

Friends of Humanity International
(Human Rights Organization)



Report titled

"Ages in Darkness"

**Long suffering experiences
with absence of rights and justice**

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Introduction

There are various forms of historical injustice against the Palestinian people that are resulted from the existence of the Israeli occupation over his home land, but in this report "Ages in Darkness" we will display only one form of this long suffering that is the occupation process and the involving of group of prisoners in jails and the attempt to separate them and making them absent from their families.

Long suffering experiences were imposed on these prisoners as a result of absence of rights and justice, these prisoners gave humanitarian examples in patience, passion and coping with life problems, and they never lose hope.

We have chosen a group of the oldest Palestinian and Arab prisoners in the occupation prisons, to display samples of their lives and some of endure and suffering of their families, this is done in order to get more knowledge and awareness about the suffering of these people, as a result of the long and unjust sentences issued by the courts of the occupation forces against them.

Deans (Oldest) of the Palestinian prisoners, who are they?

In this year, the number of the Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli occupation prisons has increased, also the occupation forces increases the detention campaigns and intensifies the abuse against the prisoners, and uses many types of torture against them.

As it is known by any observer for the issue of the Palestinian prisoners, rounds of negotiation took place between the Palestinian and Israeli sides through mediators to accomplish prisoner's exchange, when the Israelis insisted on the continuation the arresting of a lot of Palestinian prisoners, in addition to the expulsion for some of them outside their home land. The Palestinians insisted on their

demands on freeing and releasing the oldest prisoners, who have high prison sentences to enable them to live with their families. The Israeli government through ministerial committee started putting a plan that increases the strangulation against the Palestinian prisoners in occupation prisons, by imposing number of procedures, such as preventing the visit of lawyers and families to the prisoners, and preventing TV watching, these procedures put the prisoners cause in a new phase.

The Palestinian prisoners are insisting that their rights that are guaranteed by the international law and human rights conventions must not removed from them especially since they have extracted these rights through long and hard struggle over many years.

In this occasion we should name this year “Year of Prisoners Freeing” otherwise we should ask ourselves: Does these prisoners have a space for spending additional years in prison, for example does Nael Albargothy – who has spent 31 years of his life in occupation prisons – many years in order to be released alive and live with his family.

These figures resulted that the report must be regarding the ancient prisoners; the term “ancient prisoners” is usually used by researchers and specialists in the Palestinian prisoners cause to refer to the group of Palestinian prisoners who have been arrested in the prisons of the Israeli occupation for more than 15 years. The report generally will not be on ancient prisoners but will be of the *deans* of the Palestinian prisoners particularly the oldest twelve prisoners, in attempt to

highlight this forcedly absented category and the most suffering group as compared with their long years of detention:

This Table shows the dates of detention and the regions of the twelve prisoners beside their names and periods of detention					
No	Name	Date of Detention	The period of Detention	Region	Marital Status
1	Nael Albargothy	4/4/1978	31	Ramallah	Single
2	Fakhry Albargothy	23/6/1978	31	Ramallah	Married
3	Akram Saed Mansour	2/8/1979	30	Qalqilia	Single
4	Fuad Qasem Arafat Alrazem	30/1/1981	28	Jerusalem	Single
5	Ibrahim Fadel Jaber	8/1/1982	27	Hebron	Married
6	Hassan Nimer Ali Salmih	8/8/1982	27	Ramallah	Married
7	Othman Ali Muslih	15/10/1982	27	Salfeet	Married
8	Sami Khalid Salama Younis	5/1/1983	26	Aarah Village	Married
9	Kareem Yousif Fadel Salama	6/1/1983	26	Aarah Village	Single
10	Mahir Abdel Latif Younis	18/1/1983	26	Aarah Village	Single

11	Saleem Ibrahim Ali Alkial	30/5/1983	26	Gaza	Married
12	Bishr Almqt	11/8/1985	24	Majdel Shams / Golan	Single

Chart displays the names of the deans of the prisoners along with their years of detention

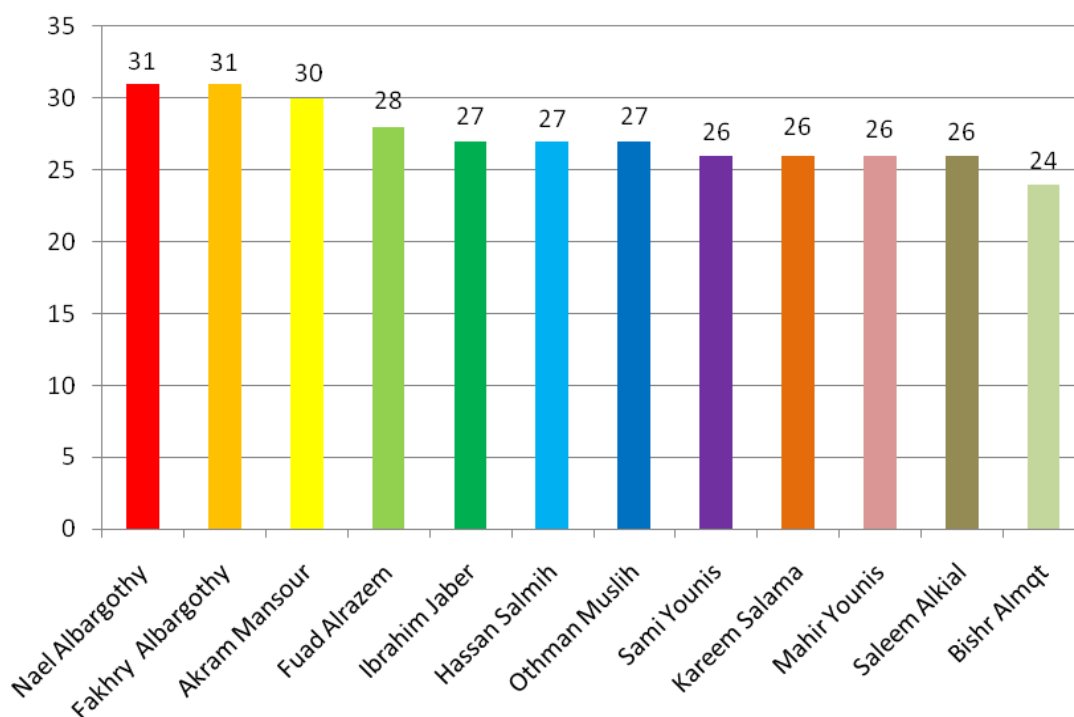


Chart displays the names of the deans of the prisoners along with their years of detention

The prisoner Nael Albargothy, the dean of the prisoners, steadfastness symbol, the owner of the most beautiful smile

since his detention on 4/4/1978 up to the issuing of this study today 14/10/2009.

The prisoner Nael Albargothy spent all these days in the *cemeteries* that are carefully prepared to keep the living people, by the prisoner's executioners who have excelled in innovation of methods and procedures for torturing the Palestinian prisoners and exacerbating the suffering sometimes without beating, but through Satan and devil methods and procedures.

In his prison or say in his grave, Nael Albargothy is living there since long age, this patient person; his facial expressions have been changed with time but his endeavor and spirit have not tired. Long days of darkness may be able to get bit of his body but his endeavor and spirit still high.

Nael Albargothy or as called "Abou Alnour" was arrested on 4/4/1978 as a result of military operation, at that time he was 20 years old since he was born on 23/10/1957, then he was exposed to a very hard investigation in which an attempt for killing him was performed, he faced his investigators with hardness and determination, days passed and the dean of the prisoners was transferred from a prison to another and he witnessed many exchange of prisoners processes but he was not released in any of them, since in all these processes the occupation forces insisted on keeping him in prison considering him as "Dangerous Prisoner".

Family Suffering

Along the period of the prison of Nael Albargothy and his family is suffering from types of torment, once they are prevented from his visit, another time hearing about his illness without being able to help him, institutions of Red Cross in Ramallah region knows the mother of Nael Albargothy that has died, who used to participate in the weekly sit in front of the institutions of the Red Cross, sitting there holding the photo of Nael, that young person with green eyes and blond skin.

Although decades of his detention have passed, his mother is still keeping the last drawing of Nael before his arrest, she did not want to recognize that the wrinkles that reformed the features of the face of her son, after more than three decades resulted from the prison is real.

His mother "Farha" was well-known for writing colloquial poetry, an example of her poetry:

"May God bless the prisoners and the honorable youth, go and say to the occupiers with the help of the God we will return, my people shout and revoluted for me inside the prisons, you the conceited occupier Palestine is not for sale, they shout from behind the prison bars injustice is not prohibited by God, everyone who forgets the prisoner is really a son of illegal relation. Do not cry for our long absence, we are inside our tents and resistant under pressure, say to my

compassionate mother to tell the young not to forget us, in order to return for olive tress and to my land Palestine. Greetings to all prisoners: Nael, Omar, and Nidal Zaloum, like the arrested lions asking for freedom".

When his mother Farha died, Nael and many of his friends, in addition to the mothers of the old prisoners were very sad and cried a lot for her death. Also his father Salih "Abu Omar" died when he was 88 years old in which he spent 28 years waiting for the return of his son, but he was died then Nael's mother while Nael still waiting the freedom, and the dream that he was imagining to live with his mother and father dispelled and his wishes minimized to a desire just to visit their graves.

Nael is not the only prisoner in this family, his bother Omar Albargothy "Abu Omar" spent more than 23 years moving between the occupation prisons, in addition to his relevant and friend Fakhry Albargothy "Abu Shadi" the second oldest Palestinian prisoner.

His life in the prison

The school of Nael Albargothy, this is how the prisoners used to call the way of living of Nael, since more than 31 years Nael adopted a concept about the detention and the jailers. It is known that the prison administration each year gives each prisoner two clothes, two pieces of soap, one towel, and other related things, taking into consideration that all these things are cheap. As the days pass and with developing

the life in the prisons and as a result of the struggles of the prisoners movement. Things have been changed and the needs of the prisoners are brought to them by their parents.

But Nael still refuses to say that the prison administration has many obligations towards the prisoners that must be done, and he does not forgive the prison administration with his allocations that are guaranteed for him by law, every 6 months the director of the stores comes, opens the door and removes special staff of Nael. The prisoner Nael refuses to forgive the occupation with his simplest rights.

With the early hours of the morning, Nael wears the sport clothes, runs in the prison yard, and practices some exercises that keep his fitness and health; he is challenging the hard circumstances of the prison, and he do not allow to weaken his spirits and body.

Nael Albargothy is considered one of the legal persons inside the prison; he is the symbol of unity between the prisoners and is consulted by the various Palestinian factions, also he teaches the prisoners the Hebrew language.

Not only this, the other prisoners exempt the Prisoner Nael according to the prison regulations for doing the services like food preparation and room cleaning, but Nael insists to serve himself and his colleagues, he prepares the food for his friends in the prison and initiates to clean his room.

Nael has remarkable smile, despite all years of absent justice that he spent in darkness, he has big hopes, energy, and confidence in the justice of his cause.

The Prisoner Fakhry Albargothy

31 years and 4 months is the summation of what Fakhry Albargothy has spent behind the dark walls. He is from Kuber village near Ramallah and is married from Mrs. Sameera Alrifa'ee and has two children Shadi and Hadi. The prisoner Fakhry was born in 1954; he was arrested on 23/6/1978. Mr. Fakhry was 23 years old at that time and two years has passed on his marriage.

The same accusation that was directed to his friend and cousin was directed to him, Fakhry Albargoty was subjected to the same investigation circumstances. With the same patience he challenges the investigators and for the same reasons the occupation still keeping him in the prison.

Talking about "Abu Shadi" is different and his suffering without doubt is greater, since he is married leaving behind him a wife and children, so his concerns and responsibilities are greater, but Fakhry leaves behind him a patient wife who brought two children from him and raises them to love their father, the love of their father was very great to a degree that they did not have the capacity for his separation. The

prison duration extends and all the friends of their father were released from the prison, but the father and others remain in the prison.

His meeting with his two children

Using their special way his children decided to end the family suffering by releasing their father but their fate was to be in prison. After arresting both Shadi and Hadi their mother remain alone, living with pain and lonely, at the same time she was little bit happy since her children would meet with their father, and the hope is achieved when the father met his children after absence for 27 years in the room in Asqalan prison. The embrace was very warm; crying was the most important characteristic, the *deans* of the prisoners congregated around Fakhry hitting his shoulders and wiping the tears of suffering and happiness after long years of injustice.

Hadi spent two years in the prison then he was released, but his brother Shadi remained who has been sentenced with unjust decree exceeding twenty years. One of them returned to his mother and another remained with his father, Hadi was released but he was very sad for parting from his father, he was released to find his mother waiting for them. In front of the window that is overlooking the entrance of the village, holding her long rosary praying to God to release her husband and.

Fakhry Albargothy was transferred between many prisons and jails, and when he enters any prison, the entire prisoners rally around him and Fakhry talked with them about the concerns and the history of the Palestinian prisoner's movement.

The loss of his parents and brother

Fakhry Albargothy is suffering from many diseases resulted from the bad equipment of the prison that is not suitable for the residency of the human beings, he lost during this long period his father, mother, uncles and brother "Abu Khaldoun". The houses that he used to know are now empty; the cemetery of the village is now filled with sweethearts. Knowing that the memory of the prisoner keeps the last images from his around regardless the long prisons durations.

In a modest house living the family of Fakhry Albargothy in Kuber village, "Om Shadi" keeps listening to news continuously with hopes regarding releasing her husband Fakhry and her cousin Nael, she talks to radio every Tuesday sending hr news and longings through air once to her husband and another to her son.

Akram Mansour the third oldest Palestinian prisoner ... Five years separating him from freedom

"If you were to choose between your freedom and the release of another prisoner who is sentenced to in prison all his life, who will you choose to be freed?

He said: I choose the release of the other prisoner since what remains for me in the prison is little, and other prisoners need to be released from the prison".

Introduction Card

His sister started talking about him, she said:" He was born in Qalqilia in 1962 in family composed from 15 members, and he got his basic education in UNRWA school, then he left as a result of the difficult living circumstances and accompanying his father in construction work".

She continues:" Akram used to have many good characteristics when he was small and young in age, he was merciful, compassionate, cooperative with every one, and depends on himself ..."

His Detention

After one of the operations in Tel Aviv, the occupation forces arrested him on 2/8/1979, and he stayed under hard investigation for a period of 8 months approximately moving from a prison to another until that time of the judgment. Akram Mansour was sentenced to 35 years of prison on 16/3/1980.

His sister says: "The suffering of Akram did not stop after he was sentenced, occupation forces and prison authorities excelled in attempting to undermine the determination of Akram, they deliberately put him with criminal and civilian prisoners, moving him between prisons, long detention in isolation cells like in Junaid prison in Nablus".

She said that after sentencing Akram he started the procedures of studying for the certificate of secondary education, and he achieved this aim.

The death of the parents

His sister says that one of his parents died after, adding: "The mother stayed lamenting the separation until she died in 1988, but his father stayed waiting to see his son free. The father did not have this chance since he died in 1998. Before few months one of his sisters who is living in Jordan died without having the opportunity to see her brother for long time".

She adds: "Akram who is in Negev prison which is in desert is suffering from many health problems, first one of them that his hearing have greatly weaken as a result of the damage that his ears was subjected to resulting from torture during the investigation, in addition to that one of his hand fingers can not move, only four teeth remained in his mouth since they have fallen when he was beaten by

the investigators, in addition to the absence of the true medical care from the administrations of occupation prisons".

Scenes in the memory

She says that her brother still remembers the engraved photos in his memory of humiliating and torture scenes. She adds: "one time the Israeli jailers threw the pasta dish on the ground and forced him to eat it, and this was accompanied with beating and insult, also another time they poured a bucket full of urine on his head, and after he has submitted a complaint to the prison administration, they forced him and other prisoners to striptease, then the jailers poured the water on them in a scene that represents the absence of the humanitarian treatment". She mentioned "most of his sisters and brothers are prevented from his visit since they do not have Identity Cards, and the occupation forces prevented them from visiting the West Bank, in addition to security prevention excuses, this added another type of suffering on everyone of our family".

High Morals

Akram inspired his patience especially that the time of his release is approaching, even he spent approximately 30 years in prison, only 5 years remaining for him in the prison, since the Israeli occupation court in the start of Al-Aqsa uprising determined that his life sentence is 35 years. He took the meanings of optimism and patience from his suffering family who are living on persistence on their attitudes".

Fuad Alrazem, the dean of the prisoners in Jerusalem, he loved Al-Aqsa mosque very much and work hard for it

Near Jerusalem and specifically in Silwan, where he was born and raised, he grew beside Al-Aqsa mosque, where he received his basic education in Silwan School, and then he continued his secondary education in Al-Omma school near Al-Aqsa mosque".

An introduction card is provided by his sister Nabeela, the prisoner Fuad Alrazem is from Jerusalem city, and is the dean of the Palestinian prisoners in Jerusalem. Fuad is sentenced to life.

His sister talked about the stages of his life from childhood to youth and until his detention and even after that. Nabeela remembers that her brother Fuad was born on 9/12/1957; he loved Jerusalem and his home land very much exactly like a baby loves his mother, the incident of Tal Al-Za'tar had an important role in forming his way of thinking.

She added: "During his study in Al-Omma school, he was very active in organizing the activities of the students, at the forefront protesting marches; in addition he was religious and moral person who was involved in studying the Holy Quran. He finished his secondary education with an average of 87% then he enrolled in the faculty of

Islamic studies/ Alquds University in Biet Hanina, during that time he was working as preacher in the mosque of the town".

His sister mentioned: "Although he was young in age, he was praying continuously in Al-aqsa mosque, and then he decided to do the pilgrimage to the sacred house of God in Makkah. When he returned an unexpected thing had happened, tens of Israeli soldiers entered his house and the target was Fuad, he was arrested and taken to one of the investigation centers".

In her witness, she added: "Fuad was subjected to severe and cruel torture during the investigation period to force him to confess but he refused, as a result of that the occupation forces as a pressure step arrested his father and his mother. They stayed in the detention for a two-day period, and they were not released until their health status has deteriorated, especially his mother who was originally ill, they were released at 4 o'clock at dawn when it was raining heavily and very cold thus there were transferred to the hospital to be treated".

She continues: "Fuad insisted on his position, and after s short period of time, the occupation forces arrested me and my mother and we were taken to Fuad in the investigation room, the signs of torture and fatigue appeared on him clearly, the investigators said to him: "If you do not confess you know what will happen to your mother and sister", I said to him at that time: "Do not care Fuad, you are not the first or even the last person being arrested, be patient", when they heard our

Talking they moved us out by force. The soldiers attacked us and threw us in one room for 12 hours".

She continues: "After 36 sessions in the judgment, the time of sentencing arrived on 6/9/1982, only our mother was allowed to attend, the remaining family members stayed outside the court building waiting for issuing the sentence which was 3 times of life imprisonment and eleven years, Fuad and one of his colleagues attacked the judge, but the guards sprayed tear gas on them, and beaten them until Fuad has lost consciousness inside the court. He was moved to Alramllah prison, my mother get outside shouting, crying, and saying: they have killed Fuad".

In the face of the repeated application from Fuad to see his sick mother, but the occupation forces have refused his application completely, and Fuad remained six years without seeing his mother even though she was in her last days, eventually and after the intervention of several mediators, the prison administration agreed to allow the mother of Fuad to visit her son, but Fuad did not expect that his mother will visit him sleeping in ambulance, unable to talk, to see her for the last time, and shed the tears of sorrow. Only after 13 days she died".

Nabeela reveals that her brother is suffering from health problems; the most important one of them is in his eyes, in addition to pains in the stomach, and weakness in the diaphragm as a result of torture. But the administration of the prisons refuses to treat him.

The prisoner Ibrahim Jaber... simplicity, humility and big hope of release

Simplicity and humility are from his characteristics, he was persistent in his attempting in providing the living and the dignified life for him and for his family ... they are the first words from the life of the prisoner Ibrahim Jaber.

Fathy, the son of the prisoner Ibrahim Faddel Nimer Jaber (Abu Fathy) says: "My father is from Hebron, he was born on 20/8/1954 and he received his education in Al-Ibrahemia school in Hebron, after his marriage he got three children, my father was construction laborer until his unexpected arrest on 8/1/1982, since we were not know that he is a political activist, our family and many other were surprised when we knew the accusations that were directed to him".

Fathy said that his mother was pregnant when his father was arrested, and that when his brother was born they called him (Faraj) - which is an Arabic word that means relief – hoping for the release of their father. Many big accusations were directed to him and he was sentenced to life three times".

He adds that on the day that followed the day of the arrest of his father, the occupation forces have deported the family from their house and then they closed it, the soldiers demolished it at later time.

This resulted in displacing the family, he says: "We moved to live in our relative's house and specifically with our grandfather in another area".

Embracing the parent

The fate provides the conditions that enabled Fathy to see and live with his father when he was young at that time, the details are mentioned by Fathy: "In 2001 the occupation forces arrested me (this bad thing was good for me). They moved me to Negev prison, during all that time I lived in the care and tenderness of my father, who I was prohibited from him from my childhood, and I stayed with him until 2008 which is my release date".

He adds: "During my existence with him, instead of my commiseration to him, he always encouraged me to be patient, and then I was released before ending my prison duration during the releases of 2008. I left my father behind me in prison, but I inspired from his patience and spirits a lot of meanings even outside the prison".

History

Abu Fathy is considered one of the personalities, who enjoyed respect inside the prisons, in most cases the prisoners ask him about

many issues. His son adds: “My father is considered to be the reference and consultant as a result of his experience, hence the prisoners called him (History) since he has a lot of information about global and Palestinian events that happened in the past”.

His daily program

Regarding how Abu Fathy spent his time, he says: “In the early hours of the morning, he wakes up and prays, then he makes some sports exercises until breakfast time, after that all the prisoners sit, some of them watching the news other reading. The sleep time arrives, and then they move out to the prison yard until time of sunset when they return to their sections praying and eating their dinner, then all the prisoner spend their time either in watching news or reading or discussing specific issue, eventually they go to sleep”.

The prisoner Abu Ali Salmih, sophist and author

The long days that Abu Ali Salmih - as known between the prisoners - spent in prison were not able to weaken or despair him, on the contrary his strength has significantly increased, and he became able to face the prison and the jailers.

He is the prisoner Hassan Nimer Ali Salmih (51 years old), and is originally from Salmih village, one of the villages of Lattron that was destroyed in 1967. He live in Betoniya town in Ramallah, was born in 8/2/1958, finished the secondary education then he joined Bier Ziet university to study physics, but one semester before the graduation he was arrested on 8/8/1982.

The prisoner was subjected to long and hard investigation, in which he faced the most heinous forms of torture, but he was very patient, then the unjust sentence was issued which is life imprisonment. The torment trip started and is still continuing until now, 27 years is the period that Abu Ali has spent in the prisons of the occupation, moving from prison to another holding with him the pictures of his family and friends.

Before his arrest, Abu Ali Salmih got married from a patient woman who brought to him twins a boy and a girl (Ali and Sana') but he was able to embrace them for a period of twenty days only then he was arrested and prevented from saying Good Bye for them resulting in separation for long years.

Exactly like the habit of the prisoner wives, who are patient Palestinians women, Om Ali kept the covenant and spent all these long years waiting for her husband, raised her children and joined them with universities. She get her daughter Sana' married without the participation of her father, while the son is still waiting the release of his father to be the first one attending his wedding. Sana' has

chosen to work in the Palestinian ministry of prisoners in order to serve the cause of her father and his colleagues.

During this long period the prisoner Abu Ali Salmih was moved between many prisons, and he was subjected to many forms physical and psychological torture, humiliation and medical negligence. Also he was exposed to solitary confinement many times. The prisoner participated with his colleagues in various steps in order to acquire their rights, especially in hunger strikes. Now he is in Reemon prison in Negev desert near Nafha prison.

The family of Abu Ali Salmih is suffering from the repeated prevention of visiting him, his daughter Sana' who loves her father very much was prevented from visiting him for 6 consecutive years, after that she was allowed to see him from behind an insulating glass, hence she was not able to talk with him.

Sana' says: "One of the most difficult moments in my life was when I saw my father after six years of prevention; the gray hair has covered his head, and the wrinkles had drawn its way over his forehead, but his determination is exactly the same endeavor that my mother talked to me about when I was small", she adds: "The most difficult moment was my wedding day without my father being present, even though many close people were around me, but all the world is not enough for me if my father is not present with me".

The suffering of the family of Abu Ali is more difficult than the suffering of thousands of other Palestinian families, because of the long period that Abu Ali is spending in the prison. Like the other families who have relatives with high prison sentences are waiting patiently the process of prisoners exchange between the Palestinian and the Israeli side and the release of their prisoners from the prisons.

Othman Muslih ... building contractor

All people loved him, he usually provides his services to people, and he lived in simple family where his father was a farmer. When he got older he started to work hard and with perseverance. The prisoner Othman Ali Hamdan Muslih (Abu Alnajy) was born on 13/6/1952 and lived his childhood and youth in Alzawiya village in Salfeet with his family that is composed from his wife and eight children.

Work and detention

Abu Alnajy studied in the schools of Alzawiya and Bedia villages and he got the secondary education certificate, then he worked and succeeded in building and construction fields, during this period of work he had traveled a lot of times as his oldest son Najy mentioned.

Najy adds: “My father had travelled a lot of times to the neighboring Arab countries, and we were not know the reason behind his frequent travels. We knew that they were related to work or for relaxing, and we were convinced with this idea until he was arrested”.

He remembers: “After the return of my father from abroad, in the same year of the Israeli invasion to Lebanon and siege of Beirut, and exactly on 15/10/1982, tens of military vehicles stormed our house in Alzawiya village at night, the soldiers wreaked havoc our house, then they have arrested my father guide him to an unknown destination, and we were not know the reason of the detention”.

After more than 45 days from his arrest, my family knew about the course of the investigation with him, he stayed in the prisons for some period of time, and then the occupation court issued a life imprisonment sentence against him.

Demolishing the house of the family

His son Najy remembers that the lawyer who was defending his father, after 45 days of detention, told them that information has arrived to him indicating that the occupation forces had issued a resolution to demolish our house. He adds: “We took the warnings seriously and we started to vacate the house in anticipation of the worst. In the same period and after few days, the occupation forces stormed our village at 11 o'clock at night, and they imposed a curfew,

these forces brought with them a huge military bulldozer, then they demolished our house that my family spent many years working to build it”.

His life in the prison and his health status

He says - regarding the bad health status of Abu Alnajy -: “My father is suffering from a bad health status, since he does not receive real medical care, and he does not have psychological comfort, in addition to his abnormal living, several years ago he suffered from heart attack, also he is suffering from high blood pressure, and these need the availability of good medical care to guarantee that the heart beat don’t happen again. These conditions could not be achieved without releasing my father in order to live with his family who loves him and are the best persons who will take care of him”.

He adds about how Abu Alnajy spent his time: “My father as one of the old prisoners is considered to be one of the big symbols that is important socially and is well respected from all people; this enables him from becoming a representative for the prisoners in Asqalan prison. The ambitions of my father did not stop even his existence in the prison, he has finished his secondary education, and then he got bachelor degree in Middle East Sciences. My father is seeking now to get the master degree”.

Sami Younis, the oldest prisoner from Green Line Territories, 26 years in the prison

A very old man, his hair is gray completely which a normal thing is for a man who is approximately 78 years old, is tired from illness and suffering and still in prison until now.

The prisoner Sami Khalid Salamih Younis (Abu Nadir) was born on 5/1/1932 in Aarah village inside the territories of the green line where he lived his childhood and grew. Abu Nadir was seeing and hearing about the suffering and the discrimination that his nation faced.

Kawther the daughter of the prisoner, that her father left her when she was small, is talking about him; she remembers that father was compassionate person who was working very hard in order to provide the decent life for his family; he was working as taxi driver.

Kawther indicates that: "Her father has studied architecture engineering in "Teknion Academy" in Haifa. He loved and still loving the robbed land of his nation, and is continuously recommending his family to love their homeland".

Detention story

The time is after midnight, the place is Aarah village one of Almothalath villages, date is 5/1/1983, was the night of the detention that Kawther described it as terrifying: "few hours after midnight, and in a brutal manner, tens of military vehicles stormed our village and surrounded our house, we were surprised, and all of us asked who is the wanted? After a while all of us were shocked when we recognized that the target of the operation is our father, he was transferred to an investigation center and he stayed there for several months then many accusations were directed to him.

The sentence

The daughter of the prisoner continues: "In the beginning the court issued a death sentence against my father, this shocked us greatly, then after we appealed, the sentence was decreased since the court issued a life imprisonment sentence against him, even this is an unjust and painful sentence but still better than the previous death sentence because the hope of release still exists".

She indicates that: "Her father is now the dean of the Palestinian prisoners from inside the territories of 1948, and he forms a unique case in the history of the mankind, his age approaches 80 years, the occupation still arresting him until now and increases his suffering".

Chronic diseases

She reveals that her father is suffering from many diseases, and he was heart attacked, a surgical operation was made to him to remove a tumor in the intestine. She added: My father is suffering from infections in his eyes and ears, this requires taking twenty pills daily, he needs a special care, and this can be achieved only when Abu Nadir is living with his family.

Abu Nadir is currently considered one of the most important old prisoners in the occupation prisons; he is responsible for organizing the events in the prison, and plays an important role to solve any problem that may occur in the prison.

Bequest

After Sami Younis reaches 80 years, a very little remain from his age and under his inability from being freed, the Palestinian prisoner Younis recommends his family to stick on their rights until the last day of their life.

Kawther reveals that her father recommended the family, that in the case of his death in the occupation prisons to take him to his town and house, he exactly said: "If I died, and you have received my dead body from the administration of the prisons, do not hurry in burying me, take me to my village and leave me there for a while to memorize and say Good Bye to the place that I used to love".

She mentions that her father is still having the hope to be freed especially after the presence of signs of concluding an agreement to exchange prisoners: "My father became frustrated and desperate after each deal for prisoners exchange, since they were excluding the Palestinians from the green line territories, but at this time he is relying heavily on the coming exchange process, and he has great hopes that the prisoners of 1948 territories will be taken into consideration since they are an integral part from the Palestinian prisoners and not to undergo the conditions of the occupation who want to exclude them from prisoners exchange processes".

The prisoner Kareem Younis: After 26 years of detention, will his mother be happy with his marriage?

After Kareem Younis has finished his secondary education in Nazareth schools, he decided to complete his study, so he joined "Ben-Gurion University", he was aspiring to create a bright future. Kareem was born, raised, and lived in Aarah within a family known loving their homeland and the freedom.

Irruption and detention

Ameen Younis the brother of the prisoner talked to us about Kareem's life: "My brother was born on 24/12/1958, and we were not expecting that a day will come in which my brother will be arrested,

until the night of 6/1/1983, when tens of military vehicles stormed the village, surrounded our house, then stormed it in terrifying manner, and wreaked havoc the house. The soldiers asked about my brother who were not in the house since he was in the university. In the next day the occupation forces stormed the university in which Kareem is studying, and then they arrested Kareem and transferred him to an investigation center, where Kareem stayed several months where he was subjected to many forms of torture and pressure”.

He adds: “Kareem stayed many days in investigation and we did not know the reason until the time of court sentence reaches, we knew that the Israeli authorities have directed many big accusations to my brother, the court issued death sentence and we quickly requested appeal the sentence that was reduced to life imprisonment”.

Despite the pain, searching for a bride

The family of Kareem is composed from three brothers and two sisters, Ameen adds: “We are anxious for the release of him since he is our oldest brother; we feel that his remoteness in Asqalan prison makes us very sad and miserable. My mother keeps crying heavily every time she remembers him or meet one of his friends or when a happy or sad occasion take place in the family. Every feast my mother is continuously sad because of his detention and wishes to see her son free and she is confident of that, from the day of his arrest until today she is searching for suitable bride for him.

He remembers that during the family visit to Kareem that occurs every two weeks, he dedicate most of the visit time asking about his parents, also he is very interested in the situation of the families of the prisoner even after their release.

Ameen adds: “Only the brothers, the sisters, and the mother are allowed to visit him, Kareem keeps recommending us to visit the families of the other prisoners even when they are released, he loves all people and live with us the happy and the sad events even he is not actually living with us”.

The prisoner Mahir Younis, his father has died since five months without seeing him

The prisoner Mahir Younis was born on 6/1/1958, he grew up in a modest and persistent family, and he got his basic education in Aarah village, Maher continued his secondary education in Alkhodairah city.

His mother remembers that during his detention he joined “The Hebrew University” to complete his study but as a result of the high costs of the university he stopped and was unable to continue.

Detention and court sentence

The mother of the prisoner is telling the story of his detention: "On 20/1/1983 at night and without any previous warning, tens of military vehicles surrounded our area, and we knew that our house was the target, the sister of Mahir hurried up to his bed room where he was sleeping, and she brought with her a cup of water, waked him up, and said: wake up Mahir, drink this cup of water, do not be afraid, the army is surrounding our house, they quickly put the fetters on my son, the soldiers put his head in a bag, and they have beaten him heavily, then he was transferred to one of the investigation center".

"The investigation with Mahir lasts for a period exceeding six months, and we did not know the reason until the beginning of the court sessions, that revealed the accusations that were directed to him and the possibility of issuing death sentence against him. His brothers and sisters went to the court but I have refused to go, when they returned they were very sad, miserable, terrified, and despair from the sentence that was issued. After short period of time appeal session in the court was held in which the sentence was reduced to life imprisonment".

The difficulties and hardships of travel

She adds: "Since 26 years we were forced to travel from Aarah to Nafha prison and other occupation prisons. We usually leave before Al-fajr prayer, we took the buses for several hours, and we return to our houses late at night, which causes tragedy of the families of

prisoners, the weather sometimes is either very cold or very hot, in addition to humiliation and discrimination. We have visited all the prisons, and we pay huge expenses in each visit since at each visit we rent a car all the day long, in addition to clothes and other needs that require large sums of money".

Tears and sorrow

His mother adds: "Our tragedy is renewed every day, sadness that is resulted from the separation does not leave us, and the tears do not stop. In every either happy or sad occasion we remember our son and started to cry since he is not between us. All his sisters and brothers got married, even the son of his brother Nadir (Mohammad) who was baby when Mahir was arrested, will marry this summer, but we are asking whether Mahir will be released or not?".

Om Mahir says that her husband has died by cancer and hence was not able to see his son free. She adds: "After illness of Abu Mahir we demanded the administration of the prisons in order to allow him to see his son, but they have refused, also many characters including Knesset members interfered but they failed and they were not able to convince the authorities to allow the visit. The father of the prisoner has died without being able to meet his son for the last five months, which was very painful for all the family members".

The hope of release

The mother of Mahir mentions that he spent most of his time in coordination between the prisoners since he is one of the oldest prisoners, in addition to exercise some activities like sports and handicrafts which are suitable solution to filling the spare time of the prisoners.

In these days Mahir is living a dream and have great hopes like the other hundreds of prisoners specifically the old prisoners with high sentences to be released in the near future, and they say: "We are requesting you not to yield the demands of the occupation authorities that try to destroy us and keep us away from any process of prisoners exchange that may occur".

Saleem Alkial, the dean of Gaza Strip prisoners, he has visited most of the prisons, will he visit Gaza?

He spent nearly quarter century moving between the different Israeli prisons that he entered when he was young, and after this long and painful time he becomes the dean of Gaza prisoners and is one of the oldest Palestinian prisoners.

The prisoner Saleem Ibrahim Ali Alkial (Abu Doaa) was born in 1953 Alzaitoon neighborhood in Gaza city. He got diploma in mechanics, married, and got a daughter called Doaa.

Childhood and detention

Abu Ismail Alkial is talking about his brother the prisoner Saleem (Abu Doaa): "Saleem, from his childhood was known for being calm, but he was arrested three times by the occupation army in the period between 1976 and 1982. When he was arrested in the last quarter of the year 1983 he got a life imprisonment sentence".

Saleem is now 56 years old, and entered his 26th year in detention before approximately four months; he is in Nafha jail now after visiting and moving between most of the occupation prisons signing on the walls of the prisons "I have passed from here, and showed my large suffering".

The birth Doaa and her wedding

Abu Ismail adds: "After few months of the marriage of Saleem, he was arrested, at that time his wife was in her first months of pregnancy, his daughter Doaa was born far away from her father that makes her birth an occasion for remembering the sorrows and sadness. Doaa grew with her sad mother who took care of her without her father and being able to meet him without iron insulators and bars". He indicates that the daughter of his brother Doaa becomes now a young girl and got engaged has postponed her

wedding date many times hoping the release of her father, but eventually she was obliged to get married without her father being able to attend, otherwise her wedding day was an occasion for sorrow, sadness, and crying.

The health status of the prisoner

The prisoner Saleem Alkial is suffering from many diseases, the most dangerous one are diabetes and blood pressure under the medical negligence that is followed from the administration of the prisons. His brother says regarding this issue: "We are very worried about him because of his bad health status that is resulted from the effects of the long years in the prison and the shortage of the needed medical care in the Israeli occupation prisons".

The occupation forces have prevented the residents of Gaza Strip from visiting their relatives in the prisons for the last 30 months, none of us were able to see him, the last visit to him was two a halve years ago. In the past only his wife and his oldest brother were allowed to visit him every two weeks.

Abu Ismail emphasizes that brother despite the bitterness and the sadness of the separation. The remoteness but still has high spirits and morals, his dream of returning for his home land in Alzaitoon neighborhood / Gaza city within his family becomes bigger.

The mother of the prisoner Saleem who is 95 years old still wishes only one hope in her life that is seeing her son in her life. Abu Ismail adds: "Our mother always says I wish to see my son Saleem before my death, and I prefer to see him even this will cost me the whole of my wife and then dies".

The prisoner Bishr Almqt, the dean of the Arab prisoners

The prisoner Bishr Suleiman Almqt was born in Majdel Shams town in the occupied territories of the Golan Heights on 15/12/1965, and he lived there. Nihal Almqt is talking about her brother and his beautiful childhood as she has described it, and his youth that was full of inspirations.

She adds: "My brother grew in Majdel Shams town, where he got his basic education and finished the secondary education from Mas'ada school in Golan. His educational direction was towards Geology, he has been very active in the beginnings of the eighties of the previous century in the demonstrations, protests, and events that took place in the Golan. My brother Bishr applied for the universities of the Soviet Union in order to obtain a university degree, but he was arrested by the occupation forces twenty days before his departure".

She adds: "On 11/8/1985 after midnight, a large number with full military equipments of the occupation army have raided and surrounded our house, and they took my brother to the detention,

where he started the long journey in the prison that lasts for 24 years".

Health status of the prisoner

The sister of the prisoner revealed that the health status of her brother is very difficult, since he has illness in his heart, and catheter operation was made for him on 15/7/2008 but it failed. Now he needs a surgical operation in his heart. Bishr suffered from a heart attack on 14/6/2007 that resulted in losing his consciousness, because a physician was not present in the prison he received the treatment three days later when he was transferred to the hospital and made many tests that revealed his dangerous situation.

She adds: "The physicians who have read the medical file of the prisoner emphasizes that Bishr is suffering from critical medical situation under this medical negligence, and that he needs urgently to undergo open heart operation. His situation can not wait, especially that he has suffered from another heart attack, despite that, and he is not transferred yet to the hospital to undergo the needed surgical operation".

The court refuses

Nihal remembers that the court that was held on 23/3/2009 in Jalbou' prison, refused to release him despite his difficult health status, and did not allow anyone to attend the court session or even seeing him.

She adds: "We knew from the lawyer of Bishr that the court deliberately under values his case and hardly heard it, and the court did not give any concern to the presented medical files and reports".

His sister indicates that the family builds hopes on the expected exchange of prisoner's agreement. Also she appealed the international and governmental organizations to move and put pressures on the Israeli occupation authorities to put the prisoners under the supervision of international humanitarian organizations and deal with them as being prisoners of wars and working towards releasing them.

The end of the report