

IWPS HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT No. 451

Human Rights Summary: Interrogation of a 16-year-old

Date of incidents: 14-20 March, 2013

Place: Watchtower at the entrance to Hares; Revava illegal settler colony; Jalame interrogation centre

Witnesses: Detainee and his family

Description of incidents:

At around 03:00am on March 15, the family was woken up by the sound of banging at their door. As the father opened the door, around 20 soldiers came in who demanded that everyone present in the house, at that time 5 members of the same family, should come downstairs. The soldiers asked for the 16-year-old son by his name. The father told the soldier that the boy wanted to dress, and at the time of his arrest, he was properly dressed with a jacket and shoes. No reason was given as to why he was arrested. As he was taken away, a soldier kicked his leg.

According to the testimony of the boy and his family, the boy was blindfolded and handcuffed, before being put in an army jeep along with five other boys and a large dog. Any boy who tried to speak was threatened to be hit by the soldiers. They were taken initially to the watch tower at the entrance to Hares for around 5 minutes before being taken to the illegal settlement of Revava, where he was strip-searched in the presence of about seven soldiers. He was then given two pairs of prison uniforms while his clothes were taken away.

The boy was then taken to al-Jalame interrogation center in Israel, where he was kept for six days, learning where he was being taken when he overheard the soldiers talking. The army called his family after 2 days to inform them where their son was.

For the first three days of his detention, the boy reported being kept in solitary confinement in a cell about 1 meter wide, 2 meters long and about 2-3 meters high. No mattress or blanket was provided. He slept on the floor with his second prison uniform as a makeshift pillow. There was no window and the six lights were kept on continually, so that he was not aware of the time of day. He also says that the air conditioning was switched on and off so that the temperature in the room was constantly changing from hot to cold.

He also says that the toilet facilities were unpleasant, the food was bad and made him feel ill and any water he was given had sugar in it. He was not given the opportunity to leave the cell or get exercise and he had nothing to read or do. He says he passed the time by writing on the wall of his cell with soap, and playing Xs and Os with his bread.

He described crying with fear on his first day. He says no-one spoke to him for 2 days. After 3 days another boy joined him in the cell.

He was interrogated one hour every two days by three soldiers, who told him that his friend said he had been throwing stones. They asked him if he threw stones toward the road to which he responded "No". The soldiers threatened him by saying, "You will be here until you die," "We will hit you," and "If you do not speak, bad things will happen to your mother and sister." They also asked him if he knew anyone who threw stones to which he answered: "I don't know, I was playing football." The boy also reported that the soldiers shouted at him loudly during the interrogation. He was interrogated 3 times during his detention.

On the third day, he was taken to the court. After a second court hearing some days later, he was found not guilty. On Thursday 21 March, he was taken to the entrance to the Jalame

interrogation centre in Jenin and released. The family was then contacted by a lawyer. They travelled there to collect him, a 3-hour drive.

He describes being happy at his release, but traumatized by his experience. Noises at night make him anxious and he no longer goes out.



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