did not ask me to sign any documents.
9. After the interrogation I was taken to a small cell, no bigger than 2 x 1 meters. The cell had a toilet and a sink and a mattress on the floor. It was located underground and there were no windows. There was a dim light which was left on all the time. I did not know day from night and I was in distress. I was left in the cell for 16 days. During this time, I had about eight more interrogations. I was not allowed to speak to a lawyer and I was not informed of my right to silence. I was accused of the same accusations and I continued to deny them.
10. I had my first military court hearing five days after my arrest. It was conducted via video link and I saw my mother on the screen. I could not speak to her because they muted the audio and I thought they had summoned her for questioning. The judge extended my detention and the hearing was adjourned.
11. After the hearing I was taken for another interrogation. The interrogator threatened to keep my mother in custody if I did not confess. I was so worried that I confessed to weapon possession. When I confessed I was asked to sign a document written in Hebrew. When I asked what I was signing on the interrogator told me it was my confession. I then signed.
12. A week later I was taken to Ofer prison where they locked me up with informants. They wanted me to chat and tell them everything on my mind but I was aware of the possibility that they might be informants and I did not tell them anything I had not already told the interrogator.
13. I had about 15 military court hearings and at the last one, which was on 3 November 2020, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to six months in prison and fined NIS 1,000. I was also given a further 10 months in prison suspended for three years. I accepted the plea bargain because otherwise I was facing two years in prison.
14. At the end of the 16 days in solitary confinement I was transferred to the quarantine section at Megiddo prison, inside Israel, where I spent 14 days. Then I was taken to the juvenile section at Megiddo where I spent the rest of my prison sentence. In prison I played table tennis, and I helped keep the cell clean and tidy. I also attended classes in Arabic, Hebrew and Mathematics. I wanted to prepare myself for my final high school exams but the classes were not good enough, they were a joke in terms of the standard.
15. I did not have any family visits but I was able to call home from a monitored pay phone twice a month. I was unexpectedly released early on 20 December 2020 at Salem checkpoint. My parents were not at the checkpoint to take me home because they were not informed of my early release. I arrived home by taxi at around 11:00 p.m.

## Testimony 26

**Name:** S.M.D.J.  
**Age:** 15  
**Date:** 19 October 2020  
**Location:** Al 'Arrub refugee camp, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing Molotov cocktails

**On 19 October 2020, a 15-year-old minor from Al Arrub refugee camp was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 4:15 a.m. He reports being interrogated multiple times without being informed of his legal rights. He reports being held for 7 days in solitary confinement in Al MascobiyeH interrogation centre, Jerusalem.**

1. I was fast asleep, still under the influence of the anesthetic following surgery I had the day before, when I was woken up by an Israeli soldier. It was around 4:15 a.m. It was a shock to wake up and see soldiers in my bedroom. They had managed to open our front door using some sort of device. My mother heard a noise and thought it was the neighbours and so went to the door. She was standing behind the door when it was suddenly pushed open. She thought was having a nightmare.
2. About 12 soldiers entered our home with many more waiting outside. They had service dogs with them but they did not bring the dogs into the house. The commander called my mother by name and when she confirmed her identity he told his soldiers to calm down. Then he called my sister by name and then asked about me. My mother told him I had surgery the day before and was in bed recovering. The soldiers did not pay attention to what my mother was saying and went into my bedroom and pulled me out of bed.
3. The soldiers took me to the living room and one of them banged my head against the wall then sat me down on the couch. I showed the soldiers the bandage on my belly where I had the surgery and the commander told my mother not to worry because he was going to take me to a doctor. He asked her to bring my medications and then gave her a document filled out in Hebrew with details about my arrest. He made her sign the document and then he took it away. He did not leave a copy for my mother.
4. The soldiers remained in our home for about 30 minutes. Then they took me outside where a soldier checked the bandage, then tied my hands behind my back with three plastic ties: one on each wrist and another connecting the two. The ties were very tight and painful. I was also blindfolded. The soldiers then led me on foot to the military watchtower at the entrance to our refugee camp.
5. When we arrived at the watchtower I was taken to the back of a military jeep where I sat on a seat. The jeep drove to the police station in Etzion settlement. I was taken to a shipping container and the area intelligence officer questioned me while I was tied and blindfolded. He asked me whether I had recognized his voice and when I said I did not he pulled down the blindfold. I then recognized his face.
6. Then, without informing me of my rights, he asked me about a comment I had put on his Facebook page which consisted of many blank pages at the end of which was a photograph of a finger. He

had to scroll down a lot to get to the bottom of it. It was obvious he was annoyed with my comment. He wanted to know why I had done it and I told him I was bored. He questioned me for about 20 minutes and I was left in the shipping container for about another hour before being questioned by a soldier.

7. The soldier did not inform me of my rights and did not allow me to speak to a lawyer. He asked me about video footage of some young boys throwing a Molotov cocktail at soldiers which he had found on my phone. He accused me of being among the boys who threw the Molotov cocktail and wanted to know who else was with me. When I told him I was not with the boys he punched me in the stomach right where I had the surgery wound and I was in severe pain. He also swore at me.
8. I was questioned by that soldier for about 36 hours. He punched and kicked me many times until my stitches fell apart and I was bleeding heavily. I did not sleep and I was not given any food or drink. I was allowed to use the toilet only once. Later the bleeding was so heavy they took me to the hospital.
9. At the hospital I was handcuffed to the bed. I was given a drip and then I fell asleep and did not know what happened. The doctors stitched the wound properly and the bleeding stopped. When I woke up I saw three soldiers in the room; one of them asked me if I was feeling ok. I spent three hours at the hospital and then I was taken to Al Mascobiye police station, in Jerusalem.
10. At Al Mascobiye I was put in a small cell underground. I was by myself in the cell for seven days. The cell measured not more than 1 x 2 meters and had one small window but because it was underground I did not see any daylight and I could not tell day from night. During this time I had two interrogations.
11. The first interrogation was two days later. The interrogator asked me how I was and then told me I had the right to remain silent. He did not arrange for me to speak to a lawyer. In the beginning I decided to exercise my right to remain silent, but then the interrogator put so much pressure on me and I could not maintain it. He yelled at me and told me to answer and to respond to his questions.
12. Then he told me two of my friends had confessed against me saying I had thrown a Molotov cocktail at the military watchtower and at passing military vehicles on Route 60. He told me the incident happened on 20 August 2020. I denied the accusation and told him I had no idea what he was talking about and that I was very sick in August. He questioned me for about three hours. At the end he wanted me to sign a document written in Hebrew but I refused to sign. After the interrogation I was taken back to the cell.
13. On the seventh day I was taken for a second interrogation. I did not speak to a lawyer and the interrogator told me I already knew I had the right to silence from the previous interrogation. This interrogator had a camera in the room and he accused me of the same accusations. He yelled at me in the beginning but then he calmed down. He told me if I told him who threw the Molotov cocktail he would release me. I denied the accusation and told him I did not know who did it. He questioned me for about two hours and at the end he asked me to sign a document in Hebrew but I refused to sign.

14. Then I was taken to another cell with other detainees. I was searched with my clothes on.
15. My first military court hearing was on the seventh day after my arrest. It was conducted via video link. My mother attended and my detention was extended. Later that day I was transferred to Ofer prison, near Jerusalem, after spending 16 days at Al Mascobiye.
16. I had about 17 military court hearings and at the last one, which was on 24 January 2021, the same day I was released, the military judge decided to release me on bail because of my medical condition. My parents had to pay NIS 8,000 in bail.
17. I was released after the hearing and I went home with my father, my brother and my uncle. I was released at Ofer checkpoint and I arrived home at night. I have had four more military court hearings since I was released on bail. I attended two and missed two because I had exams. My next hearing is scheduled for 21 June 2021.

## Testimony 27

**Name:** A.M.A.T.  
**Age:** 16  
**Date:** 12 November 2020  
**Location:** Qalandiya refugee camp, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Participating in protests

**On 12 November 2020, a 16-year-old minor from Qalandiya refugee camp was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 3:00 a.m. He reports being interrogated multiple times without being informed of his legal rights under Israeli military law. He reports being put in solitary confinement for 13 days in Al Mascobiye interrogation centre, Jerusalem.**

1. I was out late at night and came home at around 3:00 a.m. I took a shower and went to bed. About 10 minutes later my uncle rang the doorbell and told my father that Israeli soldiers were looking for me. They first went to my cousin's house and then to my uncle's house and told him to lead them to our house. My uncle left and about 25 soldiers entered our home with more outside.
2. As soon as they entered our house the commander beat my brother up and asked him for his name. Then he asked him for me and he told them I was asleep in the bedroom upstairs. They came upstairs to my bedroom and I woke up when a soldier slapped me and told me to get up because they wanted to arrest me. I put on some clothes and went downstairs. The soldiers searched my room for weapons but they did not find anything.
3. The soldiers allowed me to say goodbye to my family and then took me outside. They did not give my parents any documents. Outside the house a soldier wanted to handcuff me so I extended my hands but he punched me in the stomach and forcefully twisted my hands behind my back. He handcuffed me with metal handcuffs behind my back. The handcuffs were very tight and cut into my wrists. He put a mask over my mouth, blindfolded me and walked me towards the settlement of Kochav Yacov.
4. On the way soldiers swore at me. They also slapped and kicked me the whole way. At one point I fell to the ground and injured my face. Young boys were throwing stones at them and with each stone I was kicked and beaten. I was left at the settlement for about 15 minutes and then I was put in the back of a jeep. The soldiers made me lie down on the metal floor with my face down and they were making fun of me. I was taken to Atarot police station in East Jerusalem where I was left in an outdoor area. At around noon I was taken for interrogation.
5. The interrogator removed the blindfold and he saw I was bleeding. I told him I wanted a tissue to wipe the blood but he told me he would give me a tissue later. Then he removed the handcuffs and handcuffed me to the front and also shackled my feet to the chair.
6. He asked me for my name and then swore at me. He showed me video footage of clashes with soldiers and accused me of taking part. He told me if I confessed he would send me home immediately. I denied the accusation and I told him I did not take part in the clashes.



7. He accused me of lying and told me he was going to revoke my family's work permits if I did not confess. Then he took me outside for about 15 minutes and took another boy in. Then he took me into another room where the area military intelligence officer, "Captain Miro", was sitting.
8. The intelligence officer told me to introduce myself and then told me I had the right to call my parents to ask them to appoint me a lawyer. I called my brother and told him to appoint me a lawyer. Then I was taken to another room. The interrogator accused me of the same accusations and told me my friends had confessed against me. He told me he was going to send me home but because my friends confessed against me he changed his mind.
9. Then he asked how much I earned a day at work and I told him NIS 20. He then asked me how I managed with 20 shekels when a pack of cigarettes costs 25 shekels. He asked me for my brothers' names and then took me outside for about 10 minutes for a break.
10. Then he came back holding a mobile phone and told me to listen and watch and not to speak. He told me it was my military court hearing. I did not understand anything.
11. The interrogators did not inform me of my rights and I did not speak to a lawyer. They questioned me until around midnight and then I was given a document in Arabic, Hebrew and English and the interrogator wanted me to sign it but I refused to sign.
12. After the interrogation I was transferred to Al Mascobiyyeh police station in Jerusalem. I arrived there at around 1:00 a.m. I was given a quick medical examination and then I was taken to a small cell measuring no more than 1x1 meters. I was left there by myself for 13 days. The cell did not have any windows and I could not tell day from night. It had a sheet and no mattress or pillow and a toilet but no sink. The air conditioner was on and very cold. I was very distressed and wanted to get out. During this time, I had two more interrogations.
13. The interrogator did not allow me to speak to a lawyer and did not inform me of my right to silence. He questioned me in a dark room and I could not see his face. I was separated from him by a plastic shield because of the Corona Virus regulations. He accused me of the same accusations and I did not confess. He also showed me a document in Hebrew and asked me to sign it and I refused to sign.
14. Thirteen days later I was taken to a quarantine section for a day. They did a Corona Virus test and then I was transferred to Ofer prison, near Jerusalem. At Ofer I was searched in my boxer shorts and then I was questioned by an intelligence office. He did not allow me to speak to a lawyer and did not inform me of my right to silence. Then I was taken to section 13.
15. I had six military court hearings and at the last one, which was on 28 February 2021, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to six months and one day in prison, and another one year in prison suspended for two years. I did not have to pay any fines. I accepted the plea bargain because the alternative was to spend 20 months in prison.

16. I spent the rest of my prison sentence at Ofer. I did not have any family visits but I was allowed to call home twice a month. In prison I helped in the kitchen.
17. I was released at Ofer on 21 April 2021 and I went home with my father, my brothers, my cousins and my brother's brother-in-law. I arrived home at sunset, just in time for the Ramadan meal. I was very happy to be home, I felt as if I could breathe again. I don't speak to my friends who confessed against me anymore. We used to be very close and would spend a lot of time together, but now we barely say "hi" to each other.

## Testimony 28

**Name:** K.M.I.K.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 12 November 2020  
**Location:** Al Khader, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones

**On 24 November 2020, a 17-year-old minor from Al Khader was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 4:00 a.m. He reports first being interrogated multiple times without always being informed of his legal rights prior to each interrogation. He reports being held in solitary confinement at Al Mascobiyyeh interrogation centre, Jerusalem.**

1. I woke up to the sound of military jeeps in our neighbourhood and loud banging at the front door. It was around 4:00 a.m. I rushed to open our front door and I managed to open it just before the soldiers broke it down. About 15 Israeli soldiers entered our home. They were accompanied by the area commander.
2. The commander ordered everybody to gather in the living room. I told him it was only me and my mother at home. Then he asked to see my identity card and then he told me I was under arrest. He did not give us any documents.
3. The soldiers searched our house and trashed it. They broke wardrobes and threw our clothes on the floor. They did not tell us what they were looking for. They remained in our house for about 20 minutes and then I was taken outside where I was blindfolded and my hands were tied behind my back with metal handcuffs. The handcuffs were not painful.
4. I was then taken to a waiting troop carrier and made me sit on the metal floor. The soldiers in the back of the vehicle slapped and kicked me all over my body. I felt severe pain in my left leg below the knee. I was taken to the military base at the entrance to Beit Jala and left in a shipping container until around 9:00 a.m. Then I was taken to the police station in Etzion settlement for interrogation.
5. The interrogator removed my blindfold and the handcuffs. I told him I wanted to speak to a lawyer and he phoned one for me. The lawyer told me I had the right to remain silent and told me not to worry. The interrogator was listening on speaker phone and the conversation lasted for less than a minute.
6. Then, without informing me of my right to silence, the interrogator showed me messages on WhatsApp and accused me of weapon possession and threatening a military commander. I denied the accusation. Then he told me if I did not confess I was going to be served with a long prison sentence. He was calm and questioned me for about 45 minutes. He did not ask me to sign any documents.
7. Then I was questioned by another interrogator who had a voice recorder which he turned on and off during the interrogation. This one did not allow me to speak to a lawyer and did not inform me of my right to silence. He questioned me for about 30 minutes and did not ask me to sign any documents. Then I was taken to see a third interrogator.

8. The third interrogator did not inform me of my rights either and did not allow me to speak to a lawyer. He questioned me for about 30 minutes and then asked me to sign documents written in Hebrew. I signed the documents.
9. After the third interrogation I was taken to Al MascobiyeH police station in Jerusalem. I arrived there at around 2:00 p.m. I was immediately taken to a cell where I was strip searched and spent two days by myself.
10. On the third day I was taken for interrogation. I did not speak to a lawyer and was not informed of my right to silence. I was accused of the same accusations and I denied them all. The interrogator was very calm and questioned me for about 15 minutes. At the end he asked me to sign a document in Hebrew and I did.
11. In all I spent 29 days at Al MascobiyeH. My first military court hearing was a week after my arrest. It was conducted via video link. My parents did not attend because they were not informed. After Al MascobiyeH I was taken to Ofer prison, near Jerusalem, where I was strip searched before being taken to section 13. I spent the rest of my sentence at Ofer.
12. I had around nine military court hearings and at the last one, which was on 15 March 2021, I was released following a plea bargain. I was sentenced to four months in prison and given a suspended sentence of one-and-a-half years in prison suspended for five years. I accepted the plea bargain because I was released on the same day. I did not have to pay any fines.
13. I went home with my parents on the same day and we arrived home at around 1:00 a.m. I did not have any family visits because of the Corona Virus restrictions. In prison I helped keep the cell clean and tidy and helped in preparing food for the other prisoners.

## Testimony 29

**Name:** S.Z.S.A.  
**Age:** 14  
**Date:** 16 December 2020  
**Location:** Beit Ummar, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones

**On 16 December 2020, a 14-year-old minor from Beit Ummar was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 3:00 a.m. He reports being interrogated multiple times without always being informed of his legal rights and being held in solitary confinement. He reports being held for 7 days in solitary confinement at Al Mascobiye interrogation centre, Jerusalem.**

1. I woke up to the sound of Israeli soldiers raiding our neighbour's house at around 3:00 a.m. Shortly afterwards the soldiers came to our house. My father opened the door before the soldiers broke it down and about 20 soldiers entered our home.
2. The soldiers asked to see my father's identity card then took him to the living room by himself where the commander talked to him for about 15 minutes. Then my father came out and told me and my brother to get dressed because we were both going to be arrested. My father told us they wanted to question us about throwing stones. The commander did not give my parents any documents.
3. Then a soldier tied my hands to the front with one plastic tie and tightened it very hard. My hands swelled and turned blue and I was in severe pain. He also blindfolded me. Then I was taken to the back of a military troop carrier. I wanted to sit on a seat but a soldier lifted me up and threw me on the metal floor.
4. The troop carrier drove to the police station in Etzion settlement. When we arrived I was given a quick medical examination. Then I was taken to a room with lots of soldiers and I was left there until around 8:00 a.m. At around 8:00 a.m. soldiers took me out and made me walk for about two hours inside the police station compound while I was tied and blindfolded. At around 10:00 a.m. I was taken for interrogation.
5. The interrogator removed the blindfold but kept me tied. Then he advised me to talk and cooperate with him so we could finish early and go home. He told me he was going to call my father to pick me and my brother up if we cooperated nicely with him.
6. The interrogator then phoned a lawyer for me. The lawyer told me if I had done anything wrong I should talk about it but if I had done nothing wrong he advised me not to speak. The interrogator left the room during my conversation with the lawyer which lasted less than a minute.
7. Then the interrogator wanted me to confess to throwing stones, "even one stone" would be enough he said and told me to say I was sorry. He said if I did that he was going to send me home immediately. I told him I did not throw any stones and did not go to areas where soldiers were present.

8. At the beginning the interrogator was calm but then he became aggressive. He pulled my ear and slapped me on the face. He questioned me for about one-and-a-half hours. He had a camera in the room. At my hearing the lawyer used the tape to show the military judge how I was beaten during the interrogation. The interrogator told me he was going to revoke my father's work permit if I did not confess and that too was recorded and shown to the judge.
9. At the end of the interrogation the interrogator phoned my father and told him to come to the police station to pick me up. My father later told me he waited at the police station from around 9:30 a.m. until around 3:30 p.m. and then he was told to go home without me. During this time the interrogator told me my father had sent me a message urging me to confess and to finish quickly in order to go home with him.
10. The interrogator swore at me when I continued deny the accusation. When I swore back at him he grabbed me, pulled my hands behind my back and tied my hands to the chair I was sitting on. Then he pulled out a baton and beat me with it including on my head. Then he told me my brother had confessed and that I was wasting his time and urged me to confess like my brother.
11. Then he took me to the room where my brother was held. I thought my brother had confessed to something very serious but it turned out he had only confessed to throwing one stone. Then he took me back to the interrogation room and told me my brother had confessed to throwing a Molotov cocktail and stones. At that point I confessed to throwing three stones at soldiers during one demonstration and another stone which missed during another demonstration.
12. After I had confessed the interrogator showed me a document written in both Hebrew and Arabic and asked me to sign it. I read it and then I signed. Then he took me to another room where he took my fingerprints and photographed me. Then the interrogator told me to go and wash my hands before he took me to the room where my brother was. We were left together for a short time and then the soldiers took my brother out and I was left in the room by myself for another day.
13. During this time, I was not given any food or drink and I was taken from one room to another as well as being walked for a long time while I was tied and blindfolded. The soldiers were laughing and making fun of me and swearing at me calling me. At night I was taken to the settlement of Karmi Zur for a short time and then I was taken to Al Mascobiye for another interrogation.
14. The interrogator removed the blindfold and handed me a phone to speak to a lawyer. Then, without informing me of my right to silence, the interrogator repeated the accusations. I told him I had already confessed and that my statement was recorded and I had nothing to add. He questioned me for a short time and then gave me a blanket and took me to a room and told me I had a military court hearing the following day.
15. The next morning, I had a military court hearing via video link. My parents did not attend because they were not informed. My detention was extended and the hearing was adjourned.
16. I spent 37 days at Al Mascobiye, seven days of which I spent in a small cell underground by myself. The cell did not have any windows and I could not tell day from night. It had a bed made out of concrete. Time passed very slowly and I was in distress not knowing what was going to happen to me next. During those seven days I was interrogated daily. I did not speak to any lawyers

and I was not informed of my right to silence. The interrogator wanted me to confess that my father possessed weapons. I did not confess and I was not given any documents to sign.

17. One day I was taken for interrogation and I was taken into room Number 4. The interrogator had a thick stick by the cupboard. When he was upset with me, because I did not confess, he picked the stick up, asked me how long I preferred it, then stuck it in my behind over my trousers and pushed me on the chair. I sat on the stick which caused bleeding and I was in severe pain. This lasted for weeks and I was too embarrassed to see a doctor when I was released.
18. I spent the seven days in the cell by myself and then I was taken to another cell with informants for another seven days. One of them tried to get some confessions out of me. He told me he had blown up a bus and was serving seven life sentences. He did this to make me feel comfortable talking to him but I did not say anything.
19. Then they brought in another person who confessed he was an informant. He told me I had to confess otherwise he was going to kill me. When I told him I was not going to confess he started to beat me very hard. The other informant was watching but did not interfere.
20. Then they took me to another room with three people. One of them asked me if I wanted to confess and when I said no two of them started to beat me and the third was watching. They made me lie down on the floor and they beat me all over my body. Then the person who was watching told me the other two were bad people and claimed he was a member of Fateh and wanted me to tell him everything. When I told him I had nothing to say he told one of the other two people to prepare the taser.
21. Then they took me to another room and one of them pulled out a taser, turned it on and hit me with it twice in my stomach. I was shaking and started to vomit and some blood came out. I was terrified and thought I was going to die. Then I was taken back into another cell and other detainees helped me get into bed and brought me some tea to drink.
22. I had nine military court hearings and at the last one, which was on 20 January 2021, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to one-and-a-half months in prison and fined NIS 1,500. I was also given a suspended sentence of three months suspended for one year. I accepted the plea bargain and I was supposed to be released after court but a social worker who had interviewed me in prison objected to the plea bargain and told the judge I deserved a harsher sentence.
23. After spending 37 days at Al Mascobiyeh I was transferred to Ofer prison. At Ofer I was strip searched before being taken to section 13. The following day I was having a shower and someone told me to get ready because I was going to be released. I was released at Ofer on 24 January 2021 and I went home with a taxi driver. I was very happy to be home but I am still in pain.

### Testimony 30

**Name:** M.Z.S.A.  
**Age:** 16  
**Date:** 16 December 2020  
**Location:** Beit Ummar, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones

**On 16 December 2020, a 16-year-old minor from Beit Ummar was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 3:00 a.m. He reports briefly consulting with a lawyer on the phone prior to interrogation but not being informed of his right to silence. He reports spending 18 days in solitary confinement at Huwwara military base, West Bank.**

1. Israeli soldiers raided our neighbourhood at around 3:00 a.m. First, they went to our neighbour's house then came to our house. My father opened the door quickly because he did not want them to break it down. About 20 soldiers entered our home. The commander took my father aside and talked to him in the living room for about 15 minutes. Then my father came out and told me and my brother that the soldiers wanted to arrest us because we were suspected of throwing stones at soldiers. The commander did not give us any documents.
2. I got dressed and then a soldier tied my hands to the front with three plastic ties: one on each wrist and another connecting the two. He tightened them very tight and I was in pain. Then they took me outside and threw me on the metal floor of a troop carrier. Inside the carrier I was blindfolded and the carrier drove to the police station in Etzion settlement.
3. At Etzion I was taken to a room and given a quick medical examination. Then I sat on a chair until around 9:00 a.m. and I could not sleep. There were soldiers in the room and they were making noise. At around 9:00 a.m. I was shackled and made me walk inside the police station compound for about two hours before being interrogated.
4. The interrogator removed the ties and the blindfold. Then he handed me a phone and told me to speak to a lawyer. I did not understand what the lawyer was saying, maybe because he spoke broken Arabic. The interrogator was standing beside me and listened to the conversation which lasted less than a minute.
5. Then, without informing me of my right to silence, the interrogator told me I had to confess just like my brother did. He told me my brother had confessed to throwing a Molotov cocktail at soldiers and he showed me video footage of the incident. When I denied the accusation, he threatened to revoke my father's work permit.
6. The interrogator was calm most of the time. At one point he brought my brother into the room and my brother confessed in front of me to throwing a Molotov cocktail at soldiers. My brother was crying when he confessed and he confessed against me and against another boy.
7. I was questioned for about three hours and the interrogator kept threatening to revoke my father's work permit. I was very worried that he might be serious about revoking the permit and towards the end I confessed to throwing three stones from a distance of 100 meters which missed.



8. At the end of the interrogation the interrogator asked me to sign a document written in Hebrew. At first I refused but then I signed without understanding what was written. Then I was taken to another room and they photographed me and took my fingerprints. Then I was taken to a shipping container with my brother and I beat him up because he confessed. I was left there until around 4:00 p.m. and then I was taken to Huwwara interrogation centre. The trip took about six hours although it is not that far away from Etzion.
9. At Huwwara I was strip searched before being taken to a cell. I spent 18 days in the cell by myself. I was not interrogated and no one spoke to me. The food was disgusting and I could not eat it; I only ate bread and drank water. There was a bunk bed in the cell without a mattress or a pillow, just a blanket. There were no windows and a dim light was left on all the time which drove me crazy.
10. During my time at Huwwara I had four military court hearings via video link. My mother attended two of them and my detention was extended. After 18 days I was taken to the quarantine section at Megiddo prison, inside Israel. I was strip searched and I spent 26 days in quarantine before being transferred to the juvenile section.
11. I had a total of 11 military court hearings and at the last one, which was on 18 January 2021, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to two months in prison and fined NIS 1,500. I don't think I was given a suspended sentence but I can't be sure.
12. I spent the remaining part of my sentence at Megiddo. I was released at Al Jalama checkpoint on 31 January 2021 and I took a taxi to Nablus where my father and brother were waiting for me. I arrived home at around 9:00 p.m.

## Testimony 31

**Name:** A.T.R.A.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 11 January 2021  
**Location:** Qabatiya, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Weapon possession

**On 11 January 2021, a 17-year-old minor from Qabatiya was arrested from home by Israeli soldiers at 4:00 a.m. He reports being held in solitary confinement for 15 days at Al Jalama interrogation centre, Israel.**

1. Around 10 Israeli soldiers entered our home at 4:00 a.m. My mother later told me that she was already awake and was shocked to see the soldiers suddenly push open our front door. My father came to my bedroom and woke me up telling me the soldiers were looking for me.
2. One of the soldiers then approached me and asked me for my weapons. I told him I had no weapons. Then he took my identity card, asked me to unlock my mobile phone and ordered the other soldiers to search our home. One of the soldiers aimed his gun in my face while another soldier threw all my clothes on the floor.
3. Then a soldier tied my hands behind my back with one plastic tie which was very tight and painful. It cut into my wrists until I bled. Then a soldier blindfolded me and took me outside where a military jeep was waiting. The soldiers did not give my family any documents. They took me to the back of a jeep and made me sit on the metal floor. Then the jeep drove to the nearby settlement of Dotan.
4. At the settlement they made me sit on a chair in an outdoor area for about 13 hours. It was a cold night. Later I was taken into a shipping container but I was not given any food or water. Soldiers passing by slapped me and swore at me. At around 9:00 p.m. I was driven to Al Jalama interrogation centre in Israel where I was put in a small cell in solitary confinement for 15 days.
5. The cell was very small and had a mattress on the floor. The toilet was also in the same cell and I had no pillow. There were no windows and no daylight came through. The only way I could tell the time of day was from the types of meals they brought me. I found it very hard to sleep. There was a bright light in the cell which they sometimes dimmed. I slept on average about four hours a day. I fell asleep from exhaustion.
6. During this time I was interrogated multiple times, once every two days for 3-7 hours each time. While still in the cell I was given a piece of paper which informed me of my rights. I read it but I did not understand everything. There was something about the right to silence and another saying they had no right to beat me up. It also said I had the right to consult with a lawyer who would speed up the process for me. They made me sign the piece of paper.
7. The first interrogation was on the fourth day. A female lawyer visited me before the interrogation and told me not to worry and not to be afraid. She also told me I had the right to remain silent. Then I was taken into the interrogation room. I asked for a cigarette and the interrogator gave me

one. He also gave me a cup of coffee. The interrogator was in civilian clothes. He did not inform me of my right to silence.

8. The interrogator asked me for my name and told me he had 14 confessions against me. He told me I was accused of shooting at a settlement, planning a terrorist act, making pipe bombs and throwing pipe bombs at military jeeps. He also told me I was accused of possessing a gun. I denied all the accusations.
9. The interrogator was calm and told me if I did not confess he was going to keep me in the cell and interrogate me for one or two months, or as long as it takes for me to confess and then I would spend seven years in prison. He questioned me for about 30 minutes but did not ask me to sign any documents. Then I had a military court hearing via zoom. My parents did not attend and the military judge extended my detention. Then I was taken back to the cell.
10. I had about seven more interrogations. I did not speak to a lawyer except before the first interrogation and none of the interrogators informed me of my right to silence. The interrogators used different techniques to try to extract a confession from me. One would be calm and nice and the other would yell and shout at me and call me " an arsehole". One of them threatened to arrest my father. They usually asked me to sign documents written in Arabic which I signed. After each interrogation I was sent back to the cell.
11. I spent 15 days in the cell which I found very hard. I could not stop my mind from thinking and worrying. On the 16<sup>th</sup> day they brought in another detainee.
12. On the 9<sup>th</sup> day I confessed to throwing stones and to possessing a pipe bomb and 45 bullets. I confessed because I could not take it any longer. I also thought to myself it was better to confess to relatively minor offenses, rather than be convicted of more serious ones.
13. After I confessed I was taken to another cell with informants. They wanted me to tell them everything but I only spoke about the things I had already confessed to. After spending some time with the informants, I was taken back to the small cell.
14. Later I was taken to the quarantine section at Megiddo prison, also in Israel, where I spent four days. They wanted to strip search me but I refused. Then I had a fight with one of the detainees and I was transferred to the juvenile section.
15. In all I had about 10 military court hearings. At the last one, which was on 9 March 2021, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to six months in prison and fined NIS 1,000. I was also given a further 12 months in prison suspended for 3 years. I accepted the plea bargain because I did not want to spend seven years in prison which I was told was the alternative if I rejected the plea bargain.
16. On 1 May 2021 I was transferred to the Negev prison inside Israel as punishment because I kept having fights with the other detainees. I was released at Al Thahiriyeh checkpoint on 20 June 2021 and I went home with my father, my uncle and my cousins. I arrived home at around 9:00 p.m.

## Testimony 32

**Name:** A.S.E.K.  
**Age:** 16  
**Date:** 19 January 2021  
**Location:** Hizma, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones

**On 19 January 2021, a 16-year-old minor from Hizma was arrested by Israeli soldiers on the street at 8.30 p.m. He reports being interrogated multiple times and held in solitary confinement for 14 days in Ashkelon prison, Israel.**

1. I was near my uncle's shop when a group of Israeli soldiers grabbed me. It was around 8:30 p.m. About 10 soldiers were marching up the street when four of them started running towards me. It was dark and I hid in the shop. A soldier grabbed me and pushed me to the ground. Then he took me outside where he searched me. It was cold and raining. Then he took my identity card from my pocket and compared my photo to a photo on his mobile phone.
2. After the soldier compared the photos he tied my hands behind my back with three plastic ties: one on each wrist and another connecting the two. He tightened them hard and I screamed of pain. Then the soldier replaced the ties with looser ones which I later snapped open.
3. Soon my father and other members of my family came to the scene and tried to get me released. My father handed me a jacket and then the soldiers took me and my father to a jeep where we sat on seats. The jeep then took us to the police station in Binyamin settlement.
4. At the police station my father and I were taken into a room with a group of soldiers. The soldiers told my father to leave. Then a soldier handcuffed me to the front and left me in the room for about three hours. Then I was taken for interrogation.
5. The interrogator removed the handcuffs and asked me if I wanted to speak to a lawyer. I told him there was no need for a lawyer because I did not do anything wrong. Then he turned a voice recorder on and asked me who I threw stones at and where. He asked me this question without informing me of my right to silence. I denied the accusation. Then he asked me about other boys from my village and wanted to know where I went with them. Then he asked me about the boys who took part in clashes with soldiers earlier in the day. I told him I was at my uncle's shop and did not see anything.
6. The interrogator questioned me for more than an hour and I denied the accusations and told him I did not know anything about the other boys he named. He was calm most of the time but he raised his voice at me and thumped the table when I denied the accusation. He asked me whether my family had enough photos of me and told me they would need lots of photos to remember me. I took this to mean that he wanted to lock me up for a long time. He told me he had had his eye on me for a long time and now that he captured me he was not going to let go of me easily. He told me he was going to let me rot in prison.

7. At the end of the interrogation he showed me a document written in Hebrew which he asked me to sign. I refused to sign the document unless he translated it for me. He became very angry when I refused to sign and called some soldiers to force me to sign. He then showed me a google translate on his screen but I refused to sign because the translation did not correspond to what I had told him.
8. After the interrogation I was taken to a military base called Anatot where I was put in a room. I arrived there at around 5:00 a.m. I slept for about an hour and then I was taken to Ashkelon prison, inside Israel, where I was interrogated multiple times, each time for about an hour.
9. Before each interrogation I was asked if I wanted to speak to a lawyer but I turned down the offer because I felt there was no need for a lawyer. I was also informed of my right to silence but when I remained silent the interrogator became angry and thumped the table aggressively. I was repeatedly asked the same questions and I continued to deny the accusations. I was threatened to be put in prison without food or drink for a whole month if I did not confess. At the end of each interrogation I was asked to sign documents written in Hebrew but I refused to sign anything I did not understand.
10. I spent 14 days in solitary confinement in Ashkelon. I was kept in a small cell measuring about 1 x 2 meters with no windows except for a small opening in the door and another one which was closed with shutters the whole time. Most of the time I did not know whether it was day or night. There was a thin mattress on the floor and a toilet.
11. I found it very hard to be in solitary confinement in a small cell and I kept banging at the door asking the soldiers to let me out. As punishment for making a noise a soldier handcuffed my hands behind my back for three hours and I was interrogated while I was handcuffed. They also disrupted my sleep and banged the door when I fell asleep in order to wake me up. I was also threatened to be sprayed with gas if I continued to bang on the door.
12. After 14 days I was transferred to the police station in Etzion settlement where I spent another 14 days in a cell with other detainees. Then I was transferred to the quarantine section at Megiddo prison where I was searched in my boxer shorts. I spent 21 days in quarantine before being transferred to the juvenile section at Megiddo.
13. My first military court hearing was on 22 January 2021. It was conducted via video link and my uncle attended. My detention was extended. I had four hearings and at the last one, which was on 1 March 2021, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to seven months in prison with a suspended sentence of an additional three months valid for two years. At first, I rejected the plea bargain but my father and my lawyer encouraged me to accept it. My father offered to pay NIS 5,000 shekels to reduce my sentence to two months in prison, which the military court accepted.
14. I was given early release on 7 March 2021 and was released at Al Jalama checkpoint. My parents were expecting me to be released three days earlier and that was why they were not waiting for me at the checkpoint. I managed to contact my parents and they came and picked me up. I arrived home at around 3:00 a.m., tired and hungry. I had a nice meal and then went to bed.

### Testimony 33

**Name:** A.N.H.H.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 29 January 2021  
**Location:** Beit Sourik checkpoint, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing pipe bombs

**On 29 January 2021, a 17-year-old minor from Balata refugee camp was arrested by Israeli soldiers and accused of throwing a pipe bomb at a military watchtower. He reports being interrogated multiple times and spending 8 days in solitary confinement in Petah Tikva interrogation centre, Israel.**

1. I was with some friends at the Beit Sourik military checkpoint when somebody threw a pipe bomb at the Israeli military watchtower. It was around 7.30 p.m. Soon soldiers started to chase everybody.
2. One of the soldiers grabbed me and swore at me calling me a "son of a whore". He beat me with the back of his gun on my leg which hurt. Then he tied my hands to the front with one plastic tie. The tie was very tight and very painful. Then he pulled down my trousers to search me. When I tried to lift my trousers up the plastic tie snapped. When that happened, the soldier tied me with six plastic ties on top of each other. The ties were extremely tight and caused me a lot of pain.
3. Then the soldier blindfolded me and banged my head against the concrete wall. He kicked and slapped me and the other soldiers were laughing. One of them made animal sounds and another took a video of me which I think he posted on Tick Tock because I heard him say the word. Then he pushed me to the ground and made me kneel down for about two hours. It was raining and I got soaked.
4. Then a soldier handed me a telephone and told me to speak to "Captain Odai". Without informing me of my rights, Captain Odai wanted to know what I was doing in the area. Then he just swore at me and he was very aggressive.
5. The soldiers then led me about 20 meters and put me in the back of a military jeep. I sat on a seat. Inside the jeep I was beaten some more. A soldier kicked me hard on my knee and hurt me a lot. The jeep drove me to Huwwara military base.
6. At Huwwara I was taken to a room where a doctor gave me a quick medical examination. I begged the doctor to remove the ties because I was in pain but he refused and told me someone else would cut them off later. Then he wanted to take my temperature but I refused to allow him to put the thermometer in my mouth. I just did not trust him and was afraid of putting anything in my mouth. Then I was searched in my boxer shorts and taken to a cell. I asked to use the toilet but they refused. They offered me some food but I could not eat it because it looked disgusting.
7. I was left in the cell until around 10:00 p.m. the following day. Then I was taken to the police station at Petah Tikva, inside Israel, where I was taken to a very small cell measuring about 1 x 1.5 meters. The cell did not have any windows and had a flickering dim light which hurt my eyes.

I could not fall asleep because of the flickering light and I could not tell day from night. I was left in the cell in solitary confinement for eight days.

8. On the second day I sat with a lawyer for 15 minutes. He told me to be brave and asked me if I needed anything and wanted to know which prison I preferred to be at. Then I had a military court hearing via video link. My parents did not attend because they were not informed. The military judge extended my detention and the hearing was adjourned.
9. On the fourth day I was interrogated. I was handcuffed and blindfolded and taken into a room. The interrogator removed the blindfold but kept the handcuffs. He told me I had the right to remain silent. He explained and told me it was my choice; I could either tell him everything or I could say nothing. He also told me if I wanted he was willing to call a lawyer for me but he never did. Then he told me my case is a trivial one and urged me to confess and tell him everything quickly because he had no time for trivial cases like mine. He told me he had better issues to spend his time on like Hamas activists and weapons cases.
10. He then accused me of throwing pipe bombs at the checkpoint. I denied the accusation. He showed me some photographs and repeated the accusation. At first, I denied everything because I wanted the interrogation session to last as long as possible because I did not want to go back to the cell. He questioned me for about two hours and was sometimes calm and other times he was aggressive. He threatened to revoke my father's work permit and the work permits of my relatives.
11. Towards the end I confessed. When I confessed he asked me to sign some documents written in Hebrew. I signed them when he assured me the documents contained my testimony exactly as I said it. I also was worried he might beat me up if I refused to sign.
12. Then I was taken to see another interrogator who was a policeman. He was smoking and drinking alcohol while typing on his computer. He told me to repeat everything I had told the previous interrogator and I did. He did not inform me of my rights and did not allow me to speak to a lawyer. At the end he asked me to sign a document written in both Arabic and Hebrew and I did.
13. Then I was taken back to the cell which was monitored by CCTV cameras 24 hours. The food was disgusting and I could barely eat it. I felt so terrible that I wanted to kill myself. I broke a plastic fork they had brought with the food and I cut my wrist and made more cuts along the inside of my arm until my elbow. The guards saw what I had done on the camera and they quickly came to the cell. One of them yelled at me and wanted to beat me up. Then they took me to the clinic and a doctor examined my arm and gave me some band aids. Then I was taken to Megiddo prison inside Israel where I was strip searched.
14. I had eight military court hearings and at the last one, which was on the day I was released, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to one month and one day in prison and fined NIS 1,500. I was also given a suspended sentence of one-and-a-half years.
15. I was released at Al Jalama checkpoint on 27 February 2021 and I went home with my father, my uncles, and my younger sister. My father told me they did not know I was arrested until the following day and thought I had been killed. I arrived home in the evening.

### Testimony 34

**Name:** H.M.H.H.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 29 January 2021  
**Location:** Beit Furik checkpoint, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones / pipe bombs

**On 29 January 2021, a 17-year-old minor from Balata refugee camp was arrested by Israeli soldiers at a military checkpoint. He reports being interrogated multiple times without always being informed of his right and being held in solitary confinement for 8 days in Petah Tikva interrogation centre, Israel.**

1. I was going for a walk with some friends near the Israeli military checkpoint at Beit Furik. It was around 7:00 p.m. Soon around 15 soldiers approached us on foot as well as a military jeep.
2. The soldiers searched me and made me strip down to my underwear. Then they tied my hands to the front with three plastic ties on top of each other. The ties were painful and left marks on my wrists. The soldiers swore at me calling me "a son of a whore". One of them punched me in the stomach and hit me on my shoulder. Then they blindfolded me and continued to beat me while I was tied and blindfolded.
3. I was held at the checkpoint for about two hours before being taken to Huwwara military base. We arrived at Huwwara late at night. I was searched in my boxer shorts and then I was taken to a room.
4. The following day I was taken to Petah Tikva interrogation centre, inside Israel. I arrived there at around noon. I was searched in my boxer shorts and then I was taken to a cell where I remained in solitary confinement for eight days. The cell measured about 1.5 x 1.5 meters and did not have any windows. It had a bed and a sink and two tile-like surfaces where I ate the disgusting food they brought me. There was a light but the light was turned off at around 9:00 p.m. I did not see daylight. This was very hard time and I was in distress. I constantly thought of my family. Time went by very slowly, one day felt like a whole year. On the third day I was taken for interrogation.
5. The interrogator phoned a lawyer and listened in as I spoke to him. I told the lawyer I wanted to get out of Petah Tikva because it was unbearable. The lawyer told me it would take three days before he could do something about it and told me I had to be patient and persevere. Then he told me to cut my sentences short and that he was going to pay me a visit. The conversation lasted for about a minute.
6. Then the interrogator told me I had the right to remain silent but warned me that remaining silent would imply guilt. I decided not to remain silent because I had not done anything wrong. The interrogator sat me down and asked me how I was. Then he wanted to know what I was doing in the area where I was arrested and what was I planning with my friends. I told him we just went for a walk and were not planning anything.



7. Then he asked me whether I had thrown pipe bombs at soldiers and told me he had video footage of me. I denied the accusation and asked him to show me the footage but he never did. He questioned me for about two hours and was calm and did not threaten me. He kept repeating the accusations telling me I had to confess to throwing stones and pipe bombs. He did not ask me to sign any documents and took me back to the cell when he was done.
8. During my time at Petah Tikva I was interrogated multiple times and I was questioned about the same accusations.
9. At the second interrogation I was informed of my right to silence before I was questioned. Then I was asked to sign a document written in Hebrew at the beginning of the interrogation. I refused to sign and asked to speak to a lawyer and the interrogator called a lawyer for me. The lawyer told me he had no idea what the document was and said he could not advise me whether to sign or not. He also told me he was going to visit me. I was questioned for about an hour and the interrogator remained calm. After the interrogation I was taken back to the cell.
10. By this time, I was very distressed. I could not stand to be in the cell one more minute. In order to get out I banged my head against the door to get attention. I hit my head very hard against the door and the prison guards came within a few minutes because they saw what I was doing on CCTV.
11. I was taken out of my cell and into another room which had a mattress on the floor and two steps on both sides of the mattress. They made me lie down on the mattress and then lifted my arms and legs up and tied me with metal handcuffs and shackles to the side steps in a position that was very uncomfortable. I was left in that position for about two hours as punishment for banging my head against the door. The guards came into the room to wake me up whenever I tried to fall asleep.
12. About two hours later I was taken back to the first cell. The following day I was questioned again about the same accusations. I was informed of my right to silence but I did not speak to a lawyer. Instead, the interrogator allowed me to speak to my mother. I told my mother I was fine and told her not to worry about me.
13. I was questioned for about 45 minutes about the same accusations and the interrogator told me he was going to keep me in the interrogation room until I confessed. I told him I did not do anything wrong to confess to him about. I was not asked to sign any documents. After the interrogation I was taken back to the cell.
14. I so badly wanted to get out of that cell that I banged my head against the door again. I also banged the door with my legs asking the guards to take me out and give me some cigarettes. As punishment I was taken back into the other room where I was held in that awkward position with my arms and legs stretched up and tied with handcuffs and shackles to the side steps. This time I was held in that position for four hours and I was exhausted. The same happened the following day.
15. Then I was interrogated by a policeman. He was calm and questioned me for about 30 minutes. He did not inform me of my rights and asked me to sign a document written in Hebrew but I refused to sign. He then told me my friend, who was arrested with me, wanted to see me.

16. They brought my friend in together with five male interrogators and a female. I was not informed of my right to silence and was not allowed to speak to a lawyer. My friend said he was held in solitary confinement under harsh conditions and urged me to confess so that he could be taken out of solitary confinement. I told my friend I had done nothing wrong and was not going to confess to something I did not do.
17. One of the interrogators started to shout at me urging me to confess. Another one started to thump the table aggressively. The third one held me by the shoulder and told me if I confessed he was going to give me a cigarette. He told me it was in my best interest to confess. I told him I had nothing to confess to and continued to deny the accusations.
18. Then they started to question me about my other friends. One of the interrogators wanted to know if one of my friends had a pen knife in his pocket when he was arrested. I told him I had no idea. Then he wanted to know if another friend of mine manufactured pipe bombs. I told him I did not know. Then he told me my friend had confessed against me and told them I was in possession of pipe bombs. I denied the accusation. They questioned me harshly for about an hour and then they started to crack jokes. They made fun of my friend's long hair. I was not asked to sign any documents.
19. After spending eight days at Petah Tikva I was taken to Megiddo prison, also inside Israel, where I was searched in my clothes.
20. In all I had eight military court hearings. The first one was while I was still at Petah Tikva and was conducted via video link. My family were not informed and they did not attend. My detention was extended and the hearing was adjourned.
21. At my last hearing, which was on the day I was released, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to one month and one day in prison and fined NIS 1,400. I was also given a suspended sentence but I don't know the details. The hearing lasted for about an hour and the whole time my lawyer and the prosecutor were talking in Hebrew and I did not understand what was going on.
22. I was released at Al Jalama checkpoint after the hearing on 23 February 2021 and I went home with my father, my uncle and my grandfather. We arrived home at around 9:00 p.m.

## Testimony 35

**Name:** O.O.M.H.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 29 January 2021  
**Location:** Balata refugee camp, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Weapon possession

**On 29 January 2021, a 17-year-old minor from Balata refugee camp was arrested by Israeli soldiers on a nearby checkpoint at 7:00 p.m. He reports being interrogated multiple times without being informed of his rights and being held in solitary confinement for 11 days in Petah Tikva interrogation centre, Israel.**

1. I was arrested at a nearby Israeli military checkpoint at around 7:00 p.m. I was walking with my friends when all of a sudden, we were ambushed by a group of about 20 soldiers. One of the soldiers aimed his weapon at me and told me to stop. Then he grabbed me and pushed me to the ground. Then he tied my hands to the front with two plastic ties on top of each other. The ties were so tight that they cut into my wrists and I bled. After being tied for about five hours and I could not take the pain any more. I shouted at a soldier and showed him the cut in my wrist and asked him to remove the ties. He then replaced them with looser ones.
2. The soldiers took me aside and one of them punched me in the stomach. Another one swore at me and called my mother and sisters "whores". Then the area commander came by and he also swore at me. Then I was blindfolded and taken to an area next to a shipping container where I sat on the ground for a short while and I got soaked because it was raining heavily. Then I was put in the shipping container where I was left for about five hours.
3. After about five hours I was taken to the back of a military jeep where I sat on the metal floor. I was taken to Huwwara military base where I arrived at around midnight. I was given a Corona virus test, then I was strip searched before being taken to a small room with a tiny window where I spent the rest of the night.
4. Later that morning I was driven to Petah Tikva interrogation centre inside Israel. I was strip searched again before being taken to a tiny cell. The cell did not have any windows but had a mattress on the floor, a toilet and a sink. The light was turned off and I could not tell day from night. I begged the guard to turn the light on and he sometimes did. I spent 11 days solitary confinement in that cell and I was in deep distress. I spent the time worrying about my family not knowing what was happening to me. I found it impossible to sleep and the guard gave me some pills to help me calm down and fall sleep. I could not sleep without the pills.
5. During the 11 days, I had one military court hearing which was conducted via video link without my parents. My detention was extended and the hearing was adjourned.
6. On my seventh day in solitary confinement I lost my mind completely and was in despair. I felt I could do anything; like attack the guard. I started to bang my head against the rough walls until I bled. When the guard found out he called in some soldiers and they took me to the clinic. The

doctor treated my wound and then I was handcuffed and shackled and taken to a room where I was tied to a chair for about three hours as punishment for hurting myself.

7. After three hours I was taken to another room where they made me lie down and they shackled my legs to a side structure and my arms were handcuffed above my head and tied to a structure in a very painful position. I was left in that position, laying on my back for a whole day. I was not given any food or drink and I could not sleep. I banged my head against the wall above my head and I bled again. I screamed and shouted asking for sleeping pills and pleading with the guards to let me out but no one listened to me. The guard saw that I hurt myself on the CCTV camera. Later the guard came and took me to an interrogation room.
8. Inside the interrogation room I was shackled and handcuffed to a chair. The interrogator did not allow me to consult with a lawyer and did not inform me of my right to silence. As soon as I entered the room he asked where I had hidden pieces of a weapon. When I denied possessing any weapons the interrogator shouted at me telling me to confess and thumped the table aggressively. He threatened to keep me in the cell in solitary confinement if I did not confess.
9. I was questioned for about two hours while I was handcuffed and shackled to a chair. At the end of the interrogation he asked me to sign a document written in Hebrew but I refused to sign. He told me signing would be in my interests if I wanted to get out of the small cell. I asked him to translate the document for me but he refused to show me an Arabic version. After the interrogation I was taken back to the cell.
10. The following day I was taken for another interrogation. It was the same interrogator and he did not inform me of my rights. He accused me of the same accusation and I continued to deny it. He questioned me for about an hour. He offered me a job to work with him as an informer; providing information on people from my village. When I refused the offer the interrogator became angry and thumped the table and shouted at me telling me to confess. At one point he brought in the other boy who was arrested with me. He did not ask me to sign any documents. After the interrogation I was taken back to the cell.
11. The following day I was questioned by an Israeli policeman. He phoned a lawyer for me before he started to question me. The lawyer told me to remain silent and not say a word. Then he told me to speak about things I had done but not more. He told me my file looked good but if I spoke more than necessary I would destroy my case. I felt reassured by the lawyer's words. The interrogator was listening to the conversation on speaker phone.
12. Then the policeman told me I had the right to remain silent and then told me to repeat what I had said in the previous interrogations. While I spoke, he typed on his computer. He asked me the same questions and I continued to deny the accusation. At the end he showed me a document written in Arabic and asked me to sign it. I signed after reading it. Then he took my photograph and then took me back to the cell.
13. After spending 11 days at Petah Tikva I was taken to the quarantine section Megiddo prison, inside Israel, where I was strip searched. I spent 17 days at the quarantine section. I found it very hard to sleep there because I was addicted to the sleeping pills I was given at Petah Tikva.

14. In all I had about 15 military court hearings. At the last one, which was on the day of my release, I was told my family had paid NIS 2,500 and that I was going to be sent home. I think I was given a suspended sentence in addition to the fine but I do not know the details.
15. I was released at Al Jalama checkpoint on 23 February 2021 and I went home with my parents. I arrived home in the evening. My mother did not have time to cook because she was waiting for me at the checkpoint all day. I was very tired and I went straight to bed.

### Testimony 36

**Name:** M.A.K.U.  
**Age:** 16  
**Date:** 31 January 2021  
**Location:** Qabatiya, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Weapon possession

**On 31 January 2021, a 16-year-old minor from Qabatiya was arrested from home by Israeli soldiers at 3:00 a.m. He reports being held in solitary confinement for 15 days at Al Jalama interrogation centre and 10 days at Petah Tikva interrogation centre, both in Israel.**

1. I was arrested from home at around 3:00 a.m. I was awake expecting to be arrested. The soldiers broke open two doors in our building, the one downstairs and another one upstairs. About 20 soldiers then entered our home.
2. A soldier took me aside and started to question me without informing me of my rights. He wanted me to hand over weapons he claimed were in my possession. When I told him I did not have any weapons he started to smash the furniture in the room. He broke the couch and the bed and then moved on to the bathroom and kitchen and broke cabinets and shelves. Then other soldiers came and started to ask me the same questions. This went on for about an hour. They also brought in a service dog which sniffed everything.
3. Then, without giving my parents any documents, they took me outside where a soldier tied my hands to the front with three plastic ties: one on each wrist and another connecting the two. The ties were so tight that they cut into my wrists and I bled. They made me wait until they arrested another boy. The dog pushed me to the ground while waiting and I was terrified. Then they took me to the back of a jeep and made me sit on the metal floor. Inside the jeep a soldier blindfolded me.
4. The jeep drove to the nearby settlement of Dotan where I was left outdoors in the rain and cold weather until around 4:00 p.m. They did not bring me any food or drink and did not allow me to use the toilet. At around 4:00 p.m. I was driven to Al Jalama interrogation centre, in Israel. They wanted to strip search me but I refused to take off my clothes. Then they took me into a small cell where I spent 15 days in solitary confinement.
5. The cell was my body length when I laid down on the floor. It had a toilet and a sink. It did not have any windows and I could not tell day from night. They left the light on 24 hours. I spent my time lying down trying to sleep. I thought falling asleep would stop me thinking and worrying, but I found it very hard to fall asleep. The following day I was taken for interrogation.
6. I did not speak to a lawyer prior to interrogation. The interrogator handcuffed me and asked me how I was. Then he told me I had the right to remain silent but warned me that remaining silent would go against me in court. He said remaining silent would be seen as an admission of guilt. Then he accused me of weapons possession. He also accused me of planning a terrorist act and wanted to know why. When I denied the accusations, he yelled at me and accused me of lying.

Then he spat in my face. He questioned me for about an hour then he asked me to sign a document written in Hebrew but I refused to sign.

7. I was interrogated about 13 times during my time at Al Jalama. At no time was I allowed to speak to a lawyer and I was only informed of my right to silence at the first interrogation. One of the interrogators was very aggressive with me. He threatened to arrest my father and mother. He also threatened to drive me back to my village to make me look like a collaborator. I was terrified but thankfully, he did not carry out this threat.
8. Fifteen days later I was taken to another cell with another boy. The two of us were there for another 15 days. During this time, I had many military court hearings, once every two days. I think I had about 17 hearings throughout this period. At the last one, which was sometime in March, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to three months in prison and fined NIS 1,000. I was also given eight months in prison suspended for three years. I accepted the plea bargain based on my lawyer's advice.
9. After spending 30 days at Al Jalama I was transferred to Megiddo prison, also in Israel, where I was searched in my clothes. I spent three months at Megiddo. Then, one day before I was supposed to be released I was transferred to a small cell at Petah Tikva interrogation centre, in Israel. I had no idea why they took me there and I was in deep distress. I went crazy by myself not understanding what was going on. I banged the door hysterically wanting to get out. They did not bring me enough food and I could not take it.
10. The following day I was taken for interrogation. The interrogator phoned a lawyer and allowed me to speak to him. The lawyer told me my cousin had been arrested a few days earlier and he gave a confession against me. The lawyer told me to continue to deny the accusations. The conversation lasted for about 5 minutes and the interrogator was not listening.
11. Then the interrogator told me I had the right to remain silent. Then he swore at me and called me a liar. Then he accused me of weapons possession. I denied the accusation. He slapped me on the back of my neck and caused me a lot of pain. He questioned me for about an hour and wanted me to sign a document written in Hebrew but I refused to sign.
12. I spent 10 more days in solitary confinement at Petah Tikva. During this time I was interrogated on a daily basis and my spirit was crushed. I did not speak to any lawyers apart from the first interrogation and I continued to refuse to sign documents written in Hebrew. Those 10 days were the most difficult in my entire life.
13. At my last military court hearing, which was on 15 June 2021, I was sentenced in another plea bargain to three more months in prison and another eight months suspended for five years. This time my parents were not fined. I accepted the plea bargain because I was afraid they might give me an administrative detention order.
14. Then I was transferred to Megiddo prison where I spent the rest on my prison sentence. In prison I helped in the kitchen and cooked for the other prisoners to pass the time. I did not have any family visits because of the Corona Virus regulations but I was allowed to call home from a telephone provided by the prison authorities twice a month.

15. I was released at Salem checkpoint on 5 July 2021 and I went home with my relatives. I went to my aunt's house at first because she had organized a party for me. I arrived there at around 5:00 p.m.



## Testimony 37

**Name:** I.A.S.L.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 17 February 2021  
**Location:** Qabatiya, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones

**On 17 February 2021, a 17-year-old minor was arrested by Israeli soldiers at Salem military base following the receipt of a phone summons. He reports being interrogated multiple time without always being informed of his rights and spending 15 days in solitary confinement in Huwwara military base, West Bank.**

1. The area commander, "Captain Ata", phoned my father at around 9:00 a.m. and told him to bring me to the military base at Salem immediately. My father told me to get ready and we both went to Salem as ordered. We arrived there at around noon. At the base the soldiers told my father to go home and took me into a room where I was left for about three hours. Then the area commander came and told me I was under arrest. He did not give me a reason for my arrest.
2. Later two soldiers handcuffed me to the front with metal handcuffs and tightened them hard. They were painful. They also shackled and blindfolded me before taking me to a military vehicle and made me sit on a seat. I was driven to the settlement of Dotan where I was left in a courtyard. Then I was given a quick medical examination which included a COVID test.
3. Then I was taken to Huwwara military base. On the way soldiers stopped and started to beat me. I arrived at Huwwara in the early hours of the morning. At the entrance gate to the base the soldiers swore at me and slapped me. Then I was strip searched before being taken to a room.
4. I spent 17 days in the room, 15 of which I was by myself in solitary confinement. The room had a small window near the ceiling which they kept shut. On the third day I was taken for interrogation.
5. I was handcuffed when I was taken to the interrogation room and the interrogator questioned me while I was handcuffed. He asked me if I wanted to speak to a lawyer. When I asked him whether a lawyer would be useful, the interrogator said no. Then I told him I did not want to speak to a lawyer if he was not going to be useful. Then the interrogator told me I had the choice of either answering him with yes or no or remaining silent. He then warned me it might not be in my interests to remain silent.
6. Then the interrogator questioned me about allegations against my friends who were arrested about a week earlier. Then he told me there were four items in my charge sheet: forming a terrorist cell, planning to attack Israelis, throwing stones and taking part in riots. I denied the accusations. The interrogator was calm but tried to manipulate me in order to confess. He told me he was going to send me to the military court whether I confessed or not. He also told me if I confessed he was going to send me home. He advised me to confess if I wanted to make it easy for myself, otherwise he was going to interrogate me for a long time.

7. He questioned me for a long time and at the end he asked me to sign a document written in Hebrew and told me it was to appoint a lawyer. I believed him and I signed the document.
8. I was questioned four more times over two weeks. I was not informed of my rights and did not speak to a lawyer. I signed a document in Hebrew only after the first interrogation.
9. The condition I was held under were tough. Food was scarce. They brought me yogurt in the morning, some rice at noon and chocolate pudding in the evening. The water was murky but I had to drink it. I was tired of being interrogated multiple times and of spending 15 days in solitary confinement. I thought a lot about my family and whether they knew where I was. In the end I confessed to throwing stones. After I confessed the interrogator tried to get information from me about my friends.
10. After 17 days I was transferred to the quarantine section at Megiddo prison, inside Israel, where I spent a week and then I was taken into the juvenile section.
11. I had five military court hearings. The first one was three days after my arrest and it was the first time I spoke to a lawyer. It took place at Salem and my father attended. The following hearings were conducted via video. At the last hearing I was sentenced in a plea bargain to two months and 17 days in prison and fined NIS 2,000. I was also given a suspended sentence of six months suspended for three years. I accepted the plea bargain because I was told I would spend more time in prison if I rejected it.
12. I did not have any family visits in prison because of the Corona Virus regulations but I was allowed to phone home from a monitored pay phone once every two weeks for 10 minutes. I spent the rest of my prison sentence at Megiddo. There was not much to do in prison and I spent most my time chatting to the other detainees.
13. I was released at Salem checkpoint on 18 May 2021 and I went home with my father. We arrived home at around 7:00 p.m.

## Testimony 38

**Name:** M.M.A.S.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 24 March 2021  
**Location:** The Wall, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones

**On 24 March 2021, a 17-year-old minor from Jenin was arrested by Israeli soldiers at the Wall as he was entering Israel to go to work. He reports being interrogated without first being informed of his legal rights and spending 17 days in solitary confinement in Huwwara military base.**

1. I was crossing over into Israel from the West Bank through the Wall to go to work. It was around 4:00 a.m. Suddenly a military jeep approached and around eight soldiers got out. Shortly afterwards more military jeeps arrived. The soldiers wanted to know what I was doing in the area and who else was with me.
2. One of the soldiers searched me and then handcuffed me behind my back with metal handcuffs. The handcuffs were very tight and painful. He then blindfolded me and swore at me calling me "a son of a whore". He threatened to put me in administrative detention if I did not tell him who else was with me. This lasted for about 30 minutes and then I was taken to the back of a military jeep and made me sit on the metal floor.
3. Inside the jeep the soldiers beat me with the back of their guns and batons and slapped me on my back and head causing me to bleed. When I told them I had a slipped disc in my back they concentrated the beatings on my back and I was in severe pain. Then I received a big blow on the back of my head and I passed out.
4. The soldiers panicked and tried to revive me. They wiped the blood off my head, gave me some water and tried to wake me up. A few minutes later I woke up and one of the soldiers told me if I am asked whether I was beaten up I should say no. Then I was taken to Dotan settlement. We arrived there at around 6:00 a.m.
5. At Dotan I was taken to a shipping container where I sat on a chair. The soldiers tied my hands and legs to the chair and I was still blindfolded. I was left in the shipping container until around noon. I was not given any food or drink and I was not allowed to use the toilet. Then I was taken for interrogation.
6. The interrogator removed the handcuffs and the blindfold and turned on a voice recorder and a camera. Then, without informing me of my right to silence, he accused me of throwing stones at soldiers. When I denied the accusation and told him I did not throw stones he told me he was not asking me whether I did it or not, he was just telling me.
7. Then he told me soldiers had already testified against me but I continued to deny the accusation. Then he accused me of throwing paint at a military jeep and that I had something to do with a back pack found with pipe bombs in it. I denied the accusation. He questioned me for about 30 minutes and was calm most of the time. At the end he phoned a lawyer for me and allowed me to

speak to him. The lawyer told me my case was simple and that I was going to be sent home soon. He spoke to me on a speaker phone and the interrogator was listening.

8. Then the interrogator showed me a document written in Hebrew and asked me to sign it. I understand some Hebrew so I read the document and then I signed it. Then I was taken to Salem checkpoint where I was taken to a shipping container for a short time and then I was taken back to Dotan and then to Huwwara military base.
9. We arrived at Huwwara at around 2:00 a.m. I was strip searched and then I was taken to a cell. I spent 17 days in the cell in solitary confinement. The cell measured about 2 x 2 meters and had a small window near the ceiling. There was a small bed and right by the bed there was a urinal. I sometimes could tell day from night but most of the time I could not. I went crazy in the cell by myself and thought I was going to be mad for the rest of my life. Time went by very slowly and I felt that each day was 240 hours long. I tried to sleep to pass the time but I could not sleep. My mind was busy thinking about my family.
10. During this time I had military court hearings. The first one was on my second day at Huwwara. It was conducted via video link and my father took part. My detention was extended and the hearing was adjourned.
11. In all I had four military court hearings and at the last one, which was 15 days after my arrest, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to three months and one day in prison and fined NIS 1,000. I was also given an eight-month suspended sentence valid for two years. I accepted the plea bargain because otherwise I was told I would spend eight months in prison. I was sentenced based on soldiers' testimonies.
12. After spending 17 days in Huwwara I was transferred to the quarantine section at Megiddo prison, inside Israel. I spent eight days in quarantine before being put in the juvenile section where I spent the rest of my prison sentence. I did not have any family visits because of the Corona Virus regulations but I was allowed phone calls once every two weeks. When I turned 18 I was transferred to the adult section and I was not allowed to make phone calls.
13. I was released at Salem checkpoint on 10 June 2020<sup>1</sup> but my family were told to wait for me at Al Jalama checkpoint. I took a taxi to Al Jalama and we all went home. I arrived home at in the evening and found lots of family and friends at the house waiting for me. Prison was a difficult experience, especially when I was beaten and passed out. My time in solitary confinement was also very difficult.
14. After I was released I sat for my high school exams and I passed all my tests. I could not believe I did it because I missed about three months of school and did not have much time to study before the exams.

### Testimony 39

**Name:** M.H.M.Z.  
**Age:** 16  
**Date:** 7 April 2021  
**Location:** Beit Ummar, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing pipe bombs

**On 7 April 2021, a 16-year-old minor from Beit Ummar was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 1:30 a.m. He reports being informed of his right to silence and consulting with a lawyer. He also reports being held in solitary confinement for 18 days in Etzion interrogation centre, West Bank.**

1. I had a painful back injury which was keeping me awake. At around 1:30 a.m. I heard banging and heavy footsteps. I looked out the window and saw about 30 Israeli soldiers running towards our house. They banged the door downstairs and told my father he had five seconds to open or else they were going to break it open. My father rushed downstairs and opened the door.
2. About 15 soldiers entered our home and asked my father for our names. When he mentioned my name, the commander told him I was under arrest. Four soldiers followed me upstairs to my bedroom and searched it. They found a yellow T-shirt and a pair of boots and took them. Then they took me downstairs. They did not give us any documents.
3. I barely had time to say good bye to my family before the soldiers took me outside where they tied my hands to the front with two plastic ties on top of each other. The ties were very tight and painful. Then they blindfolded me and made me sit outside the front door for about one-and-a-half hours while the soldiers remained inside the house doing nothing.
4. After about one-and-a-half hours a police car pulled up and a policeman asked me to hand over my mobile phone. When I told him I did not have it on me he went inside and took the phone from my nine-year-old sister who had hidden it under her pajamas. The policeman took the telephone and left.
5. After the policeman left the soldiers walked me towards the military watchtower at the entrance to my village and left me there for about an hour. Then I was taken to the back of a troop carrier. A soldier beat me on the back with the butt of his gun. When I sat on a seat a soldier banged my head against the window.
6. The troop carrier drove to the nearby settlement of Karmi Zur where they dropped soldiers off and then continued on to the police station in Etzion settlement. We arrived at Etzion at around 4:00 a.m. I was left outside a clinic for about 30 minutes and then I was given a medical examination.
7. The doctor asked me whether I had been beaten up by soldiers and I told him I had. Then he gave me a medical report to sign and I saw he had circled the wrong answer to the question about physical abuse. I told him I was not going to sign it until he corrected the answer. He then circled the other answer and I crossed the first one to make sure it was clear I was subjected to physical abuse. At around 6:30 a.m. I was taken for interrogation.

8. The interrogator removed the ties and the blindfold and handed me a telephone to speak to a lawyer. He turned the speaker on and was listening. The lawyer told me I had the right to remain silent and then the line was cut off. Then, without informing me of my right to silence, the interrogator accused me of making pipe bombs and throwing them at soldiers. Then he claimed he had video footage of the incident and then played it for me. The footage showed a boy doing nothing but wearing an identical T-shirt to mine. I denied the accusation and told him the boy was not me.
9. I was interrogated non-stop from around 6:30 a.m. until around 4:30 p.m. and I continued to deny the accusation. The interrogator was aggressive and raised his voice at me and verbally abused me. He questioned me about things that had nothing to do with the accusation. He wanted to get information from me about people from my village. I told him I did not know anyone and did not interfere in other peoples' business. He also told me my friends had confessed against me but I continued to deny the accusation. Then he threatened to arrest my parents and brother. I later found out he had summoned my older brother and questioned him about me for about eight hours before he released him. He told my brother he was willing to issue my mother a permit to go for medical treatment in Israel if he cooperated with him.
10. Towards the end I was exhausted as I had not slept at all and was not given anything to eat. The interrogator did not ask me to sign any documents. After the interrogation I was strip searched before being taken to a cell. I was left in the cell in solitary confinement for 18 days. During this time, I was interrogated 11 times by four interrogators.
11. Before each interrogation session I asked to speak to a lawyer. The lawyer told me to stick to my position. The interrogators never informed me of my right to silence. Each round lasted for about 2-3 hours. During this time, I lost about 10 kg of my weight. I was not shown any documents to sign except on the last interrogation when I refused to sign a document written in Hebrew.
12. My first military court hearing was a day after I was arrested. It was conducted via video link. My parents did not attend. In all I had about 20 military court hearings and at the last one, which was on the day when I was released, I was sentenced in a plea bargain. The court was satisfied with the time I had already spent in prison for lack of evidence. By then I had spent three months in prison. My parents were fined NIS 2,000. I was also given a suspended sentence of eight months suspended for three years. Part of this suspended sentence was from a previous arrest. I accepted the plea bargain because I was desperate to go home.
13. After 18 days in solitary confinement I was transferred to the quarantine section at Megiddo prison. I was strip searched and I spent 10 days there before being transferred to the juvenile section. I was released at Salem checkpoint on 16 June 2021 and I took a taxi to Huwwara because I was released before my parents arrived. I met my parents at Huwwara and we all arrived home at around 9:00 p.m. In prison I cooked and I played table tennis. I did not have any family visits.

## Testimony 40

**Name:** H.A.M.C.  
**Age:** 16  
**Date:** 25 April 2021  
**Location:** Bethlehem, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing pipe bombs / stones

**On 25 April 2021, a 16-year-old minor from Bethlehem was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 11:30 p.m. during clashes at Rachel's Tomb. He reports spending 20 days in solitary confinement in Al MascobiyeH interrogation centre, Jerusalem.**

1. There were clashes with Israeli soldiers at Rachel's Tomb when about 20 soldiers surrounded me. It was around 11:30 p.m. They slapped and kicked me and one of the soldiers punched me hard in my left eye. I was in severe pain and blood came out of my eye. The soldiers also swore at me, calling my mother a "whore".
2. One of the soldiers then handcuffed my hands to the front with metal cuffs and tightened them hard. When I asked him to loosen them he swore at me and told me to shut up. He also shackled my feet and made me sit on the ground, facing the wall for about 40 minutes. I asked for some water to wash the blood off my face and a soldier said no. Then a female soldier poured water on my face.
3. After about 40 minutes I was taken to the back of a military jeep where I sat on a seat. The jeep drove to Atarot police station in East Jerusalem. I sat on a metal chair until the following morning. I was guarded by about 10 soldiers who swore at me all the time. At around 10:00 a.m. I was taken for interrogation.
4. The interrogator did not remove the handcuffs or the shackles. He phoned a lawyer and allowed me to speak to him. The lawyer told me not to be afraid and not to speak no matter what they do to me. The conversation lasted for less than a minute and the interrogator was listening to the conversation.
5. Then, without informing me of my right to silence, the interrogator immediately started to yell and shout at me and accused me of throwing stones and pipe bombs at soldiers. He told me he had video footage of me throwing stones. I denied the accusation and challenged him to show me the footage but he never did. He thumped the table aggressively and broke it. He threatened to arrest my mother if I did not confess.
6. He questioned me for about 30 minutes and I continued to deny the accusation. I refused to answer his questions and told him I did not know anything and accused him of trying to make me confess to something I did not do. At the end he wanted me to sign a document written in Hebrew and Arabic. I read the document and then I signed. Then he allowed me to wash the blood off my face and I could not see clearly with my left eye and I was terrified.
7. After the first interrogation I was taken to Al MascobiyeH police station in Jerusalem. I arrived there at around 9:00 p.m. They left me outside on a chair in the cold weather. They did not bring

me food or drink for three days. I was feeling tired and drowsy and I could not think straight. I fell asleep on the chair for a short while but I was uncomfortable, tired and in pain. Then I was taken for interrogation.

8. The interrogator was wearing a balaclava and questioned me with the balaclava on the whole time and I did not see his face. He tried to phone a lawyer but the lawyer refused to speak to me. Then, without informing me of my right to silence, the interrogator accused me of the same accusations. I was handcuffed and shackled during the interrogation. He told me there were confessions against me and video footage. I denied the accusation and told him it was not me.
9. Then two large men entered the room and started to yell at me urging me to confess. One of them poked me with a baton in my stomach and chest telling me to confess. I told him I could not think straight because I was beaten badly. This lasted for about an hour and I continued to deny the accusations. The interrogator swore to god he was going to kill me if I did not confess and said no one would ever find out, not even god, because he was not there. Then he slapped me and pushed me against the wall.
10. Then I was taken into another room and another person told me he wanted to help me. He told me to tell him everything and he would help me. He brought me coffee and cigarettes and was very friendly. I did not confess and continued to deny the accusations. I was not asked to sign any documents.
11. Later I was strip searched and taken to a small cell measuring not more than 1 x 1 meters. The cell did not have any windows and did not have any light. I spent 20 days in the dark cell by myself. During this time, I had three more interrogations. I did not speak to a lawyer and I was not informed of my right to silence.
12. Each interrogation session lasted for about an hour and I was not asked to sign any documents. They questioned me about the same accusations and I denied everything. The interrogators were calm but as soon as I denied the accusations they became angry and shouted at me urging me to confess.
13. I had a tough time in the cell. It was dark all the time and I started to talk to myself. At one point I held my slippers up and talked to them and then I pretended they were a remote control and I started to imagine I was flipping TV channels. I found it very hard to sleep but I was so tired that I sometimes fell asleep on the floor without a mattress or a blanket or a pillow.
14. Twenty days later I was taken to a cell with other detainees where I spent 10 days in quarantine. They gave me a Corona test and I tested negative. During this time, I had an argument with one of the guards because he refused to give me a cigarette. I threw an empty chocolate milk pack at him. About 20 guards came in and started to beat me up all over my body. They swore at me and punched me hard on my arm. My arm turned blue and I showed it to my father during one of the court hearings on zoom. Then they took me to another room where they tied my arms and legs in an awkward painful position while I laid down on a metal bed. I was left in that position for about three hours. I felt numb towards the end.



15. Then I was taken to section 13 at Ofer prison where I was strip searched again. My first court hearing was when I was still in solitary confinement at Al Mascobiyeh about a week after my arrest. It was conducted on zoom and my father attended. My detention was extended.
16. I had about 15 court hearings and at the last one, which was three weeks before I was released, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to three months in prison with a further eight months suspended for three years. I did not have to pay any fines. I accepted the plea bargain because I wanted to go home three weeks later.
17. I spent the rest of my prison sentence at Ofer where I exercised and lifted weights to keep fit. I did not have any family visits because of the Corona Virus regulations. I was allowed to phone home from a phone provided by the prison authorities twice a month.
18. I was released from Ofer on 19 July 2021. My parents were not informed of my release and they were not there to meet me. I went with another family to Ramallah and then they gave me some money and I took a taxi home. I arrived home at around 9:30 p.m.

## Testimony 41

**Name:** M.M.A.Z.  
**Age:** 16  
**Date:** 30 April 2021  
**Location:** Jerusalem, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones

**On 30 April 2021, a 16-year-old minor from Qalqiliya was arrested by an Israeli undercover unit at Damascus Gate at 11:00 4:00 p.m. following clashes. He reports spending 7 days in solitary confinement in Al Mascobiyeh interrogation centre.**

1. I went to Jerusalem to pray in the mosque and there were clashes with Israeli soldiers on that day. After the clashes I sat on the steps of Damascus gate before I headed home. It was around 11:00 p.m. Then I saw a group of about seven men in civilian clothes running towards me. I did not realize they were Israeli special forces in civilian clothes until one of them grabbed me and pointed his gun at me.
2. The man who grabbed me swore at me calling my mother and sisters "whores". Then the other men joined in beating me, one of them hit me hard with his gun on my knee cap and caused me a lot of pain, another hit me with his gun on the back of my neck. I bled and I was in severe pain and I passed out and fell to the ground. When I woke up I found myself shackled and painfully handcuffed to the front with metal handcuffs. I was in the interrogation room at Salah Al Din police station.
3. The interrogator spoke to me through an interpreter. He said something about the right to remain silent but I did not understand what he meant. Then he phoned a public defender and allowed me to speak to him. The lawyer told me to calm down and not be afraid. He also told me not to confess and not to sign any documents. The interrogator was listening to the conversation which lasted for about five minutes.
4. Then the interrogator welcomed me, asked me how I was and then wanted to know whether I knew why I was in his office. I told him I had no idea. Then he accused me of throwing stones. I denied the accusation. Then he showed me video footage of clashes with soldiers and accused me of taking part. When I denied it, he thumped the table aggressively and swore at me.
5. Then he told me there were three items in my charge sheet: throwing stones at soldiers; assaulting a soldier and; entering Jerusalem without a permit. I denied all three. He thumped the table again and mumbled something to himself. He questioned me for about four hours, from around 11:30 p.m. until around 3:30 a.m. Then he wanted me to sign a document written in Hebrew but I refused.
6. After the interrogation I was taken to Al Mascobiyeh police station where I was strip searched before being taken to a small cell. I spent seven days in that cell in solitary confinement. The cell measured around 3 x 3 meters and had a toilet and a small window which opened onto another room. I did not know day from night and was very distressed the whole time. I tried to tell myself to be patient because this situation could not last forever but I did not succeed.

7. The following day I had a military court hearing via zoom. My father attended and my detention was extended for further interrogation. On the fifth day I had another interrogation. The interrogator allowed me to speak to a lawyer before he started to question me. The lawyer said the same things and warned me not to make any mistakes and to stick to my position. The conversation lasted for about 10 minutes and the interrogator was not in the room.
8. Then, without informing me of my right to silence, the interrogator accused me of the same accusations. I denied them. Then he told me he had new video footage of me throwing stones at soldiers. Then he showed me the same footage I was shown in the first interrogation. I denied the accusation. Then he yelled at me for denying the accusation. Then he threatened to arrest my father and mother and to revoke my father's work permit so that he loses his job in Israel. He questioned me for about one-and-a-half hours and then he got bored and asked me to sign a document written in Hebrew but I refused to sign. Then I was taken back to the cell.
9. The following day I was taken for a third interrogation. I spoke to a lawyer before the interrogation but the interrogator did not inform me of my right to remain silent. Then I pretended to be totally confused and asked the interrogator who he was and what I was doing in his office. When he asked me questions I responded by asking him who he was and pretended not to know what was going on. After about 10 minutes of trying to make sense, the interrogator was fed up with me and called someone to take me out. He did not ask me to sign any documents and I was taken back to the cell.
10. After spending seven days in the cell by myself I was taken to another cell with other detainees where I spent another 17 days. The situation was much better there and I felt a sense of relief. Then I was taken to Ofer where I was strip searched before being taken to section 13.
11. I had six military court hearings and at the last one, which was one day before I was released, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to two months in prison and fined NIS 4,000. I also received a suspended sentence of six months suspended for one year. I accepted the plea bargain because I was desperate to go home.
12. I did not have any family visits because of the Corona virus regulations but I spoke to my parents twice a month from a phone provided by the prison authorities.
13. I was released at Ofer on 29 June 2021 and I went home with my father. I arrived home in the evening. I don't have much to do these days because I don't go to school. I sometimes sit on the side of the road and sell guavas to make some pocket money. I am considering going to a vocational school to train to become a plumber.

## Testimony 42

**Name:** M.A.H.M.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 12 May 2021  
**Location:** Qarawa Bani Zaid, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Incitement on Facebook

**On 12 May 2021, a 17-year-old minor from Qarawa Bani Zaid was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 10:00 a.m. at Qalqiliya checkpoint after responding to a written summons. He reports being held in solitary confinement for 7 days followed by a further 3 days at Al Jalama interrogation centre, Israel.**

1. Israeli soldiers came to our old house and left a written summons when they did not find anyone saying I had to hand myself over at Qalqiliya checkpoint by 10:00 a.m. Our neighbours saw the summons and informed us.
2. At around 8:00 a.m. the commander phoned my father and told him to bring me to the checkpoint. My father informed me and I told my father I had done nothing wrong and there was nothing to fear by going to see what they wanted. And so the two of us went to the checkpoint as ordered.
3. We arrived at the checkpoint at around 10:00 a.m. The commander was waiting for us. He told my father he wanted to take me to Al Jalama interrogation centre for questioning and told my father to go home. As soon as my father left the commander swore at me.
4. Then I was searched by some soldiers and my hands were tied to the front with one plastic tie which was tightened very hard. I was in severe pain and asked him to loosen it but he did not respond. Then they blindfolded me and took me into a vehicle where I sat on a seat. I was then driven to Al Jalama.
5. Just before arriving at Al Jalama, the commander removed the blindfold and looked me in the eyes. And told me that from now on I had to coordinate all my activities with him. He told me I had to tell him where I plan to go and what I do in advance. He said this in a loud threatening voice and then called me "a fucking bastard".
6. At Al Jalama I was given a quick medical examination. Then I was taken to a room and a soldier loosened the tie and brought me some food. Then I was taken for interrogation.
7. The interrogator removed the blindfold and tied my hands to a chair. He asked me for my name and some personal information. Then he told me I was a dangerous terrorist. Then, without informing me of my rights or allowing me to speak to a lawyer, he accused me of throwing stones during the funeral of a young man from our village who was shot dead by soldiers. I denied the accusation.
8. Then the interrogator told me my friends had confessed against me and he named them. He also threatened to arrest my brothers. He thumped the table aggressively, spat at me and raised his

voice as he spoke to me. I continued to deny the accusation. He questioned me for about an hour and did not ask me to sign any documents.

9. At the end of the interrogation the interrogator handed me a phone and told me it was a lawyer from the court. I then realized it was a zoom call from the court. My parents were not on the zoom call and my detention was extended. Then I was taken back for another round of interrogation by the same interrogator.
10. I was not informed of my rights and did not speak to a lawyer before the second interrogation. The interrogator continued to accuse me of the same accusations and told me I had to confess. He threatened that if I did not confess he was going to lock me up in prison for years. Then he urged me to confess quickly because the accusation was trivial. I understood this to mean that if I did not confess he was going to add more serious accusations. He questioned me for about two hours but I did not confess. I was not asked to sign any documents.
11. After the interrogation I was taken to a cell where they brought me some food. I spent seven days in solitary confinement in that room. The room was about 2 x 2.5 meters. It had a toilet, a mattress, a blanket and a pillow. It did not have any windows and the light was left on 24 hours a day. I kept thinking about my future and how I missed my final high school exams and wondered why I was kept there. I also missed Eid with my family. I was interrogated multiple times during those seven days and I was in deep mental and psychological distress. I could not sleep and I was exhausted.
12. On average I was interrogated three times a day and each interrogation lasted for about two hours. I was never informed of my rights and I was not allowed to speak to a lawyer. I was accused of the same accusation and the interrogator wanted me to confess. He told me if I confessed he would get me out of solitary confinement immediately. He told me if I did not confess he would be forced to change his technique and it would become much harder for me. I did not confess. He also asked me to give names of boys and young men who were “active” in our village. I did not give him any names.
13. After spending seven days in solitary confinement they brought in another detainee who spent three days with me and it was almost impossible to move around in the cell. Then I was taken into another cell which was slightly bigger and I spent three more days by myself. I continued to be interrogated on a daily basis and without being informed of my rights. The interrogator told me all I needed to do was to confess and my ordeal would be over.
14. On the twelfth day I confessed because I could not take it anymore. I confessed to posting photos of martyrs on Facebook. The interrogator asked me to sign a document written in Arabic. I read it and found it was identical to what I had said and I signed it.
15. After I confessed I was taken back to the same cell where I spent a night. Then I was taken to a smaller cell together with another boy. The cell was so small that in order for the two of us to sleep one of us had to place his feet on the head of the other. The two of us spent 10 days together in that cell. I felt a deep sense of injustice and that my future plans had been destroyed. I spent a total of 22 days at Al Jalama. During this time, I lost 12 kilograms.

16. After Al Jalama I was transferred to the juvenile section at Megiddo prison, also in Israel. During this time I had eight military court hearings. At the last one, which was on the day I turned 18, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to four months in prison and fined NIS 2,000. I was also given a further eight months in prison suspended for three years.
17. During the hearing the military judge mentioned two dates and when I wanted to object the interpreter told me to shut up and to sit down. My lawyer encouraged me to accept the plea bargain because it was the best deal I was going to get. I found it very hard to accept the deal and confess to something I did not do but I felt there was no other choice for me.
18. I was transferred to Nafha prison in Israel on 15 July 2021. In prison I prayed and read the Quran and I attended classes in Arabic, Hebrew and mathematics. I was released at Al Thahiriya checkpoint on 28 July 2021, about 40 days earlier than expected. I could not believe it and was all the time worried they might realize they had made a mistake and send me back to prison. Thankfully this did not happen. I went home with my father, my brother and my uncle. We arrived home in the afternoon.

### Testimony 43

**Name:** M.O.A.N.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 17 May 2021  
**Location:** Tulkarem, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones

**On 17 May 2021, a 17-year-old minor from Tulkarem was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 8:30 p.m. near a road used by settlers. He reports being held in solitary confinement for 10 days at Huwwara military base, West Bank.**

1. After work I went to look for my brothers because at the time there were clashes with Israeli soldiers on the by-pass road. It was around 8:30 p.m. Three soldiers suddenly ambushed me and immediately started to beat me. They pushed me to the rough ground and I cut my hands trying to protect myself. One of the soldiers continued to beat me on my back with his gun. They also swore at me.
2. The soldiers searched me and took money out of my pocket, about NIS 600, which I had earned that day from my work at a vegetable shop. Then they tied my hands behind my back with three plastic ties: one on each wrist and another connecting the two. The ties were very tight and painful. Then a soldier tore my shirt and blindfolded me with it. I was then left on the ground until around 1:00 a.m.
3. At around 1:00 a.m. the soldiers took me to a nearby settlement where they made me kneel down in an open area for a long time. A soldier asked me for my name and removed the ties and handcuffed me to the front with metal handcuffs. Then a doctor gave me a quick medical examination. He treated the cuts to my hands without removing the handcuffs. Then they took me to a bus where I sat on a seat and the bus drove to the settlement of Kedumim.
4. On arrival at Kedumim I was put in a shipping container. I tried to sleep on the floor while still handcuffed but I could not. Later that day, at around 9:00 a.m., I was taken to Salem military base for interrogation. The trip took a long time. Then they made me wait in a room and someone took my fingerprints and my photograph. At around 5:30 p.m. I was taken to the interrogation room.
5. The interrogator, who was wearing civilian clothes phoned my father and asked him to appoint a lawyer for me. My father gave him the name and number of a lawyer and the interrogator phoned him and allowed me to speak to him. The lawyer told me to deny the accusation. He also told me not to answer questions. The conversation lasted for a few seconds and the interrogator was listening. Then the interrogator removed the handcuffs and, without informing me of my right to silence, he wanted to know why I threw stones at soldiers.
6. The interrogator then asked me what I was doing near the road and I told him I went to look for my younger brothers. Then he asked me what I wanted to buy with the money they found in my pocket. I told him I was going to buy some clothes. At the beginning he was calm but when I denied the accusation he thumped the table aggressively and told me he was not going to send me

home until I confessed. He also said if I did not confess he was going to lock me up in prison for a long time.

7. At one point the interrogator brought me a glass of water when he noticed I was tense. He questioned me for about 30 minutes but I did not confess nor did I give him any names of my friends. At the end of the interrogation he forced me to sign a document written in Hebrew. I signed it because he shouted at me when I told him I was not going to sign except in the presence of a lawyer.
8. Then I was taken to Huwwara military base where I was strip searched and asked to crouch up and down and turn around while naked. I found it humiliating. Then I was taken to a cell where I spent 15 nights, 10 of which I was in solitary confinement.
9. The cell measured about 1.5 x 1.5 meters. It had one small window close to the ceiling which hardly let in any sun light. There were three terribly smelly blankets and a thin mattress on the floor. I used two blankets as a pillow. There was a light in the room which sometimes was kept on 24 hours a day. I was very stressed and could not sleep. On the first couple of days I felt palpitations in my chest and thought my heart was going to stop beating.
10. One night I banged at the door in the middle of the night and asked to see a doctor. The following day a doctor examined me and told me I had palpitations at night because I was scared of being alone. I asked that they bring another person to be with me at night but the guard told me it was not possible. I thought of my family the whole time and worried that my grandmother might die while I was in prison. I was particularly distressed because I could hear the other detainees chatting and laughing in the next cell while I was by myself. I was given fruits and some bread which was not enough. Then finally, they brought another boy in who spent five nights with me.
11. During the 15 days at Huwwara I had two military court hearings via zoom which my father attended. Both were adjourned. Then I was transferred to the quarantine section at Megiddo prison, inside Israel. I was strip searched and I spent 10 days there. Then I was taken into the juvenile section. I had two more court hearings.
12. At the last court hearing, which was sometime in May 2021, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to four months in prison and fined NIS 1,000. I was also given a further six months in prison suspended for five years. This was based on the testimonies of three soldiers. I was in tears during the last hearing because I was desperate to go home but I had to plead guilty. Then I held my tears back because I did not want my father to see me cry. I asked my father whether I should accept the bargain or not and my father told me to accept it because otherwise I would spend more time in prison.
13. When I turned 18 I was transferred to another section at Megiddo where I spent 14 days and then I was transferred to Remon prison inside Israel.
14. I was released on 28 July 2021 at Al Thahiriyeh checkpoint and I went home with my brother-in-law. We arrived home at around 9:00 p.m. I found lots of relatives and friends waiting for me at home which was a nice surprise. In prison I worked at the canteen and I attended classes in Arabic, Hebrew and Mathematics.



## Testimony 44

**Name:** K.M.A.N.  
**Age:** 17  
**Date:** 18 May 2021  
**Location:** Habla, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing Molotov cocktails / stones

**On 18 May 2021, a 17-year-old minor from Habla was arrested by Israeli soldiers at 11:30 p.m. on the street in his village He reports spending 5 days in solitary confinement in Megiddo prison, inside Israel.**

1. I went to get myself a pizza at around 11:30 p.m. when I was ambushed by a large group of Israeli soldiers who circled me from every direction. They immediately pushed me to the ground and searched me and started to beat me. They kicked and slapped and punched me. I was in shock as it all happened so quickly. I felt severe pain in my left knee.
2. A soldier pressed his knee on my neck and I felt I was going to pass out. Soldiers swore at me and called me "a fucking son of a whore". I passed out for a few seconds but the soldiers woke me up. I think I nearly choked on my tongue but a para medic soldier made sure I was ok.
3. Then they tied my hands behind my back with one plastic tie which was very tight and painful. They left the tight tie on my wrists for two days. Then they walked me into a nearby military base where I passed out again and the soldiers had to revive me. Later I was taken to the back of a military jeep where they blindfolded me and made me lie down on the metal floor face down. A soldier put his knee on the back of my neck to keep my head down on the floor.
4. I was left like this from around 1:00 a.m. until around 3:00 p.m. later that day. During this time they brought me a glass of water and a jelly sandwich which gave me diarrhea. At around 3:00 p.m. I was taken to the police station in Ariel settlement.
5. At the police station a policeman noticed how tight the tie was and he replaced it with a looser one. Then he noticed I had bruises on my face and refused to admit me. I was taken back to the military base. Then, in the evening I was taken back to Ariel where I was kept in a detention room.
6. An interrogator came to the room many times and threatened and shouted at me and called me "a son of a whore". He accused me of lying when I told him I did not do anything wrong. Then, at around 3:30 a.m. I was taken to the interrogation room.
7. The interrogator was in civilian clothes and had a camera and a voice recorder in the room. He asked me for my identity card number. When I told him I did not know it he called my father and took it from him. Then he took me to another room where they took my photograph and my fingerprints. Then he took me back to the interrogation room and told me I had the right to remain silent and warned me if I did remain silent it would be interpreted as guilt. I then realized it was in my interest to speak and defend myself rather than remain silent.

8. Then he phoned a lawyer and allowed me to speak to him. The lawyer told me not to confess, and, god willing he was going to get me released the following day. The conversation was less than a minute and the interrogator was listening. Then the interrogator told me he was going to start questioning me and that I should not speak until he finished what he had to say.
9. The interrogator accused me of throwing stones at soldiers. I denied the accusation. Then he accused me of throwing a Molotov cocktail and of setting tires on fire. I continued to deny the accusations. Then he told me the young man he had questioned before me confessed against me and told the interrogator I was wearing a mask during clashes with soldiers. I did not believe him and asked the interrogator to confront me with the young man. A short while later he brought in the young man who denied having given a testimony against me.
10. Then the interrogator threatened to lock me up in prison for a long time if I did not confess. He told me to make it easy on myself and confess, sooner rather than later. I told him I was not going to confess to something I did not do. He questioned me for about 30 minutes and at the end he wanted me to sign a document written in Hebrew but I refused to sign unless he translated it for me.
11. Then I was taken to Huwwara military base where I was searched in my boxer shorts. Then I was taken to a cell where I stayed until the following day. During my time there I had a military court hearing via zoom which my father attended. The hearing was adjourned after the military judge extended my detention.
12. Then I was taken to Megiddo prison, in Israel, where I was locked up in solitary confinement for 5 days. The cell was about 3 X 3 meters. It had a frosted window which was closed the whole time and a small window in the door which brought in some fresh air. There was a light in the cell which I controlled.
13. I lost my mind in the cell and was desperate to get out. I was psychologically stressed especially since I could hear the other detainees chatting to each other in the next cell. I was depressed and I lost hope. I spent time staring at the walls and did not sleep well although I spent a lot of time lying down trying to sleep. I pulled off the metal piece of my zippers and used it to write and draw on the wall. I wrote poems by Mahmoud Darwish "I miss my mother, I miss my mother's bread" and I drew a broken heart. My time in solitary confinement destroyed me psychologically.
14. The cell was monitored by a moving camera 24 hours a day and I had zero privacy, even when I went to the toilet. I kept begging the adult detainee in charge of the minors to get me out. He finally managed to convince the prison authorities to move me out after a very long five days. I was taken into the juvenile section. There I realised the majority of the children had confessed after spending time in solitary confinement. I felt about 85 percent of the children had been held in solitary confinement.
15. I had maybe seven or more court hearings. At the last one, which was about a month before I was released, my father presented a letter from my school saying I was a final-year high school student and my grades were good. He also told the judge he had paid about NIS 52,000 in lawyers' fees trying to get me out of prison. During that hearing I was sentenced in a plea bargain

to four months in prison and fined NIS 2,000. I was also given a suspended sentence of six months suspended for three years. I accepted the plea bargain although it was unfair because more hearings would have meant more time in prison.

16. I spent the rest of my prison sentence at Megiddo where I attended classes in Arabic, Hebrew and mathematics. My knee hurt all the time and I suspected it was fractured. The nurse in prison just dismissed my complaints and did not check it or give me an X-Ray. I did not have any family visits because of the Corona virus regulations.
17. I was released at Salem checkpoint on 4 September 2021 and I went home with my parents and my brother. We arrived home in the evening. Now I want to focus on my school exams and try to make up for the time I lost in prison.

## Testimony 45

**Name:** H.H.I.Z.  
**Age:** 16  
**Date:** 21 May 2021  
**Location:** Hebron, West Bank  
**Accusation:** Throwing stones

**On 21 May 2021, a 16-year-old minor from Hebron was arrested by Israeli soldiers during clashes at 4:00 p.m. He reports being interrogated without first consulting with a lawyer or being informed of his right to silence.**

1. I was arrested during clashes with Israeli soldiers. It was around 4:00 p.m. I ran as fast as I could when other boys shouted "soldiers...soldiers" but I was not fast enough and a soldier grabbed me and pushed me to the ground. He tied my hands behind my back with two plastic ties on top of each other and tightened them very hard. I had to bend backwards to ease the pain. He also covered my eyes with the Kufiyah I was wearing and shackled my feet.
2. Then the soldiers walked me for about 200 meters towards the military checkpoint where they made me kneel on the ground for about two hours. The soldiers beat me all over my body while I was tied and blindfolded. A military commander came and told me he was going to drag my father to prison by the nose because of me. After about two hours they took me to the back of a jeep where I sat on a seat. A soldier shouted at me and called me "a son of a whore". The jeep drove me to the police station at a nearby settlement.
3. At the settlement I was given a medical examination. I told the person who examined me that I was beaten up when he asked me whether I had been beaten but I saw that he circled the wrong answer. Then I was taken to the police station in Etzion settlement for interrogation; I arrived there at around midnight.
4. At Etzion I waited outside for about an hour and then a soldier replaced the plastic ties with metal handcuffs and handcuffed me to the front and then tied the handcuffs to the shackles with a chain. Then I was taken into the interrogation room.
5. The interrogator asked me if I wanted to speak to a lawyer. I told him there was no need for a lawyer because I had not done anything wrong. Then he phoned my father and told him where I was. Then, without informing me of my right to silence, he accused me of throwing stones at soldiers during clashes. When I denied the accusation, he accused me of weapons possession. I denied that accusation too.
6. Then he started to ask me questions about my family. I told I did not know anything. Then he showed me photos of the clashes and asked me about a sling shot. He wanted to know the names of the boys who were throwing stones at soldiers. I told him I did not know any of them. He was aggressive and spoke to me in a loud and threatening voice. Then he accused me of being a member of Hamas. He pushed all the papers off his desk in an angry gesture and threatened to lock me up in prison for a long time if I did not confess. He also threatened to revoke my family's

work permit if I did not confess. I was so scared that I confessed to throwing one stone which missed from a distance of 400 meters.

7. The interrogation lasted about two hours. After I confessed the interrogator showed me some documents written in Hebrew and asked me to sign them. When I asked him to show me the documents in Arabic he told me he did not have them in Arabic. He asked me again to sign and I did.
8. Then I was strip searched before being taken to a cell with other detainees. I spent six days in that cell. The cell did not have any windows. The mattress was very thin and the food was terrible. During this time, I had a military court hearing over Zoom. My parents were not informed and they did not attend. My detention was extended and the hearing was adjourned.
9. After six days I was taken to the quarantine section in Megiddo prison, inside Israel. I spent 14 days in quarantine. Then I was taken to the juvenile section at Megiddo. I was transferred to a small cell by myself because they suspected I came in contact with a guard who had COVID. I spent 10 days in the cell by myself and I found that very hard. The cell was 2 x 3 meters, and did not have any windows. There were cockroaches everywhere and the light was on 24 hours a day and I found it very hard to fall asleep.
10. I attended 11 military court hearings on Zoom. At the last one, which was one day before I was released, I was sentenced in a plea bargain to four months in prison and fined NIS 2,500. I was also given an additional six-month prison sentence suspended for three years. I accepted the plea bargain because I wanted to go home the following day.
11. I spent one month at Megiddo prison and then I was transferred to Damoun prison, also inside Israel, where I spent the rest of my prison sentence. In prison I exercised and I worked in the canteen to pass the time. I had two family visits, but I missed one because I was in quarantine. I was very upset because my father was looking forward to seeing me and instead he was sent home.
12. I was released at Al Jalama checkpoint on 21 September 2021 and I took a taxi to Ramallah where I met my family. I arrived in the evening.

## ANNEXURE C

## ISRAELI MILITARY BRIEFING PAPER

DISTRIBUTED AT OFER MILITARY COURT ON 9 JANUARY 2021

THE MILITARY COURTS UNIT (JUDEA AND SAMARIA)  
 UPDATED – December 2019

**THE MILITARY COURTS UNIT IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA****Introduction**

The Military Courts in Judea and Samaria (hereinafter: "The Military Courts") were established in accordance with international law, and have jurisdiction to hear criminal cases and cases involving security offenses.

The purpose of the Military Courts is to apply and implement the Rule of Law, by trying those accused of perpetrating security or other criminal offences, whether committed in Judea and Samaria, or intended to cause harm therein, and through judicial review of administrative decisions, all in accordance with the jurisdiction bestowed upon the courts. All this while upholding the highest standards of judicial independence and the assurance of just and fair legal proceedings.

Article 66 of the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention refers to the role of military courts in areas under military control. The article states that members of protected populations accused of crimes may only be brought before courts whose members have military status (and are subordinate to the military authorities). As will become clear, the courts do not define subordinate that the military authorities have the right to hand down orders to the court. The law explicitly denies this and ensures independence.

In HCJ 320/80 Kwasama v. Ministry of Defense, the Israeli high court of justice ruled: *"What distinguishes the war of the State from the war of its enemies is that the State fights while upholding the law where as its enemies fight while violating the law. The moral strength and objective justice of the Government's war depends entirely on upholding the laws of the State..."*. This landmark decision of the Israeli High Court of Justice applies to the relationship between the law and the security needs of the state. It goes without saying that The Military Courts are committed to this principle determined by the high court of justice.

Judicial independence of the Military Courts is anchored in section 8 of the Security Provisions Order: *"In Judicial matters a person vested with judicial power shall not be subject to any authority but that of the law and security legislation"*

In HCJ 87/85 Arjub vs. IDF Military Commander in Judea and Samaria – The High Court of Justice stated that although The Military Courts play an essential part in maintaining law and order in the area, they have to be absolutely impartial and independent in their considerations, inter alia by protecting the law and holding a fair trial, as the judicial proceedings serve the main objective of ensuring justice by among other factors, assuring its appearance.

Section 11 of the Security Provisions Order states that Judges are selected by a special Independent Judicial Appointments Committee (similar to Israel's system of



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judicial appointments that includes a former judge of the Israeli district court, an elected representative of the Israeli bar and other chosen representatives).

Here are some chosen examples of many precedential decisions of The Military Courts that reiterate the judicial independence of the courts.

The Abu Snina Case (2003) – The abolition of vicarious liability due to mere solidarity of conspirators was initiated by the military courts without receiving any request from the defense.

The Anonymous Case (2003) – The Military Court of Appeals stipulates it has the authority to hear a petition to disclose privileged evidence

The Abu Galia Case (2005) – The court acquitted a defendant of theft by acknowledging the defense of de minimis even though the counsel did not raise the defense.

The Nimer Case (2006) - Recognition of 'Abuse of Process' defense.

The Schwartz Case (2006) - The Military Courts are authorized to review the orders of the Military Commander according to the norms of International Law.

The Dababse Case (2006) – The court initiated a change allowing for compensation to the defendant in case of an acquittal.

The Abu Alan Case (2010) – The court widened judicial review to matters concerning the right to property (forfeitures).

It is likewise important to note The main principles of criminal procedure practiced in the military courts: the same evidentiary rules as in Israel, the same substantial and procedure principles as in Israel, the right to confer with counsel during investigation, the right to counsel during trial, the right to receive all evidence / the prosecution cannot submit secret evidence, the right to appear in court, judicial hearings are in open court, the right to confront the witnesses, the right to call witnesses and the right of appeal.

The Military Courts are comprised of two regional courts, each with a separate juvenile court, as well as a separate court for the review of administrative detention orders. Defendants have a right of appeal to the Military Court of Appeals.

Additionally, the Military Court system is subject to judicial review by the Israel High Court of Justice.

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**Judicial Independence**

The Military Courts are a separate and distinct unit within the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and are independent in judicial matters from the IDF command hierarchy and subject only to the law.

Military Court judges are independent jurists authorized inter alia to examine evidence, oversee proceedings and render legally binding judgments.

Military Court judges are required to uphold the rule of law and are subject to ethical and professional standards, similar to all criminal and civil judges in Israel.

Military Court judges are selected by a Judicial Selection Committee. The Committee is chaired by the President of the Military Court of Appeals. All Military Court judicial candidates must meet the professional qualification requirements for magistrate court judges in Israel, and must be IDF officers in active or reserve duty. The Judicial Selection Committee selects judges from a broad range of legal backgrounds, including the private sector, academia, and the military.

**Due Process**

The right of suspects and defendants to due process in the Military Courts is strictly upheld through a variety of mechanisms, such as:

1. **The Right to Legal Representation**

During all judicial proceedings, suspects and defendants are entitled to representation by an attorney of their choice, including Palestinian attorneys. In most cases where a defendant is not represented by an attorney, a defense attorney will be appointed by the Military Courts. All defense attorneys, including Palestinian attorneys, are granted full access to the Military Courts and to all the evidence brought before the court.

2. **Defendant's Presence at Hearings**

Defendants have the right to be present at all hearings relating to them.

3. **Public Hearings**

As a rule, proceedings in the Military Courts are open to the public. Military courts strictly uphold the publicity of hearings in general, and the presence of family members in particular, especially in cases involving minors. Journalists, NGO representatives and other observers are often present at these hearings.

Military Courts have the authority to conduct an in camera hearing, but this is done only in special circumstances and where specific strict grounds are met.



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4. Translation of Proceedings

Proceedings in the Military Courts are conducted in Hebrew and translated into Arabic during the course of the proceedings by court interpreters. Several Military Court judges are also fluent in Arabic. As of April 2013, all indictments are translated into Arabic.

5. Judicial Review of Detention

The maximum period of detention before being brought before a judge is 48 hours for ordinary crimes and 96 hours for security offenses. If the suspect is not brought before a judge within these periods, he/she is released. A judge may order to extend the detention of a suspect for a period of up to 20 days, and afterwards for periods of up to 15 days each upon further review. A suspect may not be detained for an overall period exceeding 60 days without being indicted.

The time frame for judicial review of detention of juveniles is shorter, as indicated below.

6. Notification of the Charges

A written indictment is submitted to defendants. Additionally, the indictment is read out to each defendant in Court in their native language, unless the defense attorney waives this right. In any case, the judge ascertains that the defendant fully comprehends the charges against him/her.

7. Right to Receive all Evidence

Defendants are entitled to receive a copy of the evidence against them and to summon witnesses in their defense. The prosecution may not use any evidence that has not previously been provided to the defense.

8. Rights of victims

All victims of crimes perpetrated by defendants being tried in The Military Courts, have certain procedural rights. Those include but are not limited to, special protection by the court during proceedings, the right to be informed of upcoming proceedings, the right to view the indictment, the right to be present at all hearings, the right to express their opinion regarding a plea bargain and the right to make a statement prior to sentencing.

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**The Military Juvenile Court in Judea and Samaria**

**Background**

Until 2009 the relevant legislation in the Area regarding minors was minimal and included these main principles: Age 12 is the minimum age of criminal liability, Children under the age 14 cannot be sentenced to more than 6 months in prison, and there is no capital punishment for minors.

The lack of relevant legislation regarding minors never kept the courts from considering the age of the defendant in the different stages of the judicial process. The court of appeals in the Area ruled that when dealing with minors the courts should refrain from handing down severe punishments in order to facilitate the rehabilitation of minors (H v. MP - 2000).

**Reforms in the Law Applying to Minors in the Area**

In 2008 after the Israeli youth law was amended (Amendment No. 14 to the [Israeli] Youth Law) there were many reforms in the law applying to minors in the area. It is important to note that in 2008, a year before the legislature, The Juvenile Court in Samaria applied most of the special rules regarding minors.

The main reforms were:

1. The establishment of the Military Juvenile Court where a presiding judge sitting in a judicial panel (or a single judge) hearing a case involving a minor is required to be qualified youth judge.
2. The raising the age of majority in the area from 16 to 18 years of age, It should be noted, that even prior to that The military Courts in the area had applied special rules regarding minors, and in practice had already treated juvenile offenders between the ages of 16 and 18 as minors.
3. Judicial proceedings involving minors are held separately from those of adults.
4. A minor is not indicted together with an adult.
5. Trials are held in closed session and the parents of the defendant shall be awarded special rights during the trial. As a matter of policy, people who are not direct family members of the defendant can be present as long as the minor and his family agree. In any event, the judge has the right to deny entry to the court if he feels it is in the best interest of the minor to do so.
6. Establishing an obligation to inform a minor's parent or close adult relative when a minor is brought to a police station for investigation, according to the contact details provided by the minor.



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7. Parents have the right to act on behalf of the minor by filing applications, questioning witnesses together with or instead of the minor.
8. Imposing a duty to inform a minor of his/her right to consult an attorney in private, before the beginning of an investigation, such notification must be explained in a language which the minor understands according to the minor's age and level of maturity. Furthermore, a notification regarding the minor's investigation must be provided to a defense attorney named by the minor.
9. The Military Juvenile Court may, if deemed necessary for a decision regarding pre-trial remand or post trial sentencing, order the preparation a Probation Officer's Report by a welfare officer in the Civil administration. To the extent possible, such report may contain information regarding the minor's history, family, financial situation, health (including that of his/her family members) and personal circumstances which led him/her to commit the offense. The report may also provide the court with assessment of the likelihood of the minor's rehabilitation.
10. Shortening of the detention periods of juveniles (pre-trial and trial) [from 96H to 24/48H).
11. Shortening periods of statute of limitations.

**Important Juvenile Court Rulings**

In The N. A. R. Case the military appeals court ruled:

***"Although the provisions of Amendment No. 14 to the [Israeli] Youth Law do not apply in the Area, it is impossible to ignore their spirit or the principles underlying the protection of a minor's rights, even if he is suspected of committing offenses, and dominant weight must be given to the supreme principal of the best interest of the minor, as stated in the proposed law. Ultimately, a minor is a minor is a minor, whether he lives in a place where Israeli law applies in its entirety, or in another place, where, although Israeli law does not apply in its entirety, it is subject to the significant influence of the Israeli legal system".***

This principle can be found in many decisions of the military court of appeals. For example: The Military Courts ruled that the principles of the Israeli legislation regarding minors should apply in the Area. The Military Courts ruled that as general policy, the police should refrain from investigating minors during night hours although there is no specific legal prevention in the military law of the Area. The Military Courts ruled that an investigation not conducted by a specially trained Youth Investigator may result in the release of a minor suspect/defendant. The Military Courts considered the infringement of legal representation rights as a reason for release and minors were released in several cases in which legal representation was denied from them. The Military Courts requested a pre detention review although

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there is no relevant legislation in the Area. Military Court's rulings determine that delay in bringing the minor to the investigation may lead to release from custody. Military Court's rulings clearly determine that unnecessary prolonging of the legal procedure may lead to the defendant's release from custody.

It is also important to mention that many minors are released from custody even when there is ample evidence supporting a severe indictment, when there is reason to believe that they will not repeat the offence. General considerations are: the minor's age, the positive involvement of an influential adult, the possibility of keeping the minor away from negative influence, etc.

**Judicial Review by the High Court of Justice**

The Military Courts do not operate in a void. In addition to the internal mechanisms for judicial review within the military system, the Military Court system is subject to review by Israel's Supreme Court, sitting as the High Court of Justice.

Any defendant who believes his rights have been violated at any stage of the judicial process in the Military Courts can submit a petition to the High Court of Justice, which will hear the petition in accordance with the highest standards of judicial review.

## End notes

<sup>1</sup> See for example: B'Tselem, The Interrogation of Palestinians During the Intifada: Ill-Treatment, "Moderate Physical Pressure", or Torture? (March 1991). Available at <https://is.gd/s823jp>; B'Tselem and Hamoked, Absolute Prohibition: The Torture and Ill-treatment of Palestinian Detainees (May 2007). Available at <https://is.gd/D5yrvL>; B'Tselem and Hamoked, Kept in the Dark: Treatment of Palestinian Detainees in the Petah Tikva Interrogation Facility of the Israeli Security Agency (October 2010). Available at <https://is.gd/esMOyz>; B'Tselem, No Minor Matter: Violation of the Rights of Palestinian Minors Arrested by Israel on Suspicion of Stone Throwing (July 2011). Available at <https://is.gd/BMrmcO>; On Torture (June 2012). Available at <https://is.gd/xgFJhC>; Children in Military Custody: A Report Written by a Delegation of British Lawyers on the Treatment of Palestinian Children Under Israeli Military Law (June 2012). Available at <https://is.gd/pP7Hvi>; UNICEF, Children in Israeli Military Detention: Observations and Recommendations (February 2013). Available at <https://is.gd/2qvJma>; B'Tselem, Abuse and Torture in Interrogations of Dozens of Palestinian Minors in the Israel Police Etzion Facility (August 2013). Available at <https://is.gd/veTs3w>; B'Tselem and Hamoked, Backed by the System: Abuse and Torture at the Shikma Interrogation Facility (December 2015). Available at <https://is.gd/RT7GyW>; B'Tselem, Torture and Abuse in Interrogation (November 2017). Available at <https://is.gd/S16amu>; Hamoked, Childhood in Chains: The Detention and Interrogation of Palestinian Teenagers in the West Bank (April 2018). Available at <https://is.gd/NNic2y>; and Military Court Watch, Annual Report (2020/21). Available at <https://is.gd/Fbw5Ha>.

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF, Children in Israeli Military Detention: Observations and Recommendations (February 2013), pages 12 and 17. Available at <https://is.gd/2qvJma>.

<sup>3</sup> Assumes an annual detention rate of 500-1,000 children each year.

<sup>4</sup> Between 2013 and 2018 MCW collected 685 testimonies, of which 10 cases involved the use of solitary confinement - a rate of 1.5 percent.

<sup>5</sup> Between January 2019 and May 2021, MCW collected 228 testimonies, of which 45 cases involved the use of solitary confinement - a rate of 19.7 percent.

<sup>6</sup> Assumes an annual detention rate of 500-1,000 children each year.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), General Assembly resolution 70/175, annex, adopted on 17 December 2015. Available at <https://is.gd/k4KHtr>

<sup>8</sup> Interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, A/66/268, 5 August 2011. See paragraphs 62-63. Available at <https://is.gd/npVBNb>

<sup>9</sup> See endnote 8 above, paragraph 64. Available at <https://is.gd/npVBNb>

<sup>10</sup> See endnote 8, paragraph 65. Available at <https://is.gd/npVBNb>

<sup>11</sup> See endnote 8, paragraphs 77 and 86. Available at <https://is.gd/npVBNb>.

<sup>12</sup> UN Committee against Torture, CAT/C/MAC/CO/4, paragraph 8; CAT/OP/PRY/1, paragraph 185; UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, CRC/C/15/Add.151, paragraph 41; and CRC/C/15/Add.232, paragraph 36; UNICEF, Children in Israeli Military Detention (February 2013), recommendation 10, page 17.

<sup>13</sup> The military's standard operating procedures for the use of hand ties introduced in 2010 provide as follows: 1) Hands should be tied in front unless security considerations require tying from behind; 2) Three plastic ties should be used, one around each wrist with one connecting the two; 3) There should be a finger space between the ties and each wrist; 4) The restraints should avoid causing suffering as much as possible; and 5) The officer in charge is responsible for ensuring compliance with these procedures.

<sup>14</sup> UNICEF, Children in Israeli Military Detention (February 2013), recommendation 4(v), page 16.

<sup>15</sup> No girls have been held in IPS custody since December 2018.

<sup>16</sup> Yisascharov v The Head Military Prosecutor (2006)

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<sup>17</sup> B'Tselem, The Interrogation of Palestinians During the Intifada: Ill-Treatment, "Moderate Physical Pressure", or Torture? (March 1991), page 59. Available at <https://is.gd/s823jp>.

<sup>18</sup> [Article 76](#) of the Fourth Geneva Convention attracting personal criminal liability under [Articles 146](#) and [147](#). Israel ratified the Convention in 1951 and expressly relied on the provisions of the Convention in Military Order No. 3 which established military courts in the West Bank on 7 June 1967. These military courts are used to prosecute Palestinian civilians, including children, and are still operational today.

<sup>19</sup> The Guardian, The West must not abandon Crimea and Ukraine to Russian aggression, Jeremy Hunt, Pavlo Klimkin and nine other foreign ministers, 27 February 2019. Available at <https://is.gd/peeRVn>

<sup>20</sup> Israeli prison statistics provided by the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) - available at <https://is.gd/M3B8Q2>

<sup>21</sup> The policy of transfer has been challenged in Israel's High Court of Justice twice during the past 30 years (Sejadia (1988) and [Yesh Din](#) (2010) cases). The petitions filed on behalf of the detainees were rejected on both occasions based on the primacy of Israeli domestic law over provisions of international law where the two are in direct conflict. However, this position is not maintainable under international law by virtue of [article 27](#) of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, reflecting customary international law (Lagrand Case).

<sup>22</sup> Relevant UN Security Council resolutions relating to the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention - available at <https://is.gd/wuqLn5> .