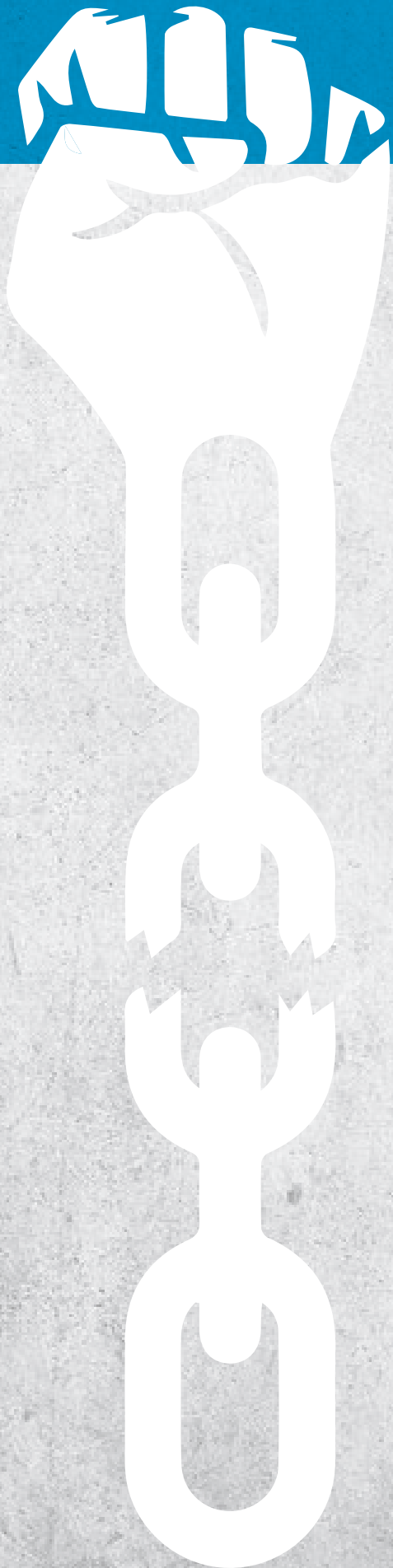


# Arbitrary detention within a year of the state of emergency

**5.3.2020 - 5.3.2021**

**(Freedom of opinion and expression,  
freedom of association and political  
pluralism)**





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The extent to which the procedures and policies taken during the declaration of the state of emergency are consistent with the amended Palestinian Basic Law and the basic human rights treaties to which the state of Palestine has acceded.





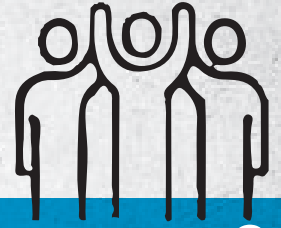


## Executive summary

- During a year of the state of emergency, the group Lawyers for Justice followed 94 arrests through human rights and legal advocacy. This number of arrests does not represent all of the arrests that took place during the emergency period.
- The number of arrests related to the state of emergency the group Lawyers for Justice followed reached 23, which make up 29.1% of the arrests total.
- The group followed 20 arrests related to freedom of opinion and expression, representing 25.3% of all arrests, the alleged accusation of slander against authority was used 11 times, and the alleged accusation of sectarian strife was repeated 4 times.
- The group documented 17 arrests related to union activity, a rate of 21.5%, including 12 arrests related to the “Tafah Al-Kil ” sit-in strike, and 4 arrests on charges of distributing food parcels.
- The group followed 23 cases of people who were arrested for political reasons which makes up to 40.5% of the arrests the group dealt with. Charges of “possessing weapons” and “collecting money” were repeatedly used against most of them to extend their detention before the courts.
- There were also 6 documented cases of detention by orders of governors, a rate of 7.6%.
- 33 detainees, 41.7% of the cases the group followed, made allegations of torture during detention and/or interrogation including verbal abuse, prohibitions or procrastination, and/or pressure to end hunger strike, 21 of the detainees made allegations of physical assault or torture.
- 41 detainees, 51.9% of the cases the group followed, confirmed that the security services did not present arrest warrants against them when they were arrested.
- Eighteen people, 22.8% of the cases the group followed, were arrested and released without trial.
- Of all the arrest cases, judicial charges were brought against only 3 detainees, while 6 were acquitted, and 12 investigation files were not submitted to the courts, while 22 are still before the courts.
- Although a state of emergency was declared to combat the Coronavirus, 43

detainees, 54.4% of the arrests the group followed, indicated in their testimonies that health protocols were not or only partially followed during the arrest, investigation, and detention process.

- The occupation forces arrested 6 people after the security services released them, and two of them stated after their release from the occupation prisons that, the interrogations with them revolved around similar incidents.
- At least 4 detainees reported that they were incited against the group “Lawyers for Justice” by the security services during interrogation.



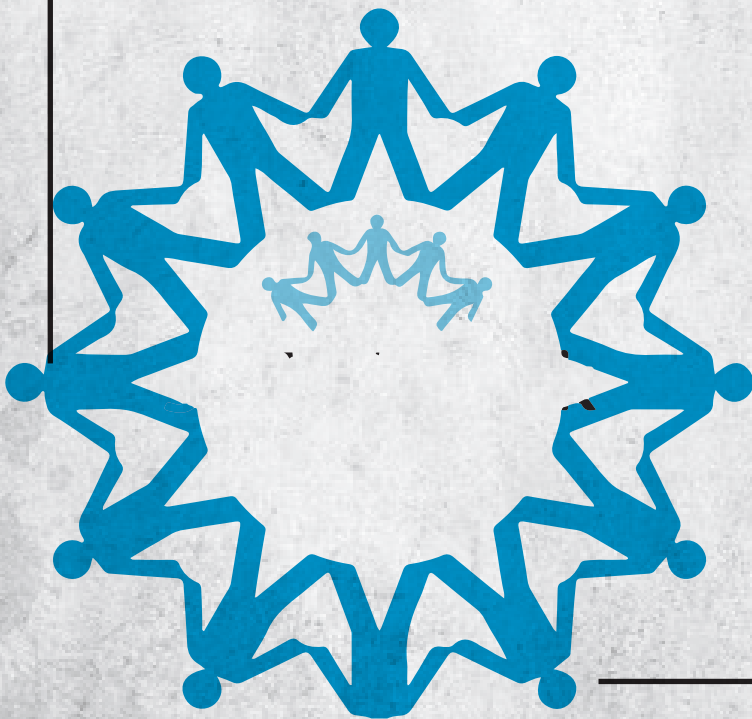
## Who are we?

The group Lawyers for Justice began its legal and human rights activities in 2011, through an individual initiative that emerged and developed in the wake of increasing cases of human rights violations in the occupied West Bank governorates, at a time when the human rights system was under increasingly widespread attack, amidst the attacks by executive bodies on the powers and actions of the legislative and judicial branches, and the lack of supervision of the executive branch's performance and holding it accountable.

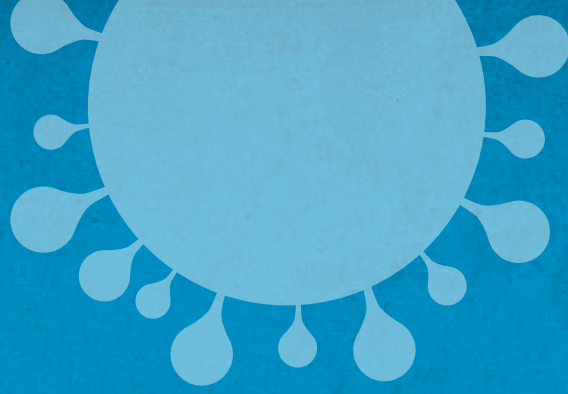
The Lawyers for Justice Group, through its members in various governorates of the West Bank, provides legal support to cases that are subject to violations by the security services against the backdrop of the exercise of freedom of expression, freedom of association, and freedom of political pluralism. The nature of this

support consists of legal representation before the Palestinian courts and prosecution offices, documentation of human rights violations, and education on the rights of detainees from the time of the arrest until release.

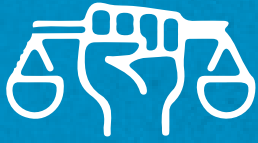
In West Bank particularly, in the cases it followed, the group was able to document violations and share the recommendations it adopted with official authorities to identify and limit violations.











## The human rights situation in light of the declaration of the state of emergency:

Since the President of the Palestinian Authority declared a state of emergency on 3/5/2020 and extended it until the date of publication of this report, the group has been tracking and documenting cases and instances of human rights violations in light of the spread of the Coronavirus epidemic in Palestinian cities and governorates under the control of the Palestinian Authority.

This report highlights the acts of arrest on the grounds of political affiliation, the exercise of freedom of speech and expression, freedom of association, and arrest orders issued by governors. Given the declared and renewed state of emergency and the extent to which the executive branch is using these conditions to restrict and suppress constitutional rights guaranteed in the amended Palestinian Basic Law, such as freedom of speech and expression, freedom of work, and union activity.

The report also monitors the extent to which health measures are being applied in detention centers and sheds light on the practical cases documented by the group which has been followed up by its legal staff from the declaration of the state of emergency on 3/5/2020 to 3/5/2021.





## The extent to which the procedures and policies taken during the declaration of the state of emergency are consistent with the amended Palestinian Basic Law and the basic human rights treaties to which the state of Palestine has acceded.

A state of emergency is considered as “temporary exceptional circumstances” usually declared when there is a threat to the security and stability of the state, under which many of the rights and public freedoms of individuals are exceptionally restricted. The Palestinian legislature deliberately regulated the general rules governing the state of emergency in the seventh chapter of the 2003 amended Palestinian Basic Law. Articles (110-114), specify the cases that require the declaration of a state of emergency and the formal and objective legal controls necessary for its implementation, also, these articles, specify the bodies that have the authority to implement them.

As a result of the widespread of the Coronavirus in Palestinian towns and villages under the control of the Palestinian Authority; The President declared a state of emergency on 5.3.2020 for 30 days, by Decree -Law No. (1) 2020; to counter the risk of the outbreak of the Coronavirus and prevent its spread, the President subsequently issued Decree-Law No. (7) 2020 regarding the state of emergency, which provided regulations and measures to be taken in the declared state of emergency and the competent authorities to implement it, and explained the penalties for its violation, in addition to some relevant decisions and instructions, based on the provisions of the state of emergency contained in Chapter Seven of the Basic Law.



On 3/4/2020 and in light of the suspension of the work of the dissolved Legislative Council by a decision of the Constitutional Court in 2018; The Palestinian President issued the second Decree-Law that extended the first state of emergency for another 30 days, it was also followed by a new declaration of the state of emergency by the President on 5/5/2020 declaring the state of emergency for more 30 days. The renewal was repeated every two months by declaring a new state of emergency and extending each of the thirty days until the date of issuance of this report.

The amended Basic Law, which sits at the top of hierarchy as a source of law in Palestine and is considered as a constitution, in its article (110) governs the proclamation of a state of emergency. The issuance of a Presidential Decree by the President of the Palestinian National Authority, which includes the purpose of the declaration, the territory it covers, and the time for its implementation, provided that the time must not exceed 30 days, which was expressed in the provisions of Article (3) of the current State of Emergency Decree. The duration of the declared state of emergency to meet the threat of the spread of the corona virus; 30 days, and article (1) of the decree declaring the state of emergency added that its provisions apply to the Palestinian territories to meet the threat of the Coronavirus and prevent its spread.

With regard to the announcement by the Palestinian President on 3/4/2020 to extend the state of emergency for an additional 30 days, according to Presidential Decree No. (3) for the year 2020; the President invoked the provisions of Basic Law, but its content essentially contradicted the provisions of the law, as the President invoked his "constitutional duties to take full care of the Palestinian people", but by referring to the provisions of paragraph (2) of the article (110) of the Basic Law, it requires the approval of two-thirds of the members of the Legislative Council to extend the state of emergency for another 30 days, but the Legislative Council was dissolved several years ago, and this is confirmed by the interpretive decision of the Supreme Constitutional Court No. (10/2018). In this case, the monitoring of all actions and measures taken during the state of emergency is absent, and therefore, the President's decision to extend the state of emergency contradicts Article (110) Palestinian Basic Law.

And for renewing the declaration of the state of emergency on 5/5/2020 for an additional 30 days according to Presidential Decree No. (4) Of 2020, it was carried out without a specific constitutional reference according to the Basic Law, as the law did not regulate the procedures for re-declaring the state of emergency for the same reasons for which it was declared the first time, and there are no legal justifications for the president to declare a new state of emergency.

The group Lawyers for Justice believes that the government can take action that will enable it to carry out its duties when faced with such health conditions as

exist in the Palestinian territories, without the need to issue a decree extending and re-proclaiming the state of emergency, there is more than one law in force that can be applied to limit the spread of the pandemic, such as Public Health Act No. (20) 2004, Criminal Law No. (16) 1960 and Criminal Procedure Act No. (3) 2001, Consumer Protection Act No. (21) 2005, and Civil Defense Act No. (3) 1998, and other laws that could be the basis for dealing with this situation, and not by declaring and repeatedly extending the state of emergency.

In addition to the violations to which some people were subjected during the period of the state of emergency, during which freedom of opinion and expression was violated and many citizens were arbitrarily imprisoned for sharing their views on social media, or through arrests targeting activists and trade unionists for demanding reforms and fighting corruption, as well as against the background of political affiliation, without regard to fair trial procedures and standards, some of them raised allegations of torture, beatings, bad-treatment and other illegal methods, as well as violations to which citizens were subjected as a result of the violation of precautionary measures taken during the declaration of the state of emergency.

In this regard, the group Lawyers for Justice believes that the evaluation of the legislative and judicial process during the state of emergency proves its violation of the principle of the rule of law and the separation of powers, as well as the violation of public rights and freedoms by the executive branch, which exercises many of the powers of the legislative and judicial authorities without the slightest oversight of its work.

All violations committed by the bodies responsible for enforcing the law, constitute a clear violation of the provisions of the Palestinian legislation applied under normal circumstances and even during the state of emergency, especially those enshrined in the amended Palestinian Basic Law of 2003, the Palestinian Criminal Procedures Law, Palestinian General No. (20) Of 2004, and other relevant national legislation.

**On the other hand, the practices of law enforcement agencies constitute a violation of international human rights law, especially since the State of Palestine has obligations under the basic human rights conventions it has acceded to, in particular, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which regulates the declaration of a state of emergency in article 4 (1), which requires multistep inquiry to determine the**



legitimacy of the declaration of states of emergency, these requirements are as follows; (1) the state must officially proclaim a state of emergency; measures taken by the state must be (2) necessary, (3) proportionate, and (4) compliant with other international law obligations; and (5) the state must officially inform the international community of its intent to impose such measures.

The same article in section (2) affirms that articles 6, 8 (paragraphs 1 and 2), 11, 15, 16 and 18 of the ICCPR contain nondraggable rights, this also includes article 7 which stresses the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, even in time of emergency.

Furthermore, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in its article 9, prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention. According to the Working group on Arbitrary Detention, deprivation of liberty is arbitrary if a case falls into one of the following three categories:

**A)** When it is clearly impossible to invoke any legal basis justifying the deprivation of liberty (as when a person is kept in detention after the completion of his sentence or despite an amnesty law applicable to him)

**B)** When the deprivation of liberty results from the exercise of the rights or freedoms guaranteed by articles 7, 13, 14, 18, 19, 10 and 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, insofar as States parties are concerned, by articles 12, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26 and 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

**C)** When the total or partial non-observance of the international norms relating to the right to a fair trial, spelled out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the relevant international instruments

accepted by the States concerned, is of such gravity as to give the deprivation of liberty an arbitrary character.





## The report

The group Lawyers for Justice followed 79 arrests during the year of the state of emergency through its members of lawyers and human rights defenders in all areas of West Bank; Through human rights advocacy and legal representation before the relevant authorities, courts and prosecutors' offices, in addition to advocacy campaigns conducted for those subjected to arbitrary arrests on the grounds of freedom of opinion and expression, union action and political and party pluralism.



### Arrests related to the state of emergency:

The group Lawyers for Justice followed **23 arrests, 29.1% of all arrests. Their causes were related to the procedures of the state of emergency:**

The Group followed up on **two cases of detention** involving arbitrary or vague measures. In the first case, the journalist A.H. was detained at a security checkpoint at the entrance to Tulkarm, he was on his way from Nablus to the city of Anabta with his relatives, he told the group that he had been ill-treated and beaten at the checkpoint. It was later negotiated with him that in exchange for his release, he would waive his right and not press charges. In the second case, the Imam A.A. was arrested for holding Friday prayers in a schoolyard in Jenin governorate, despite the police officer allowing it in a public square, his arrest accompanied firing of tear gas canisters.

The Group **recorded 3 cases of arrests because on the ground of freedom of expression** about the measures taken by the government, or about the fairness of distribution of relief supplies and food parcels during the state of emergency.

In addition, **4 arrests were followed by the group** due to the arrestees' involvement in **food parcel collection and distribution campaigns**, given the economic situation caused by the Corona pandemic, and because of the arrestees' political affiliation.

The group legally **represented 12 detainees accused of violating the state of emergency because the "Tafah Al-Kil " movement** had called for a sit-in in Ramallah against corruption.

The group documented **the arrest of 3** for violating the nighttime lockdown, while the investigation and charges against them focused on their political affiliations.



## **Arrest for freedom of opinion and expression:**

The group documented **20 arrests on the ground of exercising their right to freedom of opinion and speech, this makes up to 25.3% of all arrests**, including **17 arrests on the ground of posting on social media**.

12 cases of arrests were documented on the ground of the publication of political and social opinions and criticism of corruption, and other 3 cases on the ground of criticism of regulations related to the state of emergency.

Arrests related to freedom of opinion and expression were accompanied to charges used repeatedly against activists and journalists to restrict publication and freedom of opinion and expression, as the Public Prosecution **charged 11 detainees with "defamation of authority" and 4 detainees with "inciting sectarian strife."**

**Cybercrime Decree-Law No (10) 2018 was used in 11 arrests**, specifically Article 45 of the law; which allows the importation of any Article from any other law.

It is worth noting that Article 19 (1) of the ICCPR guarantees that " Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference", and Article 19 (2) guarantees that "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this



right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds...”, article 19 (3) states that the exercise of these rights “may be subject to certain restrictions, but only such as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public order.” The Human Rights Committee on the Application of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights affirmed in its General Comment No. (34), that every restriction placed on the exercise of these rights must comply with the strict criteria of necessity and proportionality.



## Arrest on the ground of union activities:

The group followed **17 arrests** related to the right to freedom of association, which makes up to 21.5% of the arrests monitored during the state of emergency, these cases include **12 persons detained on the ground of activists support the “Tafah Al-Kil “ sit-in which demands reforms and fights against corruption**, in addition, **4 arrests were documented on the ground of accusations of distributing food parcels during the quarantine**, and one arrest case was documented on the ground of university students union activities.

### The “Tafah Al-Kil “ demonstration

The group followed up on the arrest of 12 people on the ground of calls by Palestinian movements and activists to hold a sit-in demanding a reform and fighting corruption, known as a “Tafah Al-Kil “ sit-in, while the number of detainees was greater than that.

Eleven of them were arrested on the supposed day of the sit-in, which was to be held at the Al-Manara square in the center of Ramallah on 7/19/2020, while one activist was arrested from his workplace the day after the sit-in.

The 11 detainees have stated in their testimonies to the group; that they were arrested while they were on their way to the location of the sit-in or standing alone near Al-Manara square where the peaceful assembly has not even started.

Furthermore, an activist was arrested from his workplace the next day, he stated in his testimony that he was not present at the sit-in the day before, due to his commitment to quarantine in light of his contact with someone infected with the Coronavirus, which contradicts one of the charges brought against the detainees. The prosecution presented two charges against the detainees, these charges



are “the participation in an illegal gathering” stated in Article (165.1) of the Penal Code No. (16) 1960, and “the violation of the measures and procedures taken to achieve the goals of the declaration of a state of emergency,” states in Article (1.3) of the Decree-Law No. (7) 2020 regarding the state of emergency.

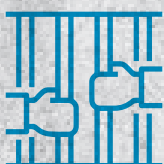
Two of the detainees stated in their testimony that they were at the scene coincidentally, and they were randomly arrested for being there while having nothing to do with the event or the activists who called for it.

While the prevention of peaceful assembly and arrests was based on the emergency law and the application of measures to limit the Coronavirus, 9 of the detainees reported that security personnel did not comply with health protocols fully, and sometimes partially.

Eight of them said that the process of transferring or detaining them witnessed overcrowding that violates health protocols, and one of them stated that he was arrested with the rest of the detainees despite being in quarantine by orders of the Ministry of Health, and he was placed with the rest of detainees before the results of the laboratory examination for Coronavirus were revealed.

## Distribution of food parcels

The group followed the security services’ investigation with 4 community activists, after they were arrested for activities related to collecting and/or distributing food parcels, in light of what the lockdown caused, as many people stopped working and could not provide for their families. While two of them were released within the first 24 hours of their detention, the other activists were referred to the Public Prosecution Office, which charged them with “collecting and receiving funds from illegal associations”, one of them was acquitted by the ruling of the court, while the Public Prosecution decided to save the file of the other detainee. However, the prosecution of the 4 activists was based on the ground of their political affiliations.



## Detention on the ground of political party pluralism:

The group followed 32 cases of detainees during the state of emergency, who were detained for political reasons. This violates the right to political and partisan pluralism. During the reporting period, 40.5% of all the arrests the group followed, had specific charges that kept being used repeatedly against political

activists and university students, while the actual investigation by the security services was based on political grounds.

During the interrogation session before the Public Prosecutor and the lawyer of the Lawyers for Justice Group, the detainee N.J. who had been charged with “collecting and receiving money from illegal associations” stated that: “This accusation was placed as a legal way out for my arrest. I am a political prisoner and I am being investigated about my participation in the welcoming of my friend who was released from jail, and that I have raised flags. I am being held responsible for this act... This was only social participation since the released prisoner is my friend and he was my prison mate. As for the illegal money, I definitely deny the accusation”.

The Public Prosecution office used **the charge of “possession of weapons” 19 times**, while the charge of **“collecting and receiving money from illegal associations” was used 6 times**. These are the two most frequently used charges in political arrests to extend the detention period, while the actual investigation is conducted in different ways. Other charges of political detainees such as “inciting sectarian strife” and “illegal gathering” were also used.

While **26 detainees mentioned** in their testimonies to the group Lawyers for Justice **that the investigation focused on political activities or political affiliations**, in addition to **9 who reported that the investigation was focused on the reasons for their arrest by the occupation**, **5 detainees confirmed that the investigation was about student activities in universities**, and **3 detainees confirmed that they were questioned about their participation in the welcoming activities of freed prisoners**, in addition to other topics, such as the investigation of a detained friend or relative, receiving prisoner dues, etc.



## Detention by the Governors' order

The group documented **6 cases of detention by orders of governors, at a rate of 7.6%** of the total arrests the group followed, and the common denominator among those arrests was the reason for the arrests, which was usually related to political affiliation or political differences, according to the testimonies of the detainees.

Detention under governors' custody is considered administrative detention without a judicial decision or permission, as the Palestinian Basic Law affirms in Article (11.2), which indicates that “No one may be arrested, searched, imprisoned,



or his freedom restricted in any way or prevented from moving, except by a judicial order per the provisions of the law." Furthermore, these detentions violate Articles (8, 10, and 11) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), and Articles (9/3) and (14/3) of the ICCPR, to which the State of Palestine has acceded.

In one of these cases, a detainee was transferred to the custody of the governor after the security apparatus refused to release him following the issuance of a judicial decision to release him, while the group filed a complaint and judicial appeals in the Supreme Court of Justice against the decisions of two arrests under the custody of the governors, one of them was released before the court issues a decision on his case, and the other was referred to the Public Prosecution and the Magistrate's Court, and an indictment was filed against him.



## Allegations of torture and illtreatment during arrest and/or detention:

**Thirty-three detainees, 41.7% of the cases the group followed raised allegations of torture or beating during the arrest and/or interrogation process, including verbal abuse, denial or procrastination in medical treatment, and/or pressure to push detainees to end their hunger strike.** This violates Article (13) of the Palestinian Basic and the the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), to which the state of Palestine has acceded.

**At least 5 detainees were beaten during the arrest process,** according to their testimony. The journalist A.H in his testimony says: "Within seconds, 5-10 soldiers threw me to the ground and they indescribably punched and kicked me with their legs, I did not count them exactly, then my head was injured, and the wounds required two medical stitches, I also lost my molar by a punch of a soldier, not to mention the blood that streamed on my face and what was left of my torn blouse."

While the activist, S.Z said in his testimony that he was beaten during the arrest in the company of his child, who burst into tears, S.Z asked the security to allow him to get his young child home, however, the security forces refused, and transferred him to the Preventive Security headquarters in Hebron along with his child before allowing him to get his child to the house, where the security left the child on the street near the house to return alone.



**While 16 detainees raised allegations of torture during the investigation, 20.2% of the cases the group followed.** The torture varies between hanging from the ceiling, hanging by what is called a cupboard or refrigerator, beating, slapping, spanking, and forcing detainees to take off clothes in the bitter cold. Some of these allegations were documented before the courts and prosecutors, the other cases were documented in the detainees' testimonies for the group, at the same time, the judicial authorities refused to implement at least two rulings of the court that ordered to send the detainees to the forensic office.

The student KH described what is known as the cupboard or refrigerator where he was hanged, he said that it's like a wardrobe, its door is closed while the detainee is inside, as for its height, he said that he can stand in it but its other dimensions are about 80 cm x 80 cm"

Meanwhile, K.A narrated in his testimony that he was beaten while being transported to the detention center with an electric stick on his feet, he was also insulted during his interrogation, his religion was insulted too, and the security officers asked him to repeat some sentences during the beating, where they told him, according to his testimony to say: "Abu Mazen is my master, and Majed Faraj is my master". He was also beaten and insulted during the eight-day interrogation period with fists on his head, as a result, his sense of hearing weakened, and he was left in a 1.5 x 1.5 meters cell and was forced to take off his shoes and socks and to stay in light clothes, and cold water was poured to cover the spot where he was standing, he requested a referral to a doctor, but the investigators refused.

**20 detainees mentioned in their testimony that they were insulted verbally, mistreated, and threatened. 6 detainees were pressured to end the hunger strike, and 5 detainees said they were prevented from receiving medical treatment or medicine, or there was procrastination in providing them with medical treatment.**



## Integrity of legal procedures

The group Lawyers for Justice monitored the legal procedures of the judicial enforcement agencies and the Public Prosecution office and their compliance with the Palestinian Criminal Procedure Law.

41 detainees (51.9% of all cases) stated in their testimonies to the group that the judicial authorities did not present arrest warrants against them, this violates

Article (30) of the law, which lists only 3 cases in which a suspect may be arrested without presenting an arrest warrant:

1. In case of flagrante delicto in a felony or misdemeanor, which entails imprisonment for a period exceeds six months. 2. If the person opposes judicial officer while performing his job, or if the person being arrested for a legitimate purpose fled or tried to flee from the location of arrest. 3. If a person committed a crime or was accused of committing a crime, and refused to give his name or address, or if he did not have a known place of residence in Palestine."

In addition, **18 persons were arrested and released without being presented to the judicial authority**, in violation of Article (107.1) of the Palestinian Criminal Procedures Law; which indicates that the detainee must be handed over to the Public Prosecution Office for investigation within 24 hours.

According to the testimonies of the detainees, the group documented **17 cases of arrest, 21.5% of the total number of detainees, that were followed by a summons from the judicial control agencies, which do not have the jurisdiction to send oral or written summons** without a warrant of arrest from the Public Prosecution, a case was documented in which the presentation of the arrested person to the Public Prosecution Office was delayed for more than 48 hours after his arrest.

As for the legal procedures after the arrest, in **5 cases, 6.3% of the total number of detainees, the security services were late in implementing court ruling to release the detainees**, in this context, detainee KH says in his testimony: "The General Intelligence Service refused to comply with the court's ruling immediately, while one of the interrogators told him that his release would be according to the assessment of the security apparatus and not according to the court's ruling, he also confirmed that the investigator told him that "he will not be released on the same day and the executive authority is higher than the judiciary".

These cases indicate that arrest is used as a punishment in many cases, especially in the cases of detainees who were acquitted of the charges, and the cases where the Public Prosecution decided to save or keep their investigative files without court referral. The **courts decided to acquit 6, 7.6% of the detainees, and the Public Prosecution decided to preserve 12 investigation files, 15.1% of the arrests**, due to insufficient evidence or lack of evidence, which indicates the lack of seriousness of the investigations that led to their arrest. **3 files remained without**



**referral to the court and without preservation**, 3.8% of the total of arrests. 22 cases, 27.8% of the total, are still in trial, as the court postponed a number of them, and in 19 cases, the hearing was delayed due to the absence of witnesses in the Public Prosecution Office.

**Courts' rulings of guilty were limited to only 3 detainees, 3.8% out of all the arbitrary detention cases** the group followed during the state of emergency, one of the cases was related to freedom of expression on social media platforms, the ruling came out in the absence of a defense lawyer. The other two cases were related political files; the detainees were sentenced quickly without due process, and with the absence of the defense lawyers due to the strike of the lawyers' Bar Association.



## Security compliance to safety measures related to Coronavirus

Although the reason for declaring a state of emergency is to combat the spread of the Coronavirus, some detention cases were justified by the state of emergency, especially those that were related to the charges of violating it, however, **at least 43 detainees** confirmed in their testimonies to "Lawyers for Justice" that there was **full or partial noncompliance with the health safety measure** during the arrest, investigation, or detention.

**40 detainees, 50.6% of the total**, reported that **security personnel or investigators did not fully or partially comply with wearing masks** and health protocols during the stages of arrest and/or investigation. **10 detainees, 12.6%** of the total reported being transferred and/or detained in overcrowded vehicles or detention rooms.





## Detention in Israel

The group observed that the occupation forces arrested 6 of the detainees after they were released from Palestinian detention centers, and two of them stated after their release from the occupation prisons, that the investigation of the occupation was similar to the cases for which they were arrested by the Palestinian security services.

Journalist A.Z stated in his testimony to “Lawyers for Justice” that the investigation with the occupation forces was related to facts that were being investigated by the Palestinian Security Agencies, while the activist A.N was tried at Israeli courts for charges of “providing aid and belonging to a prohibited organization,” and he was interrogated by the security services regarding the distribution of parcels during the pandemic.



## Incitement against the group Lawyers for Justice

For years, the group has been subjected to incitements, as the security agencies incite the detainees against the group and its lawyers, during the year of the emergency, **4 cases of incitement** were detected, as follows:

1. Detainee M.G reported that the legal advisor of the General Intelligence Service had incited him against lawyer Muhannad Karaja, where he told him that the appointment of the aforementioned lawyer is delaying his release.
2. Detainee N.A reported that part of his interrogation was about his relationship with the group “Lawyers for Justice” and its funding sources; he was summoned again later, and the interrogation was focused on the group.
3. Detainee M.Z stated that the incitement against the group was represented by the interrogator’s statement: “ If you had not entrusted them, your detention would not have been extended to fifteen days in court. “

4. Detainee A.A stated in his testimony that after requesting to contact lawyer Muhannad Karaja, the interrogator refused that and told him: " You're ruining yourself"

5. Detainees from the "Tafah Al-Kil " demonstration case have confirmed to Lawyers for Justice that there is incitement against the group by the Police director, prison director, and police officers during their arrest in Al – Baloue prison.







## Cases were followed by the group during the declaration of the state of emergency:

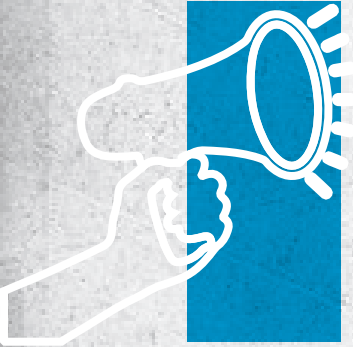
During the preparation of this report, the group divided the cases that were followed by its lawyers into four categories, as follows:

1. Arrest for freedom of opinion and expression.
2. Arrest for unions related work.
3. Arrest for political and party pluralism.
4. Arrest under Governor's custody.

**The details of the cases are as follows:**



## **First: - Arrest for freedom of opinion and expression**



### **1. Z. Kh:**

The General Intelligence Service arrested Z. Kh in Tulkarm on 14 April 2020, later on; the Public Prosecution investigated him on the charge of “insulting the authority”, listed under Article (191) of the Penal Code No. (16) 1960, while most of his interrogations focused on a conversation with news page on Facebook, and what the official authorities considered “an insult to the president and the Palestinian Authority”.

Later, Tulkarm Magistrate’s Court extended his detention for 15 days, while the Public Prosecution referred his case to the court, as the investigation was closed, and an indictment was presented against him, since then, the court sessions have continued.



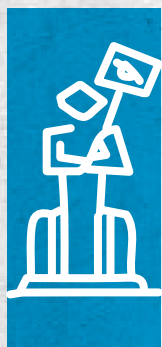
### **2. M. S:**

Preventive Security forces in Tulkarm arrested M.S On 15 April 2020; the Public Prosecution interrogated him for “defamation against the authority”, in violation of Article (45) of the Decree-Law No. (10) on cybercrimes, and as evidenced by Article (191) of the Penal Code No. (16) 1960, the indictment against him stated that “he was arrested by the Preventive Security Service in Tulkarm, then he was referred for investigation for “spreading chaos, destabilization, and incitement against the Palestinian Authority and its security apparatus through his Facebook account”, his investigation focused on a Facebook post in which he criticized the performance of the Palestinian Authority institutions during the lockdown and what he considered as “an unfair distribution of food parcels”.

It is noteworthy that the Public Prosecutor had included the charge of “possession of a weapon” in order to extend his detention. Later, the accusation against him was amended to “defaming the authority”, noting that the Public Prosecution had authorized the Preventive Security Agency to investigate him on April 19, 2020, his detention was extended for 48 hours, while the Tulkarm Magistrate’s Court extended his detention on 21 April 2020 for seven days, he was later released on a cash bail of 200 dinars to be deposited in the court’s box.

On 11 June 2020; the file was transferred to the court after the closing of the investigation, the list of indictment was submitted against him, while the session was postponed for the purpose of informing the prosecution witnesses, the court sessions proceeded and were postponed several times to inform the prosecution witnesses, finally, he was declared innocent of the charges against him for lack of evidences.

His family had told the group Lawyers for Justice that the security forces, upon arresting him, did not comply with the health procedures and protocols established following the declaration of the state of emergency.



### **3. A. Kh:**

The Preventive Security Agency in Ramallah arrested A.Kh On 18 April 2020; he was presented to the Public Prosecution on April 20, 2020, after 48 hours he was interrogated on the charge of “causing sectarian strife by using the electronic network” according to the text of Article (45) of the Decree of Cybercrime Law 2018, and Article (150) of the Penal Code No. (16) 1960, on basis of a comment he made on a post on the Facebook page of the Governor of Ramallah and Al-Bireh.

Later, his detention at the Ramallah Magistrate’s Court was extended for 15 days, while he was released on April 30, 2020, on a personal bail of 2000 dinars, his case was not referred to the competent court and no decision was issued to save it until the date of publication of the report.





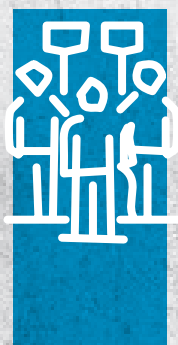
#### **4. H. Kh, media student at Birzeit University:**

The Preventive Security Service in Tulkarm arrested H. Kh, a media student at Birzeit University, on 30 April 2020 after being summoned for an interview at the aforementioned agency.

He was later referred to the Public Prosecution, which investigated him on the charge of “inciting racial strife”. His investigation file stated that he was accused of inciting against the Palestinian Authority in front of other citizens, while he was interrogated about his contact with local media websites and sending them news and media materials, and about his union and student activity in the university.

Later, Tulkarm Magistrate Court extended his detention for 7 days, he was released on 7 July 2020 with a personal guarantee of one 1000 Jordanian Dinars, before his file was referred to the court and an indictment was filed against him.

On 9/6/2020, the court acquitted him on the grounds of the absence of sufficient evidence about committing any act or offense related to “inciting racial strife”, the court also considered his activity with media websites and sending news to them as a justification for being a media student, affirming that it is not permissible to prosecute him for that.



#### **5. J.J, a union activist in a campaign against the Palestinian telecommunications companies, named “It’s enough”:**

The Police General Investigation Department in Ramallah has arrested a union activist in the campaign, “It is enough, telecommunications companies”, on May 31, 2020, J.J was referred to the Public Prosecution Office, which charged him with “transmitting fabricated and insulting news over the phone”, in violation of Article (91), Paragraph (A) of the Wireless Communications Law No. (3) 1996, his interrogation focused on a comment he made on

the Facebook page of the campaign “It’s enough telecom companies”, in his comment, J.J criticized “corruption and high prices” in the telecommunications sector and called for reform.

On 1.6.2020, the Public Prosecution referred J.J’s case to the competent court, where he was charged with the aforementioned accusation. At the same session, he admitted to writing the comments, he informed the court that he intended to move the telecommunications sector, in light of “the high prices”, while the Public Prosecution office concluded its statement in the light of his admission of the publications. The defense, represented by the group Lawyers for Justice, demanded that he be declared innocent, as there is no crime to be prosecuted, however, the court decided to convict him and sentence him to three months of imprisonment, on the same day the sentence was replaced with a fine.

Subsequently, the defense team appealed the court’s ruling, upon which the Ramallah Court of First Instance in its appeals capacity decides to cancel it and return the file to the Magistrate’s Court which re-issued its ruling to declare his innocence of the charge, on 8.12.2020, since the act attributed to him does not constitute a crime. Also, in its decision, the court affirmed the importance of respecting freedom of opinion and expression enshrined in the Palestinian Basic Law.

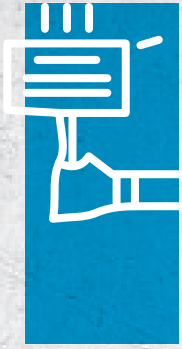


## **6. F.Y, community activist:**

A joint security force arrested the community activist F. Y before he was transferred to the Preventive Security Service in Tulkarm on 2.6.2020, without showing an arrest warrant from the competent authorities, this was due to his participation in a sit-in due to the power outage in Tulkarm, and on his participation in the Great Dawn campaign. During his arrest, the security forces confiscated books from his home.

On 4.6.2020, he was released without being brought before any competent judicial authority, in violation of Article (107/1) of the Criminal Procedure Law; which states that the detainee must be handed over to the Public Prosecution Office for investigation within 24 hours of his arrest.





## **7. S. S, a journalist and community activist:**

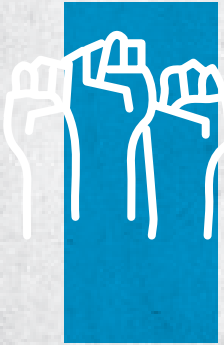
The Preventive Security in Tulkarm arrested the journalist and community activist S. S on 9.6.2020 and handed him over to the General Investigation, where the Public Prosecutor's Office investigated him on charges of "defaming the authority", and "insulting by using the electronic network or by any other technology", and "publishing news, pictures, or audio or visual recordings, whether directly or recorded on electronic networks that relate to unlawful interference with privacy and family life of individuals, even if it is correct", and "threatening or blackmailing a person in order to induce him to do or refrain from doing an act even if this act was legitimate, using the electronic network or any means of information technology."

It is noteworthy that most of the interrogation with the aforementioned detainee revolved around a video he recorded and published, in which he declares standing in solidarity with the farmers of the Jordan Valley, and invites people to purchase their products, especially in light of the Corona pandemic. He was interrogated about a Facebook page that published his recorded video in a livestream, and his relationship with that page, which he denied any relationship with it, or the livestream broadcasted on that page since the video was recorded.

The Magistrate's Court in Tulkarm extended his detention on 11 June 2020 for fifteen days, he got another extension on 25.6.2020 for a period of seven days, and on 1.7.2020, the court refused, after reviewing the investigation file, the Public Prosecution's request to extend his detention again. He was released on bail of 5,000 Jordanian dinars; his file has not been referred to court, nor has it been filed, and is still under investigation.

S.S had been subjected to several previous arrests by the security services.





## **8. I. A, a community Activist:**

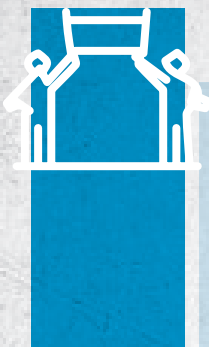
The General Intelligence Service in Nablus arrested the community activist

I.A on 10 June 2020, while he was in a taxi leaving the Nablus First Instance Court building, following his appearance before the Court of Appeal, in another case dating back to 2018 on the basis of “defaming the authority”.

The aforementioned detainee was taken to the presiding officers of the court, and he was re-presented to the Public Prosecution Office for investigation once again on the charge of “defaming the authority” in violation of Article (45) of the Decree-Law on Cyber-crime 2018, and Article (191) of the Penal Code No. (16) 1960. During his interrogation, he was confronted with a number of Facebook posts, related to political opinions, in addition to other comments on Facebook posts. The prosecution considered the accusations of the aforementioned detainee are connected to “condemning the president.”

On 15.6.2020 the Nablus Magistrate's Court extended his detention for 15 days, to enable the Public Prosecution to interrogate him. On June 22, 2020, he was released upon a court ruling, on a personal bail of three thousand dinars, and On the same day, the Public Prosecution closed the investigation with him and referred his case to the competent court, and charged him with an indictment of “defamation against the authority”. The trial sessions in the aforementioned case were postponed more than once because of the absence of the prosecution witness, who was fined 15 Jordanian dinars for not attending.

It is reported that A.A. has been on trial since 2018 in connection with another case, also related to “Defamation against the authority”; the case is still pending before the court until the date of preparing this report.



## 9. Q.B:

About 20 masked members of the Preventive Security Service in Tulkarm arrested Q.B from inside his shop on 16 June 2020 without showing an arrest warrant; he was released 24 hours later, without being presented to the competent judicial authorities.

While the investigation with the aforementioned detainee focused on his relationship with some social media pages on Facebook, he confirmed in his testimony to Lawyers for Justice; that the Preventive Security personnel and the investigators were not committed to the preventive and precautionary measures announced under the state of emergency.



## 10. F.S, an anti-corruption activist:

The Police General Investigation Agency arrested the anti-corruption activist F.S from his home in Dura, Hebron on 7.7.2020. F.S was transferred to the Public Prosecution Office the day after his arrest, and was interrogated on the charge of “insulting the authority” in violation of Article (45) of the Decree-Law No. (10) 2018 on cybercrimes, and Article (191) of the Penal Code No. (16) 1960. His detention was extended for 24 hours, while the interrogation of the aforementioned detainee was based on his criticism of corruption.

On 9.7.2020, he was summoned before the Dura Magistrate's Court, which extended his detention for five days before the Public Prosecution transferred his case to the competent court on July 13, 2020. During the same session, an indictment was filed against him, then he was rereleased on a personal bail of 100 Jordanian dinars, since that date, the court sessions have been postponed six times because of the absence of Public Prosecution witnesses.





## **11. Y. Kh, community activist:**

The Preventive Security Service in Nablus arrested the community activist Y.Kh on 11 July 2020, after being called for an interview and was detained without showing an arrest warrant from the competent authorities.

He was released the next day without being brought before any judicial authority, the interrogation was related to his activity on social platforms including Facebook, and his expression of opinion.

He confirmed, during his testimony to Lawyers for Justice, that security personnel did not adhere to health protocols during his interrogation or when he was transferred to the medical examination at a medical center.



## **12. M.M, community activist:**

The General Intelligence Service in Bethlehem arrested the community activist M.M on 12 July 2020, after being summoned for investigation under an unofficial warrant that does not bear any header or seal for the aforementioned agency.

He was interrogated about his solidarity with the then-detained activist F.S about posting a video on Facebook denouncing the arrest, he was released the next day without being brought before any judicial authority.





### 13. A.R:

an activist:

The General Intelligence Service arrested the activist A.R. from his workplace in Ramallah on July 21, 2020, he was transferred to the General Investigation Agency of the police; the investigation focused on his affiliation with the trade union movement, the “united Palestinian movement”.

On 22 July 2020, the Public Prosecution investigated him on the charge of “defamation against the authority”, in violation of Article (45) of the Decree-Law No. (10) 2018 regarding cybercrime, and Article (191) of the Penal Code No. (16) 1960, on the grounds alleged writing of posts on Facebook.

The Public Prosecution referred the case of the aforementioned activist to the Ramallah Magistrate’s Court on July 23, 2020, with a list of indictment. Since that date, the court sessions followed; which were postponed several times to summon witnesses of the Public Prosecution Office, while he was released on 28 July 2020 on personal bail.

In his testimony to Lawyers for Justice, he confirmed that security personnel and investigators did not abide by the protocols of the Ministry of Health.



### 14. S.Z:

The first arrest:

The Preventive Security Agency arrested the activist S.Z. on July 21, 2020, while he was leaving a supermarket in Hebron with his three and a half year old child, meanwhile, the security forces beat him during his arrest, accompanied by his child, who burst into tears.

The aforementioned activist asked the security services to allow

him to drive his young child to the house, but the security forces refused to do so. And was transferred to the Preventive Security headquarters in Hebron, later, and after the insistence of the aforementioned activist, he was allowed to send his child to his area of residence; the child was removed from the security vehicle and left alone in the main street, to return to his home with the help of neighbors, while the activist confirmed that his child suffered psychological and nervous shock as a result of this behavior.

The investigation with the activist S.Z focused on his sharing of a post written by another activist on his personal Facebook page, later, he was transferred to the Joint Security Committee and then to the General Investigation Department, before he was released without being presented to any judicial authority.

In his testimony to Lawyers for Justice, he confirmed that security personnel and investigators did not abide by the protocols of the Ministry of Health.



## **The second arrest:**

A joint security force arrested the activist S.Z. from his home in Hebron on 12/14/2020, without presenting an arrest warrant from the competent authorities, he was later referred to the Police General Investigation Agency, which interrogated him over a video attributed to him, and was accused of inciting people to go out on the streets, and another video criticizing the president.

On 15.12.2020, he was presented to the Public Prosecution, which investigated him about "participating in an illegal gathering", in reference to the meeting of the Al-Jabari family in the city of Hebron. His detention was extended for 24 hours, although he did not participate in the aforementioned meeting.

On 16.12.2020, the Public Prosecution transferred his file to the competent court, after the investigation was closed, he was charged with an indictment containing "violation of the state of emergency measures" and "illegal gathering", while the competent court decided to release him on the same day on a personal bail of 500 dinars, and the trial sessions in the aforementioned case



kept taking place since its date, because of the absence of witnesses.

The General Investigation Authority refused to precede the court's release order, but he was transferred to the General Intelligence Service in the city of Hebron, and then to the General Intelligence headquarters in Jericho, and was placed in a cell without any justification, despite the issuance of a decision to release him, which was implemented later on 12/17/2020.

The activist S.Z rose, in his testimony to "Lawyers for Justice" allegations of ill-treatment and insult, he informed the group that he was forced to stand for 7 hours without being allowed to sit, he also described the conditions of his detention at the intelligence service as "poor", as he was reported to have been held in open cold, dirty warehouses.



## **15. M.B:**

a university student:

The Preventive Security Agency in Tulkarm arrested the university student and community activist M .B on 28 July 2020, after he was summoned for interrogation at the agency's headquarters without taking into account the death of his grandfather on the day of his arrest, which also coincided with the Eid Al-Adha holiday.

The Public Prosecution office investigated activist M. B on the charges of "insulting power" and "inciting racial strife" in violation of Articles (191) and (150) of the Penal Code in force No. (16) 1960, while the Tulkarm Magistrate's Court extended his detention for ten days.

The arrest of the aforementioned activist came on basis of publishing a video on social media expressing his solidarity with the activists of the public movements, who were arrested on their way to participate in the "Tafah Al-Kil " demonstration, which condemns corruption, in downtown Ramallah on July 19, 2020. He also criticized through the video the government's actions and policies during the pandemic.



On 4 August 2020, the Public Prosecution referred his investigation file to the court and charged him with an indictment, in the same session, Tulkarm Magistrate's Court sentenced him to 3 months imprisonment, the imprisonment was replaced by a fine, without a lawyer present to defend him.



## 16. A. Z

a Journalist and an activist:

Members of the Preventive Security Agency in civilian clothes arrested the activist and journalist A. Z in Nablus on August 17, 2020, after leaving his workplace at ten in the evening without showing any arrest warrant. He was referred to the Public Prosecution Office the next day, which investigated him on the charge of "insulting the authority", in violation of Article (150) of the Penal Code No. (16) 1960.

The investigation with the activist A.Z focused on facts directly related to his work and his media activities, and about satirical television programs he presented in 2016.

Later, his detention was extended by a decision of the Nablus Magistrate's Court for a different period, before he was released on September 21, 2020, on bail of 5,000 Jordanian dinars.

The prosecution referred his investigation file to the Magistrate's Court and recited the indictment against him. Among the charges against him: "Publishing information that stirs up racist strife through the electronic network or any means of information technology," In addition to the charge of "transmitting various news by any means of communication in order to cause panic", and the charge of "insulting the authority"; all charges mentioned in the indictment were based on Decision Law No. (10) 2018 regarding cybercrime.

While the trial sessions continued until October 27, 2020, before he was arrested by the Israeli occupation forces. The sessions were postponed more than once before his arrest in order to hear the prosecution witness, after delaying four sessions, the prosecution's

witnesses came to present their testimony, while the prosecution did not conclude its statement.

The activist confirmed that no arrest warrant was presented to him, he also stated in his testimony to Lawyers for Justice that "the conditions of detention were poor in terms of the place prepared for the arrest, not to mention the ill treatment which he referred to as cruel in light of his exposure to a health setback during arrest. He also stated that the security personnel did not adhere to health and safety controls by the protocols of the Ministry of Health approved under the state of emergency upon his arrest and during his interrogation, in addition to refusing to act on the recommendation of the National Hospital in Nablus with his health deteriorating, especially his need to stay in the hospital under medical supervision.

After his arrest, he was taken to his home which was searched without showing a search warrant; his computer and storage disks were confiscated. While he confirmed that his personal computer was broken upon receipt, and all its contents had been erased which is related to his media and engineering work since 2012, one of the storage disks was damaged, and the mobile phone he received contained piracy programs, pictures of his WhatsApp and Messenger conversations were sent to a person called "Abu Ahmed" from the Preventive Security Service, as well as changing the passwords for his social media accounts. He also stated in his testimony that:

"One of the times, I knocked at the door because I feel short of breath; an officer came to tell me: "Here we go! You started with your games! You think that we will let you go? You think you are a man out there, then show us your manhood here!"

After a while, I knocked on the door again and when the security officer came, I was unconscious on the floor, I was taken to the officer's room, who said: "We want to get you out of here to Al-Junaid prison, and there they will take good care of you".

"While I was in the officer's room, another officer came and asked what was wrong with me, the officer replied: "He is pampering on us", so I told him: "I told you that I need a doctor", he ordered me to face the wall of the room and raise my hand, then they transferred me to the military medical services, which decided that I



needed a hospital. When I was transferred to the National Hospital, tests showed that I was suffering from acute bronchitis; I was given a medical injection but the officer refused the doctor's recommendation to keep me under surveillance for 24 hours. "

The defense was prevented from visiting him while he was detained by the Preventive Security Service, except for one visit three days before his release.

The occupation authorities released him on November 24, 2020, after spending nearly a month in Israeli prisons, asserting in his testimony that the investigation he was subjected to by the occupation forces was related to facts that he was being investigated by the Preventive Security Service.



## **17. F.B:**

A student at Birzeit University:

The Preventive Security Agency arrested the student at Birzeit University F. A on 6.9.2020 from inside his home in Jenin, and was transferred to the Public Prosecution Office the day after his arrest, and his detention was extended for 48 hours; while the prosecution investigated him on charges of "collecting and receiving money for an illegal association." in addition to the charge of "insulting the authority." contrary to the text of Article (45) of the Decree-Law No. (10) Of 2018 regarding cybercrime, as evidenced by Article (191) of the Penal Code No. (16) Of the year 1960, due to some posts on his Face book page in which he criticizes the authority and accuses its leaders of corruption, according to the prosecution, the investigation file also stated that he "belongs to illegal organizations within the university," referring to the student blocs.

On 9 September 2020, the Public Prosecution referred his file to the Jenin Peace Court and charged him with an indictment, while the court decided to release him on a notary bail of four thousand Jordanian dinars, and since its date, the court sessions continued to summon the prosecution witnesses.



He raised allegations of torture, bad-treatment, and insults; he confirmed that he was beaten four times by the security forces and the investigation officers of the Preventive Security Service, and it was stated in the investigation report of the Public Prosecution when he was questioned that “after examining the aforementioned body, a scratch on his head was found where he reported that it was a result of being beaten by members of the security services,” While he was summoned more than once after his release to meet with the security apparatus.

## 18. M.A:

Political and community activist, pharmacist:

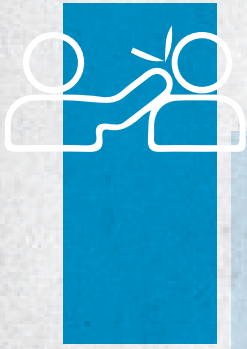
Members of the Preventive Security Agency in civilian clothes arrested the political and community activist M.A in the city of Dura in the Hebron governorate on October 18, 2020, without showing any arrest warrant from the competent authorities, after he refused to respond to a summons from the Preventive Security Agency for an interview and after posting this refusal on his Face book page.

M.A. confirmed that he was summoned three times before his arrest, he was held for more than ten hours at each interview, during this period, his posts on Face book are investigated.

The aforementioned activist was released the day after his detention, without being brought before any judicial authority, among the things that he was interrogated about, his refusal to comply with the last summons directed at him, and posting the refusal on Face book, moreover he was warned of the need to respond in case he was summoned later.

Activist M.A. confirmed in his testimony to “Lawyers for Justice” that the security personnel who arrested him were not bound by the protocols of the Ministry of Health established under the declared state of emergency, while he was handed a personal mask, he also confirmed the commitment of security personnel inside the headquarters to wear masks.





## 19. K.A:

A freed prisoner:

The General Intelligence Service in Nablus arrested the freed prisoner Kh. A on 16 December 2020, after security forces stormed his house and searched it without showing a search warrant from the competent authorities, on 17.12.2020, he was brought before the Public Prosecution, which investigated him for “defamation against the public authority.” contrary to Cybercrime Law No. (10) Of 2018, on basis of a post attributed to him criticizing Palestinian political figures.

On the same day, he was brought before the Magistrates Court, which decided to extend his detention for 7 days, and then he was released on December 27, 2020.

The General Intelligence Service refused to release him, in compliance with the court’s decision at the time, while the aforementioned agency informed him that his release would be according to what the agency decided, not the court. He stated in his testimony before “Lawyers for Justice” The investigator told him that “he will not be released on the same day in order to let him know that the executive authority is higher than the judiciary.”

He raised allegations of torture and bad-treatment such as being beaten while being transferred to the detention center, beaten with an electric stick on his feet, he was insulted during the interrogation, as well as insulting his religious feelings, and the security personnel also asked him to repeat some sentences during the beating where they used to tell him according to his testimony:” - Say that Abu- Mazen is my master, and Majed Faraj is my master”

He also reported being beaten and insulted during the eight-day investigation period, where he was hit with fists on the head, and as a result, his sense of hearing weakened, and he was detained in a 1.5m \* 1.5m- cell, was forced to take off his shoes and socks, and to stay in light clothes, and putting cold water where he was standing, moreover, he requested a referral to a doctor, but the investigators refused.

He reported to the group that security personnel gave him a mask during his arrest, while the preventive measures were not observed inside the detention center.



## Secondly: Detention for freedom of association:



### 1. I.N:

A union and community activist and a freed prisoner:

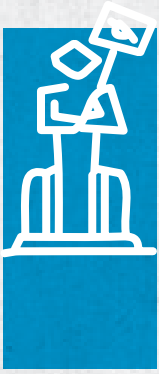
The Preventive Security Service in Tulkarm arrested the community activist and freed prisoner I. N on 14 April 2020 and was referred to the Public Prosecution, which investigated him on the charge of “collecting and receiving money from illegal associations.” The record of inferences stated in the details of the accusation that it was related to collecting donations from merchants and citizens.

He told the group that the arrest and the investigation with him were about assistance for poor and needy families in light of the Corona pandemic and collecting funds to distribute food parcels among them.

Subsequently, the Magistrate's Court decided to extend his detention for 7 days, and on April 21, 2020, the court decided to extend his detention for an additional three days in order to bring the investigation file.

On 23 April 2020, the Magistrate's Court decided to announce his innocence, after referring the file to the court and filing an indictment against him.

In June 2020, the occupation forces arrested him, and he was sentenced to six months in prison and a fine of three thousand shekels, on charges of providing aid and belonging to a banned organization, then he was released in November 2020.



## 2. F.M:

The Preventive Security Agency in Yatta arrested F.M on 28 April 2020; the Public Prosecution investigated him about “the charge of collecting and receiving money from illegal associations.” while the investigation with him revolved around the distribution of food parcels to poor families, during the period of closure of the city, due to the spread of the Corona epidemic.

The Public Prosecution extended his detention for 24 hours, and later the Yatta Magistrate’s Court decided to extend his detention for five days, and he was released on 5 April 2020 on bail, while the Public Prosecution decided to save the file due to insufficient evidences.



## 3. A.D:

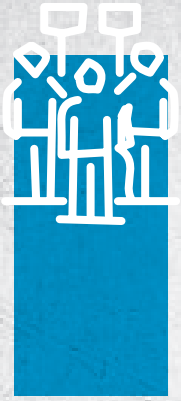
Distribution of food parcels:

Preventive Security forces in Tulkarm arrested A.D on 10.5.2020 after being summoned illegally to meet the agency. And he was detained without presenting an arrest warrant from the competent authorities, while he was released the next day without being presented to any judicial authority.

He confirmed in his testimony to “Lawyers for Justice” The investigation with him centered on his accusation of distributing food parcels to the needy, denying that, indicating that this is the third arrest by the security services.

He also confirmed that the investigators did not abide by the health and safety conditions stated in the protocols of the Ministry of Health under the state of emergency during his investigation.





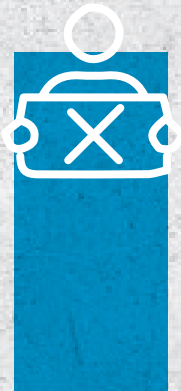
#### 4. A.A:

A university student:

The General Intelligence Service in Ramallah arrested the university student and legal activist A.A on May 16, 2020, while he was outside at night with his colleagues; he was released the next day without being brought before any judicial authority.

He said in his testimony to "Lawyers for Justice." That he was arrested while returning with colleagues from an iftar during the blessed month of Ramadan, in light of the closure imposed due to the Corona virus, but the investigation with him focused on distributing food parcels to the needy and his political affiliation, in addition to interrogating him about his brothers, who are detained by the occupation authorities.

He raised allegations of torture and bad-treatment in the form of beatings, hanging from the ceiling, and beating with a whip, and intentionally insults him, he also reported that he was arrested more than six times by the security services in the past.



#### 5. O.K:

A Union activist:

The General Intelligence Service in Ramallah arrested the union activist O. Kh while he was on Rukab Street in the center of Ramallah on July 19, 2020 without showing any arrest warrant, on the same day; he was handed over to the Police General Investigation Service in Ramallah on basis of his attempt to participate in a sit-in organized by the activists of the "Tafah Al-Kil " movement to demand reforms and fight corruption.

While the detainee confirmed in his testimony to the "Lawyers for Justice" group "that his arrest took place while he was standing alone and not in any gathering, he was also committed to wearing gloves and a mask in accordance with the protocols of the Ministry of Health declared under the state of emergency. He added that the General Investigation Department had investigated him about the reason for his presence at the Manara roundabout, and

whether he was following any movement, violation of the emergency law, and illegal gathering.

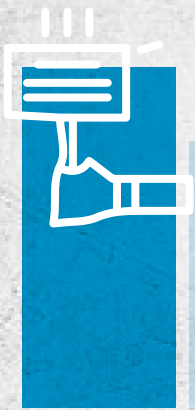
The Public Prosecution investigated him on 20 July 2020 regarding the charge of “participating in an illegal gathering.” contrary to Article (165.1) of the Penal Code No. (16) Of 1960 in reference to the demonstration called by activists to demand reforms and fight corruption, he was also interrogated about the charge of “violating the measures taken to achieve the goals of declaring the state of emergency,” contrary to Article (1.3) of the 2020 Law by Decree regarding the state of emergency, and decided to extend his detention for 48 hours.

On 22 July 2020, the Ramallah Magistrate's Court decided to extend his detention for fifteen days, on 28 July 2020, the Public Prosecution closed the investigation and transferred its file to the competent court, then the Magistrate's Court decided to release him in exchange for a personal guarantee, while the trial sessions continued since its date, and was postponed several times for the purpose of informing the prosecution witnesses.

The aforementioned detainee stated to “Lawyers for Justice” that security forces did not abide by the health protocols declared under the state of emergency during his arrest or interrogation.

He went on hunger strike with other detainees against the same reasons; while in the last four days of his arrest he refused to go to the medical services, he confirmed that in the first three days of his strike, the security forces refused to provide him with a pain reliever, and smoke was withdrawn from him in the last four days of the strike.





## 6. M.Q:

The Police General Investigation Department in Ramallah arrested M.Q on 19 July 2020, without showing any arrest warrant, while he was passing by after the security services isolated the Al-Manara roundabout in the city center in order to prevent the “Tafah Al-Kil” movement which was demanded by activists to fight corruption, while he confirmed in his testimony to “Lawyers for Justice” that his arrest was random, indicating that it was not related to the aforementioned sit-in.

The police investigated him about his accusation of not adhering to health precautions, and his relationship with the “Tafah Al-Kil” movement, and was presented to the Public Prosecution on July 20, 2020 and requested to be given 24 hours to be able to hire a lawyer, he was presented to the Public Prosecution again on July 21, 2020 and was interrogated about the charge of “participating in an illegal gathering.” contrary to Article (165.1) of the Penal Code No. (16) Of 1960, in reference to the demonstration called by activists to demand reforms and fight corruption, he was also investigated for “violating the measures and procedures taken to achieve the goals of declaring a state of emergency, in contravention of Article (1.3) of the 2020 Law by Decree regarding the state of emergency, he was released by the Public Prosecution office on the same day in exchange for a personal bail of 500 Jordanian dinars.

He also reported that the security forces did not adhere to health and preventive measures during the arrest and investigation phase, and he is tried before the Magistrate’s Court after his file has been transferred by the Public Prosecution to the aforementioned court, and the trial sessions continue since its date, because the Public Prosecution’s witnesses are not present.



## 7. M.Q:

Union activist:

Members of the Preventive Security Agency in Ramallah arrested the union activist M.Q while he was on Rukab Street in the center of Ramallah on July 19, 2020, without showing any arrest warrant, on the same day, he was handed over to the General Investigation Service of the police in Ramallah due to his attempt to participate in a sit-in called by activists of the "Tafah Al-Kil " movement to demand reforms and fight corruption.

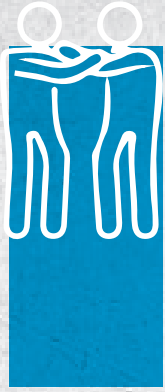
He stated in his testimony to "Lawyers for Justice" that he was accompanied by his 12-year-old child while they were in a restaurant after the sit-in was canceled and broke up by the security forces, where he was followed up and arrested from inside the restaurant.

As for inside the detention center he reported that 12 people were arrested in an area not exceeding 2.5 meters \* 3 meters, he also raised allegations of bad-treatment which includes screaming at the detainees in the detention and court, while he announced his hunger strike, and being pressured to stop the strike; cigarettes were confiscated from him as part of that.

In turn, the Public Prosecutor's Office investigated him on 20 July 2020 regarding the charge of "participating in an illegal gathering, contrary to Article (165.1) of the Penal Code No. (16) Of 1960; in reference to the demonstration called by activists to demand reforms and fight corruption, he was also investigated for "violating the measures taken to achieve the goals of declaring a state of emergency." contrary to Article (1.3) of the Law of 2020 regarding the state of emergency, and it was decided to extend his detention for 48 hours.

On 22 July 2020, the Ramallah Magistrate's Court decided to extend his detention for fifteen day, and on 28 July 2020, the Public Prosecution closed the investigation and transferred his file to the competent court, the Magistrate's Court decided to release him against a personal guarantee, while the trial sessions have continued since its date, and it has been postponed several times because the witnesses of the Public Prosecution Office are not present.





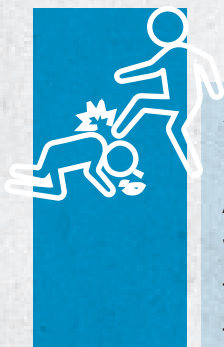
## 8. A.D:

Union activist:

Civil-dressed security personnel arrested the union activist A. D on 19 July 2020, while he was on Rukab Street, in the center of Ramallah; because of his participation in the "Tafah Al-Kil " demonstration, which activists called to demand reforms and fight corruption without showing an arrest warrant, he was handed over to the General Investigation Service in the police in Ramallah on the same day, due to attempt to participate in the sit-in.

The Public Prosecution investigated the aforementioned detainee on 20 July 2020, regarding the charge of "participating in an illegal gathering." contrary to Article (165.1) of the Penal Code No. (16) Of 1960, in reference to the demonstration called for by the activists. He was also investigated on charges of "violating the measures taken to achieve the goals of declaring a state of emergency", in violation of Article (1.3) of the 2020 decree-law regarding the state of emergency, and it was decided to extend his detention for 48 hours.

On July 22, 2020, the Ramallah Magistrate's Court decided to extend his detention for 15 days, and on July 28, 2020 the Public Prosecution closed the investigation and transferred his file to the competent court, the Magistrate's Court decided to release him in exchange for a personal guarantee, while the trial sessions continued since its date, and it was postponed more than once to summon witnesses of the Public Prosecution Office. After his arrest, the aforementioned detainee declared a hunger strike, and stated in his testimony to the "Lawyers for Justice" group that he was being pressured to stop the strike, he also confirmed that there was overcrowding inside the room in which he was detained, in addition to the failure of security personnel to take the preventive and health measures declared under the state of emergency.



## 9. M.Sh:

Security forces arrested M. Sh from the center of Ramallah on July 19, 2020, before he was transferred to the General Investigation Agency in the police force in Ramallah without showing an arrest warrant, while he was passing by after the security forces isolated the Al-Manara roundabout in the city center, in order to prevent the "Tafah Al-Kil demonstration that activists called for under the slogan of fighting corruption, while the aforementioned detainee confirmed that his arrest came randomly, stressing that it was not related to the aforementioned sit-in.

He was referred to the Public Prosecution on 20 July 2020, and was investigated on the charge of "participating in an illegal gathering." contrary to Article (165.1) of the Penal Code No. (16) Of 1960 and in reference to the demonstration called by activists to demand reforms and fight corruption, he was also investigated for "violating the measures taken to achieve the goals of declaring a state of emergency," contrary to Article (1.3) of the 2020 Law by Decree regarding the state of emergency, his detention was extended for 48 hours, before he was released on 21 July 2020 on personal bail.



## 10. F.S:

Union activist:

The police arrested the union activist F.S on 19 July 2020, while on his way to participate in the "Tafah Al-Kil " demonstration which activists and trade unionists called for to demand reforms and fight corruption.

Subsequently, on 20 July 2020, he was referred to the Public Prosecution, and he was investigated on the charge of "participating in an illegal gathering." contrary to Article (165.1) of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960, and "violating the decisions, instructions, and measures taken by the competent authorities," contrary to Article (1.3) of the decision by the law of 2020 regarding the state of emergency, and his detention was extended for 48 hours.



On July 22, 2020, the Ramallah Magistrate's Court decided to extend his detention for 15 days, while his file was transferred to the competent court, and in the July 28, 2020 session, the prosecution charged him with indictment, and decided to release him on a personal bail in the same session, while the trial sessions have continued since his date. As it was postponed more than once until the prosecution's witnesses are called.

The aforementioned detainee declared during his arrest a hunger strike, according to his testimony, to protest against his arrest since he was suffering from heart prostate and rheumatism diseases.

He also reported that he was held in a room measuring 6 by 7 meters, with twenty-eight detainees without spacing measures, while confirming that the security personnel do not adhere to the health protocols established under the declared state of emergency, in addition to the lack of the necessary health conditions at the place of arrest.



## **11. J.Kh:**

Union activist:

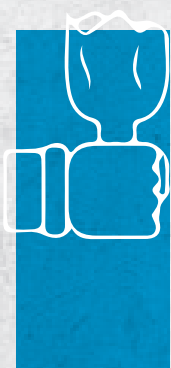
Security forces in civilian clothes from the General Intelligence Service arrested the union activist J.Kh on 19 July 2020, while he was alone in the city of Ramallah, during the "Tafah Al-Kil " demonstration which was called by activists and union activists to demand reforms and fight corruption without presenting a legal arrest warrant; the detainee testified to "Lawyers for Justice" being transported by a private police bus with others, without adherence to preventive health and safety measures, and without the security personnel who arrested him committed to preventive measures in compliance with health and safety protocols declared under the state of emergency.

Later, on 20 July 2020, he was transferred to the Public Prosecution and was interrogated about charges of "participating in an illegal gathering", in violation of Article (165.1) of the Penal Code No. (16) Of 1960, and "violating decisions, instructions and measures taken by the competent authorities," contrary to Article (1.3) of the decree-law of 2020 regarding the state of emergency, and his

detention was extended for 48 hours.

On July 22, 2020, Ramallah Magistrate's Court decided to extend his detention for 15 days, and his file was referred to the competent court in a session on July 28, 2020, and the prosecution charged him with an indictment, then he was released on personal bail in the same session, while the trial sessions have continued, the trial sessions were postponed one after another for the purpose of calling the prosecution witnesses.

Mr. Jamil announced an open hunger strike, and he was transferred to the hospital twice due to his health deterioration, he testified to "Lawyers for Justice" that investigators from the General Investigation Agency opened his personal phone and searched its contents.



## 12. A.H:

Union activist:

Security agents from the police force arrested the union activist A.H on 19 July 2020, while he was alone in the vicinity of Al-Manara square in the center of Ramallah, while Mr. A.H was on his way to participate in the "Tafah Al-Kil" demonstration which activists and union activists called for to demand reforms and fight corruption, without presenting a legal arrest warrant, while he confirmed in his testimony to "Lawyers for Justice" that he was committed to wearing a mask and gloves, he was transported by a security vehicle belonging to the National Security Agency, and he confirmed that he had been subjected to verbal abuse by one of the security personnel while he was being transported to the detention center.

He stated that he was subjected to verbal abuse again during the investigation by the General Investigation Department, and was held in a room accompanied by 23 detainees without observing health procedures under the declared state of emergency.

Later, on 20 July 2020, he was referred to the Public Prosecution



Office and was investigated on charges of “participating in an illegal gathering”, in contravention of Article (165.1) of the Penal Code No. (16) Of 1960, And “violating decisions, instructions and measures taken by the competent authorities,” contrary to Article (1.3) of the decree-law of 2020 regarding the state of emergency, and his detention was extended for 48 hours.

On July 22, 2020 Ramallah Magistrate’s Court decided to extend his detention for 15 days, and the prosecution referred his file to the competent court in a session on July 28, 2020 and charged him with an indictment, then he was released on personal bail in the same session, while the trial sessions have continued since its date, and court sessions have been postponed several times for the purpose of calling the prosecution witnesses.

The aforementioned detainee declared an open hunger strike during his arrest, and was pressured to suspend the strike.



### **13. J.A:**

#### **Union Activist:**

On 19 July 2020, the Palestinian police force detained Union Activist J.A while he was participating in a protest organized by trade union activists at al Manara Square in the City of Ramallah in the West Bank, against corruption. He reported that the police detained him without presenting him a legal arrest warrant. He also said that “they weren’t committed to the preventive measures announced by the Palestinian government to curb Covid-19 pandemic.

He charged that he and other detainees were crammed into one vehicle to go through medical examination before being held in prison.

He charged that the room where he was held was overcrowded with detainees. Tafah Al-Kil

On the following day, he was referred to the Public Prosecution Office for investigation. He was accused of “participating in a protest organized illegally,” in violation of Article (165.1) of the Penal Code No. (16) Of 1960, and “decisions measures taken by

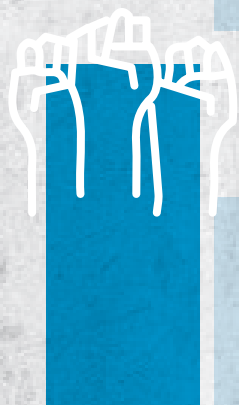
the competent authorities," in violation of Article (1.3) of the Decree-Law of 2020 on the state of emergency. He was remanded for 48 hours.

On July 22, 2020, Ramallah Magistrate's Court decided to extend his detention for 15 days as the Public Prosecution referred his case to the competent court for a session on July 28, 2020. He was charged of incitement before he was released on personal bail on that date. The court hearings were deferred several times pending Public Prosecution witnesses.

After J.A went on hunger strike, he was admitted into hospital as his health condition deteriorated. He stayed in hospital with his hands tied to bed.

He continued his strike and refused to receive any medication, and thus his health condition deteriorated.

After promises to release him, he underwent an urgent catheterization operation. In his statement to Lawyers for Justice, he reported that he was pressed to stop his strike. He also reported that his children were pressed to convince him to end his strike.



## **14. M.A:**

### **Union Activist:**

The General Intelligence Service arrested union activist M.A on 19 July 2020, in the center of Ramallah without showing an arrest warrant, while he was photographing on personal phone.

He reported to "Lawyers for Justice", that the agents of the intelligence service pointed a shot-gun at him and asked him to turn off his phone. They also inquired about the entity they assumed he was working for as a "spy".

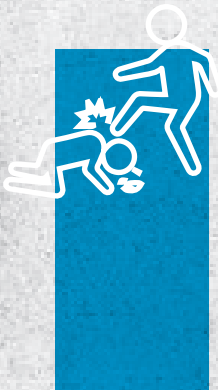
He was accused of spying for "Tafah Al-Kil " Movement. However he reported that the officers who arrested him were relatively committed to Covid-19 health prevention measures, while the interrogators of the General Investigation Agency weren't.

On 20 July 2020, he was referred to the Public Prosecution. "Participating in a protest organized illegally," in violation of Article



(165.1) of the Penal Code No. (16) Of 1960, and “decisions measures taken by the competent authorities,” in violation of Article (1.3) of the Decree-Law of 2020 on the state of emergency. He was remanded for 48 hours.

On July 22, 2020, Ramallah Magistrate’s Court decided to extend his detention for 15 days, and referred his case to the competent court that issued an indictment against him on July 28, 2020. He was released on personal bail at the same session. The courts’ hearings were deferred several times, pending witnesses’ presence at the Public Prosecution Office.



## **15. F.B:**

### **Union Activist:**

On 19 July 2020, Security Services arrested Union Activist F.B. while he was participating at Al-Manara Square in Ramallah, in the protest organized by “Tafah Al-Kil “ Movement. The protest was held to call for reforms and elimination of corruption. He was arrested without being presented with a legal arrest warrant. He reported in his statement to LFJ that he was compelled to wear gloves and a mask as part of Covid-19 preventive measures, while the police who were holding him weren’t committed to that while accompanying him to medical services. He added that he and other detainees were crammed into one car. The police pushed him into the car over other inmates, he stated. .

He confirmed that he was subjected to ill-treatment in detention. He explained that the police were shouting at him and at other detainees. He was held in a cell of two and a half \* five meters with 8 other detainees in violation of all health preventive measures. .

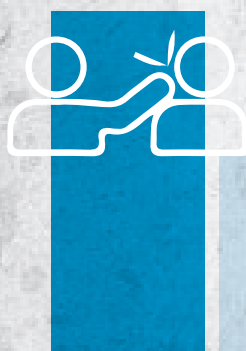
On 20 July 2020, he was referred to the Public Prosecution and was investigated on charges of:

“Participating in a protest organized illegally,” in violation of Article (165.1) of the Penal Code No. (16) Of 1960, and “decisions measures taken by the competent authorities,” in violation of Article (1.3) of the Decree-Law of 2020 on the state of emergency. He was remanded for 48 hours.

On July 22, 2020, the Ramallah Magistrate's Court decided to extend his detention for 15 days, and on July 28, 2020 the Public Prosecution referred his file to the competent court . He was charged in the same session and was released on personal bail. The courts' hearings were deferred several times, pending witnesses' presence at the Public Prosecution Office.

He went on hunger strike, but pressured to suspend it. He reported that they used to keep the food in front of him for hours though knowing of his objection to breaking his hunger strike. He reported that he was transferred to hospital for worsening health condition and his refusal of supplements.

He also reported that he wasn't given neurological medications that he takes periodically due to seizures and convulsions and other spine problems.



## **16. M.Q:**

### **Union Activist:**

On 20 July 2020 the General Intelligence Service arrested the union social activist M.Q. while he was leaving his workplace in Al-Bireh. He was transferred to the Police General Investigation Department..

In turn, the General Investigation Department interrogated him about the protest organized by “Tafah Al-Kil ” Movement and accused him of participating in the protest. They arrested him though they knew that he was in contact with Coronavirus-infected persons. He was at his workplace to take some items in preparation for quarantine with no intention to participate in any protests, he said.



He was tested for Covid-19 waiting for the final result of the test, but the security forces held him with the rest of the detainees. .

He stated that the cell where he was held was overcrowded with 12 people, with an area not exceeding 2 \* 3 meters with 5 mattresses. He added that there were no enough sheets and pillows or ventilation.

He said that 35 detainees were crammed into one vehicle to the court while the vehicle can take 18 people only. the court lock cell was congested with inmates. He went on hunger strike on the first day of his detention.

He was brought before the prosecution on July 21, 2020, which investigated him about the charges of

"Participating in a protest organized illegally," in violation of Article (165.1) of the Penal Code No. (16) Of 1960, and "decisions measures taken by the competent authorities," in violation of Article (1.3) of the Decree-Law of 2020 on the state of emergency. He was remanded for 24 hours.

On July 22, 2020, the Magistrate's Court decided to extend his detention for 15 days, and on July 28, 2020 the prosecution referred his file to the competent court with an indictment. The court decided to release him on personal bail. The session was postponed until August 17, 2020, pending the witness of the Public Prosecution. The court session was postponed several times for the same reason.



## 17. M. K:

On December 30, 2020, Members of the General Intelligence Service, in plain clothes, arrested M.K from his workplace in Nablus. He was held in Al-Junaid Prison for 24 hours, before he was brought before the Public Prosecution on December 31, 2020. He was remanded for 48 hours for interrogation him on charges of "inciting sectarian strife."

He also reported that the General Intelligence Service had interrogated him about his union activities in university. He was also asked about the reasons why he was arrested by the Israeli occupation forces.

He was released on 3.1.2021 on a cash bail amounting to 300 Jordanian dinars, and his file was transferred to the Nablus Magistrate's Court on the same day with an indictment filed against him. His case hasn't been disposed yet. It is worth noting that he suffers 80% of vision impairment

He reported that he had been subjected to degrading-treatment by the interrogators, including shouting at him. He added that the security personnel weren't heeding Covid-19 preventive measures while they were interrogating him.

## Political Detention



## 1. M.H:

On March 11, 2020, the General Intelligence Service detained M. H on the charge of "possessing explosive materials," while he was interrogated about his political activity in 2016 and the reason of his detention by the Israeli occupation forces.

Ramallah Magistrate's Court had extended his detention for 15 days, before he was released on March 18, 2020 on a financial bail.

The General Intelligence Agency re-arrested him on March 21, 2020, and released him on March 23, 2020.



The Public Prosecutor's Office closed the case of **Hassouna**, as there was no evidence to convict him. When he was detained for the second time, he didn't appear before any judicial authority.

he told 'Lawyers for Justice Group', that he was subjected to torture and ill-treatment. He said that he was held in a cell, known as "the narrow refrigerator", with hooded and with his hands cuffed behind his back. He added that he was deprived of sleep and subjected to Shabh-hung from the ceiling. He added that he was also lashed with a whip and subjected to insult and..

He went on hunger strike for three days in protest against his detention. .



## 2. M.Kh:

On 16 April 2020 the Preventive Security Service arrested M.Kh from his house in the town of Qaffin in Tulkarm, , before he was released the next day without being brought before any judicial authority.

He stated to "Lawyers for Justice" that he was interrogated about his political activities in 2012. He added that he was detained 7 times by the Palestinian security services since 2012.

He confirmed in his statement that the security personnel weren't committed by health preventive measures in violation of the government' Covid-19-related instructions.



### 3. M.J:

#### **Birzeit University Student:**

On June 9, 2020, the General Intelligence service in Ramallah arrested university student M.J. without an arrest warrant, he was brought before the Public Prosecution and was interrogated on charge of “possessing an unlicensed weapon”, in contravention of Article 25.2 of the Weapons and Ammunition Law of 2015. He stated to “Lawyers for Justice” that he was detained for his political affiliation.

He reported before the Public Prosecutor and in the presence of a representative of “Lawyers for Justice” that he was subjected to torture and ill-treatment. The Public Prosecutor decided to extend his detention for a period of 24 hours, while the Ramallah Magistrate’s Court agreed to remand him for 15 days upon request by the Public Prosecution.

The court approved the request by “Lawyers for Justice” to call a forensic medic to examine him as he claimed that he was subjected to torture. He was released on 21 June 2020 on a personal bail of one thousand Jordanian dinars. He was not examined by forensic doctor despite the court’s decision.

The file was closed by the Public Prosecution for lack of incriminating evidence.

He was presented with a medical report after his release. He said that he had been hung from the ceiling and kept in a small cell known as “the locker, or the refrigerator” in addition to exerting psychological stress by letting him hear his friend’s voice being beaten and hung.

He also stated that he was held in solitary confinement for 13 days, and was arrested several times by the security forces over the past years.

He stated in his testimony to LFJ that the legal advisor of the General Intelligence incited against Lawyer Muhannad Karaja. He told him that assigning Karaja as his defense lawyer postpones his release.





#### 4. K.Q:

##### **A student at Birzeit University:**

On 9.6.2020 the General Intelligence Service in Ramallah arrested university student Kh. Q after he was summoned to their office . He was held without an arrest warrant from the competent authorities.

On June 11, 2020 He was brought before the Public Prosecution and interrogated on charges of "possessing a firearm,. He confirmed to "Lawyers for Justice" that he was detained for his political affiliation.

he was remanded for 24 hours

Ramallah Magistrate's Court extended his detention for 12 days in before he was released on June 21, 2020.

He claimed before a magistrate court judge and in the presence of a representative of "Lawyers for Justice that he was subjected to torture and ill-treatment Lawyers for Justice requested the court to refer him to a forensic doctor and the court agreed . However it decided to release him .. Later, after his release, KH .Q obtained a medical report on his health condition after he was subjected to torture.

He reported that he had been subjected to hanging from the ceiling, beaten with a whip held in a cell known ( refrigerator).

During his testimony to Lawyers for Justice, he described the refrigerator as a very narrow wardrobe of 80 cm x 80 cm."

The Public Prosecution decided closed the case file due to insufficient evidence. he said that he was arrested several times by the security services during the past years.



### 3. G.N:

#### Youth activist:

On 14 June 2020, the Preventive Security Agency in Nablus arrested the youth activist G. N. After he was summoned for an interview without presenting an arrest warrant from the competent authorities. the Public Prosecution held him for 48 hours, on charge of “possessing an unlicensed firearm”, in contravention of Article 25.2 of the Weapons and Ammunition Law of 1998. However he was interrogated about his brother, who was imprisoned by the Israeli occupation, and his other brother who was living abroad. He was also interrogated about transfer of money from his brother and his family’s political activities.

On June 17, 2020, the Nablus Magistrate’s Court extended his detention for a period of 10 days, before he was released on June 24, 2020 on personal guarantee of 500 Jordanian dinars. The Public Prosecution decided to close the file because there was no evidence against him.

He said that he was subjected to torture and ill-treatment. According to his testimony to “Lawyers for Justice”, he was subjected to hanging from the ceiling by forcing him to stand opening his legs to about 70 cm and placing his hands back for 4 hours.

He also affirmed in his testimony that most of the investigators did not adhere to health preventive measures.



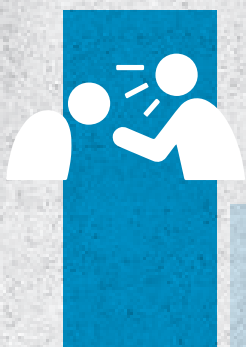


## 6. H.F:

He is a 53-year-old political activist who suffers from several diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and heart disease.

On 15.6.2020 the Preventive Security Service in Tulkarm arrested the political activist H.F. from his shop without an arrest warrant from the competent authorities. He was brought to Public Prosecution which investigated him on charges of bringing money into the Palestinian territories without disclosing it; he was detained for 48 hours.

He reported to "Lawyers for Justice" that he was interrogated about his relationship with another person whom the occupation army arrested on the same day. He was interrogated about , political activities.



## 7. A.B:

**A political Activist.**

On 13 July 2020, the Preventive Security Service in Jenin detained political activist A.B without an arrest warrant from the competent authorities. The Public Prosecution charged him of "possessing unlicensed weapon." He confirmed in his testimony to "Lawyers for Justice" that he was held for his political activities. He claimed that the security service detained him to prevent him from bidding for a commercial business and allow his competitor who works for the security service to win the bid.

On 7/16/2020, Jenin magistrate's Court decided to extend his detention for 15 days before releasing him on 7/19/2020., while the Public Prosecution decided to close the case file because there is no evidence against him.

He also stated to Lawyers for Justice that he has tested for corona, but security personnel was not committed to wearing masks during his arrest or interrogation..



## 8. Y.H:

On 18 August 2020, the Preventive Security Service in Jenin detained Y.H. He was referred to the "Security Committee" in Al-Ju-  
naid Prison in Nablus.

The Public Prosecution office questioned him on charges of "pos-  
sessing and selling a shot-gun" . , " He added that he was detained  
for his political affiliation" .

Nablus Magistrate's Court extended his detention several times  
before issuing a decision to release him on September 15, 2020,  
on a cash bail of 1,000 Jordanian

dinars However, he was transferred to the security committee in  
Jericho, despite the court's decision. . He was brought before the  
Jericho Magistrate's Court again, and the Public Prosecution sub-  
mitted a request to extend his detention, but the Jericho Magis-  
trate's Court decided to release him.



## 9. M. Z:

He is an employee of the Anti-Corruption Commission, a freed  
prisoner from Israeli jail.

On August 18, 2020, the General Intelligence Service in Ramallah  
arrested freed prisoner M., he was brought before the Public Pros-  
ecution Office and interrogated on the charge of "collecting and  
receiving funds for an illegal association for the sake of disturbing  
public order." while the case is related to his dues as a freed prison-  
er who spent 40 months in the Israeli occupation prisons.

The Ramallah Magistrate's Court decided to extend his detention  
for 15 days, .

The Public Prosecution referred his investigation file to the court  
and presented indictment sheet against him. His first court session  
was held on 6.9.2020, and since that date, Court hearing were  
postponed, pending appearance of the prosecution witness, who  
is the legal advisor of the intelligence.

On 12 January 2020, he was arrested by the occupation forces and  
transferred to administrative detention.





## 10. M.R:

On August 26, 2020, the Preventive Security apparatus in Tulkarm arrested M.R. without an arrest warrant from the relevant authorities, and his detention continued for three days without being appearing before any judicial authority.

In his statement to “Lawyers for Justice” he reported that he was interrogated about his political affiliation. He also stated that the room where he was held wasn’t clean and without a bed or any pillow. He added that the security personnel were not committed to health preventive measures.



## 11. M.F:

### High school student

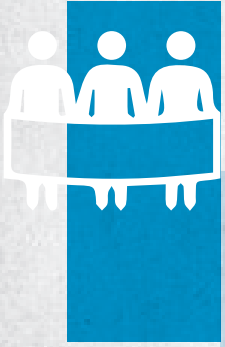
On September 10, 2020, the Military Intelligence Service in Tulkarm detained high school student M.F at dawn; he was released after hours of his detention without getting his ID back. He was detained by the same agency on the following day for three consecutive hours. He was informed that he should appear at the Preventive Security Office later. .

On September 17, 2020, M.F went to the Preventive Security headquarters in Tulkarm after being summoned and was held for the next day without an arrest warrant from the competent authorities. He wasn’t brought before any judicial authority.

He reported to “Lawyers for Justice” that the security apparatus had interrogated him about his political activities and his detention in the Israeli occupation prisons.

He also affirmed in his statement that the intelligence service personnel weren’t heeding preventive health measures.,

This is his third political arrest since 2018.



## 12. N.A:

### **Social activist.**

The Preventive Security Service in Nablus arrested community activist N.A after he was summoned for an interview on November 24, 2020, without an arrest warrant from the competent authorities. He was brought before the Public Prosecution on the following day. He was interrogated on the charge of "collecting and receiving money from illegal associations, . His detention was extended for 24 hours.

On November 26, 2020, he was brought before the Nablus Magistrate's Court that extended his detention for 15 days.

On 2.12.2020 the court decided to release him on a cash bail of 300 dinars. . And the Public Prosecution decided later to close the file due to lack of evidences against him. .

He stated in the investigation of the Public Prosecution "that he is not guilty, and that the charge was set as a legal excuse for his arrest. He also said in his testimony to the prosecution:" I am a political prisoner, and I am being interrogated for participating in the reception of my freed prisoner friend from an Israeli jail. It was my social duty to participate as we were in Israeli prisons together. As for illegal money, I categorically deny it.

In his testimony to "Lawyers for Justice", he stated that the Preventive Security Service had interrogated him about educational sessions for the Qur'an and hadith in the mosque in an attempt to link that with organizational activity. He was also interrogated about participating in receiving a prisoner, participating in the funeral of the father of Martyr Yahya Ayyash, and about his union activity at the university, noting that he was a former political prisoner for four times.

Regarding adherence to health measures, he stated that the security personnel was committed by not more than 60% indicating that he had interacted with a detainee who was infected with the Corona virus. N.A. was informed that he was uninfected, but later he found out that he was infected and his name is listed on the Ministry of Health website.



He stated that part of his interrogation was about his relationship with “Lawyers for Justice” and its sources of funding. on 12/2020, he was summoned by the preventive security and interrogated about his relationship with Lawyers for Justice.



### **13. A.A:**

A student at An-Najah National University (Union Activist)

On November 24, 2020, the Preventive Security Agency in Nablus arrested A.A without presenting him with an arrest warrant from the competent authorities; he was brought before the Public Prosecution the next day and interrogated on the charge of “collecting and receiving money from illegal associations.”

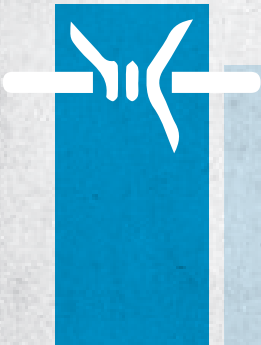
Nablus Magistrate’s Court extended his detention for 7 days; this was his fourth detention by the security services. He was questioned about his online commerce and his previous political and union activities.

On 2.12.2020 the court decided to release him on a cash bail of 300 dinars, but his family was unable to pay it. He was brought before court again on the next day despite the existence of a judicial decision to release him. The Public Prosecution closed his case for lack of evidence.

He stated in his testimony to “Lawyers for Justice” that most of the security forces weren’t heeding preventive health measures.

Their commitment to government instructions regarding Covid-19 preventive measures didn’t exceed 40%. He also confirmed detainees were crammed into one vehicle when they were taken to court.

He also reported that the security service had confiscated two cell phones from him. This caused great harm to his online commerce. He also added that he was prohibited from doing his on-line university exams during his detention.



## 14. I.Q:

On 13.12.2020 the General Intelligence Service in Ramallah held I.Q after he was summoned for an interview by phone. He was brought before the Public Prosecution on 15.12.2020 on the charge of “possessing unlicensed weapon or ammunition”,

Ramallah Magistrate’s Court extended his detention for 15 days for more interrogation. .

The General Intelligence Service interrogation with him focused on his political affiliation, and participation in receiving one of the freed prisoners from Israeli prisons.

he was also interrogated about raising the flags of one of the Palestinian factions and his relationships with other Palestinian prisoners at the Israeli prisons. He said that they questioned him about another young man detained by the General Intelligence, and his participation in the activities of his village of Abu Shkheidem.

On December 29, 2020, a decision was issued by the Ramallah Magistrate’s Court to release him on a cash bail of 200 dinars. His file wasn’t closed as he was arrested he was arrested by the Israeli occupation forces on 7 January 2021.

“Lawyers for Justice” contacted his sister to continue its documentation of his case after he was arrested by the Israeli occupation forces. She reported that he was subjected to torture and ill-treatment; he was hung from the ceiling with his hands tied up and kept hooded in room . He was slapped on face and beaten on his mouth and back.





## 15. Q.A:

### **An Activist, freed political prisoner.**

On 14.12.2020, the Preventive Security Service in Nablus detained activist Q.A. after being summoned for an interview by phone without an arrest warrant from the competent authorities; he refused to comply with the phone call, as it was impossible to reach the headquarters of the agency in light of Covid-19 lockdown. .

After he refused to comply with instructions he received by phone call, he was arrested from his home by preventive security officer, dressed in civilian clothes, driving civilian vehicle, without showing any arrest warrant.

On 15.12.2020, he was brought before the Public Prosecution, which interrogated him on the charge of "collecting and receiving money from illegal associations." The Public Prosecution office extended his detention for 48 hours.

He was brought before the Nablus Magistrate's Court that decided to extend his detention for 5 days. He was released on a cash bail of 300 Jordanian dinars on 12/2021. On 12.12.2020, the court decided to reduce the amount of bail to 200 Jordanian dinars.

He confirmed in his statement to "Lawyers for Justice" that he was interrogated about previous cases and against the background of his political affiliation. He also confirmed that interrogators had opened his mobile phone and his Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp accounts without his permission.

He claimed that he was subjected to torture and degrading treatment, as he was hung from the ceiling from 1 pm until 9 pm, with his hands tied back with iron handcuffs in chilly cold, he was not allowed to have his foot-wear for a time.

Regarding the conditions of detention, he described the cell as unfit for living, due to the low temperature and dirty bed and pillow. He was tested for Covid-19 after he was released from detention. .



## 16. A.Z:

### freed prisoner.

On 17.12.2020, officers of the General Intelligence service in civilian clothes detained freed prisoner (former Palestinian prisoner at Israeli jails), A. Z from his home in the village of Abu Shukhidem, Ramallah district. His home was searched without presenting an arrest or search warrant.

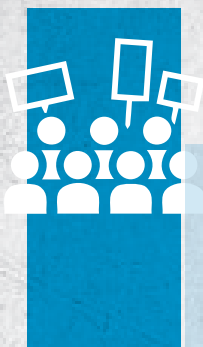
On 20.12.2020, he was brought before the Public Prosecution in Ramallah, and was interrogated on the charge of "possessing, carrying or transporting a weapon or ammunition without a license". The PP extended his detention for 24 hours.

He was interrogated about his political affiliation, his arrest by the occupation forces, his participation in the reception of a prisoner freed from Israeli occupation prisons, and his possession of flags and banners of one of the Palestinian factions.

On 12.12.2020, the Ramallah Magistrate's Court decided to extend his detention for 15 days, and released him on 12/30/2020 on a personal bail of 2000 dinars. Then, the Public Prosecution decided to close his file since it found no evidence against him. .

He stated in his testimony to "Lawyers for Justice" that members of the security forces themselves opened the door of his house without permission and asked him to be ready within five minutes. He also reported that he was insulted and humiliated during interrogation and that he was threatened. He added that the interrogator told him: "If you do not confess, I will take out your heart..". He also reported that he was suffering from stomach disease in detention, and the interrogator denied him the right to receive medical services.





## 17. A.L:

### A journalist and freed prisoner.

On 21.12.2020, the General Intelligence service in Ramallah arrested journalist A.L.

He was not charged at the beginning of the investigation, as stated in his statement to "Lawyers for Justice". The interrogator asked him to speak without specifying the matter: " You say what do you have? " .

After 8 days of detention, he was released. He reported that he was held in the cell for three days without being questioned or discussed about anything. .

On 23.12.2020, the Public Prosecution questioned him on the charge of "possessing unlicensed weapon" and decided to extend his detention for 24 hours. He was interrogated about by the intelligence services about his past activities at the university and his political affiliation.

His detention was extended for five days upon a decision by the Magistrate's Court.

On 12/28/2020, he was released on a personal bail of JD 2000. he also stated that the security personnel was not committed to preventive and safety imposed by the government to curb Covid-19. .



## 18. A.A:

### Political Science student

On 23.1.2021 the General Intelligence Service in Ramallah arrested university student A.A from students' hostel without an arrest warrant from the competent authorities. He was released the following day without being brought to any judicial authority.

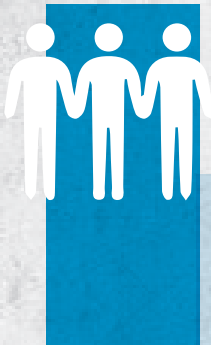
He stated in his testimony to "Lawyers for Justice" that he was interrogated by the General Intelligence Service about student activities and political affiliation. He was asked about the reason for

his detention by the Israeli occupation in the past.

He claimed that he was subjected to torture, ill-treatment, punching , swearing and other forms of physical and psychological assaults. He was kept blindfolded and handcuffed throughout the dayof interrogation.

He added that they threatened to transfer him to Jericho (Security Committee) and they used to punch one of the detainees before his eyes, telling him “your turn is coming soon”.

He also reported that the security weren’t committed to Covid-19 related preventive measures. .



## **19. A.R:**

### **A university student**

Around eleven o'clock at night, on 25.12.2020, the Preventive Security Agency in Ramallah detained university student A.R. , from a popular café in the town of Dura Al-Qara, Ramallah district, without presenting him with an arrest warrant from the competent authorities. He was held at the police headquarters in Al-Balou in Ramallah '.

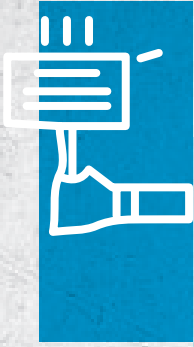
On December 26, 2020, the Public Prosecution authorized the Preventive Security Agency, , to question him on charges of “possessing, carrying or transporting a weapon or ammunition without a license.”

On December 27, 2020, the Ramallah Magistrate's Court extended his detention for ten days, before he was released on personal bail.

He stated in his statement to “Lawyers for Justice” that interrogators shouted at him while they were interrogating him about his political affiliation and hanging banners for one of the Palestinian factions as well as about his university union activities. They also questioned him about his detention by the Israeli occupation forces.

He reported that the security personnel weren’t committed to Covid-19- related health preventive measures.





## 20. Q.H:

### Freed prisoner

At around eleven o'clock at night, on January 25, 2020, the Preventive Security Agency in Ramallah detained Q. H. who was freed from Israeli jails. , , from a popular café in his hometown, Dura Al-Qara, Ramallah district, without presenting him an arrest warrant from the competent authorities.

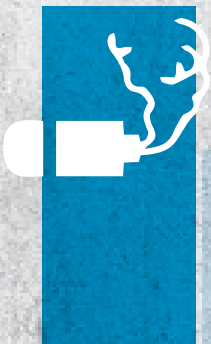
On December 26, 2020, the Public Prosecution authorized the Preventive Security Agency to question him on charges of "possessing, carrying or transporting a weapon or ammunition without a license."

On 27 December 2020, the Ramallah Magistrate's Court extended his detention for ten days, before he was released on personal bail.

He stated in his statement to "Lawyers for Justice" that masked security personnel detained and subjected to him to insults. He reported that they shouted at him and dropped him to the ground.

He said that he was subjected to torture and ill-treatment, and beating. He said that "they forced him to take off his clothes and stand in chilly cold..

He added that the security personnel which interrogated him weren't committed to preventive health measures.



## 21. A.K:

### Freed prisoner

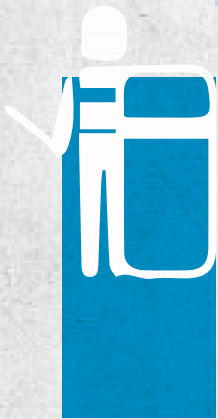
At 10:30 pm on December 28, 2020, the Preventive Security Agency in Ramallah arrested A.K WHO WAS FREED FROM Israeli prisons from his house in the town of Beitunia without an arrest warrant from the competent authorities.

On December 30, 2020, he was brought before the Public Prosecution and his detention was extended for 24 hours after being interrogated on the charge of "possession of unlicensed weapon",.

He reported that he was interrogated about his political affiliation and his detention by the Israeli occupation forces in the past.

On 31.12.2020, he was released before appearing before competent court.

He stated that the security force that arrested him adhered to safety and preventive measures.



## **22. A.A:**

### **University Student**

On December 25, 20 the Preventive Security Agency in Ramallah arrested university student A.A after they stormed his house in the village of Dura Al-Qara, Ramallah district and searching it without presenting a search warrant.

On December 26, 2020, the Public Prosecution, , assigned the Preventive Security Agency to question him on charges of “possessing, carrying or transporting a weapon or ammunition without a license.”

While the Ramallah Magistrate’s Court extended his detention for 5 days upon the request of the Public Prosecution for interrogation. On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, his detention was extended for another fifteen days for interrogation procedures.

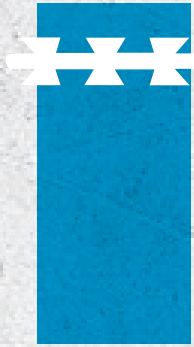
He stated in his testimony to “Lawyers for Justice” that he was interrogated about his political affiliation.

He claimed that he was subjected to ill- treatment and insult forcing him to remain in the yard of the headquarters of the Security Service in the city of Al-Bireh without clothes for the purpose of humiliation, not allowing him to go to the bathroom. They prevented him from seeing doctor, as the interrogator told him: “You can be treated later” .

On 5.1.2021, the Ramallah Magistrate’s Court released him on personal bail, while the Public Prosecution transferred his file to the competent court for prosecution. .



He stated that the security personnel did not adhere to health safety and preventive measures and he was held in a cell of an area of 1 \* 1 meter.



### **23. S. Z:**

On 25 December 2020 the General Investigation Agency in Ramallah arrested S.Z from Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah without an arrest warrant from the competent authorities as he was accompanying one of his relatives who was injured during events in his town of Deir Abu Mishaal near Ramallah while the police attempted to arrest a citizen from inside the village.

On December 27, 2020, his file was referred to the Ramallah Magistrate's Court on charges of "destroying the property of others, and "illegal gathering," "in violation of the state of emergency," and "treating an employee with violence," He was questioned about his political affiliation, and the reasons for his arrest by the Israeli occupation forces.

On 6 June 2021 ,he was released by a decision of the Ramallah Magistrate's Court, on a cash bail of two hundred Jordanian dinars.

He claimed that he was subjected to torture and ill-treatment, including beating, shabh (standing in difficult position, and insulting His hands were tied and his eyes were covered during the process of his arrest.

He stated that security personnel and interrogators did not abide by safety and preventive measures during his arrest and during his interrogation.



## 24. A. H:

### University Student

On 12/25/2020, the Preventive Security apparatus in Ramallah detained A.H. They broke into his house, searched it, and confiscated computers and mobile phones without presenting a search and arrest warrant from the competent authorities.

A.H. went to the agency's headquarters in the city of Al-Bireh. After 2 days, he was referred to the agency's headquarters in Bitunya, west of Ramallah.

On December 26, 2020, the Public Prosecution authorized the Preventive Security apparatus to interrogate him on charges of "possessing, carrying or transporting a weapon or fire ammunition without a license,"

Ramallah Magistrate's Court extended his detention for five days by a decision of the.

On December 31, 2020, the Magistrate's Court decided to extend his detention for 15 days to continue interrogation upon request by the Public Prosecution. He was released on 5.1.2021 on personal bail after his file was transferred to the competent court and an indictment was filed against him.

He reported to "Lawyers for Justice" that the actual investigation with him was about his political affiliation. He also raised allegations of torture and bad treatment that he was subjected to at the agency's headquarters in Al-Bireh, before his transfer to the Beitunia center, where he was hung from the ceiling, forced to take off his clothes, tied his hands in the window while it was open in the bitter cold, he thrown on the ground and cold water poured on him, and was insulted along with God swearing.

As for the health protocol, he stated a partial commitment to safety and prevention measures was incomplete





## 25. M.Z:

### Free prisoner from Israeli Jail

On 3 January 2021 , the General Intelligence Service in Ramallah arrested the released prisoner M.Z from his home without presenting an arrest warrant from the competent authorities.

On 5.1.2021 , he was referred to the Public Prosecution Office and investigated for "possessing, carrying or transporting a firearm without a license." On the same day, the Ramallah Magistrate's Court decided to extend his detention for 15 days pending interrogation.

He was interrogated by the General Intelligence Service about political affiliation, detention by the occupation forces, and union activities during his university studies, even though he had graduated six years ago.

The Magistrate's Court released him on 6.1.2021 on a personal bail of 3,000 Jordanian dinars.

In his testimony to "Lawyers for Justice" group, he stated that he went on hunger strike from the first day of his detention and raised allegations of torture and bad treatment in which he was forced into a cell known as "the wardrobe or the refrigerator" most of the time during his days of detention when he was forced to sit in a squatting position (Shabh).

He also reported the interrogators' incited against "Lawyers for Justice" group, where the investigator told him: "If you had not appointed them to represent you , your detention would not have been extended for fifteen days in court."

The Public Prosecution decided later to close the file and not refer it to the competent court due to the absence of evidence against him.

He also affirmed in his statement that the security forces did not commit to safety and preventive measures in line with the requirements of declaring the state of emergency during the arrest and investigation process, while he confirmed that he was arrested twice by the Israeli occupation forces and once by the Palestinian security apparatus too .



## 26. A.Sh:

### Freed prisoner.

On January 18, 2021 General Intelligence Service in the Nablus governorate arrested the liberated prisoner A.Sh, after being summoned for an interview. He had been previously arrested; he had been summoned to meet the security services more than five times since the beginning of the month of December .2020, while he was informed that he was being detained an hour and a half after his appearance for the interview with the agency.

He stated in his testimony to "Lawyers for Justice" , upon his arrival at the headquarters of the General Intelligence that the interrogators started insulting the law as he is intern lawyer and saying: "Do you think that you will get away with us because you are a lawyer? The law is with you in court; we will see how the court will benefit you."

On 19.1.2021, he was brought before the Public Prosecution and interrogated about the charge of "defaming the public authority" according to the Cybercrime Law, and "inciting sectarian strife". It decided to extend his detention for 48 hours.

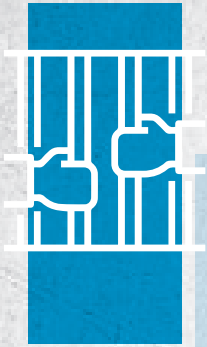
On 21 January 2020, the Nablus Magistrate's Court decided to release him on bail of 500 Jordanian dinars. He was interrogated by the General Intelligence about a post attributed to him on Face book related to his repeated summons to meet with the Preventive Security and General Intelligence agencies, his detention by the occupation, and his political affiliation.

He stated during his interrogation session by the Public Prosecution that the intelligence agency did not interrogate him about the charges leveled against him. Rather, they interrogated him about his detention at the Israeli prisons and his political affiliation.

He also reported that, before his release, he was threatened by the aforementioned agency not to implement the court's decision, as the investigator told him: "We will release you, but we are waiting for a phone from the governorate. You know that our laws are a joke, and we are the ones who draft them. "

He also stated that security personnel and interrogators did not commit to safety and preventive measures.





## 27. I. A:

### A university student

On February 1, 2021, the General Intelligence Service in Nablus arrested the university student I.A without presenting an arrest warrant from the competent authorities.

On the following day, 2.2.2021, he was brought before the Public Prosecution, which interrogated him on charges of "possessing, carrying or transporting a weapon or ammunition without a license."

He denied before the Public Prosecution the accusation leveled against him while confirming that he was interrogated by the General Intelligence Agency was about his friend who was detained by the same agency.

On 10 January 2020, the Nablus Magistrate's Court decided to arrest him before he was transferred to the Intelligence Prison in Jericho Governorate. His detention was extended for five days by a decision of the Jericho Magistrate's Court.

On 14 January 2021, the Jericho Magistrate's Court released him on a bail of 1,000 Jordanian dinars. However, the release decision was not implemented, as a file was transferred the next day to the Nablus Magistrate's Court and sentenced him for three months imprisonment before it was replaced with a fine In light of his deprivation of the right of defense due to the suspension of work by the lawyers bar on that date.



## 28. H.A:

### A university student

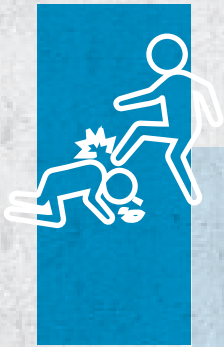
On January 29, 2021, the General Intelligence Service in Nablus arrested the university student H.A. after searching his home, on January 31, 2021. He was brought before the Public Prosecution, which interrogated him on charges of "possessing, carrying or transporting a weapon or ammunition without a license."

Interrogators centered on his activities in university and his political affiliation.

On 31 January 2021, the Nablus Magistrate's Court decided to extend his detention, while the Public Prosecution referred his file to the competent court on February 15, 2021, and presented with indictment.

In the same session, the court decided to sentence him to imprisonment for 3 months before it decided to replace the imprisonment with a fine, given that he was deprived of the right of defense due to the suspension of work by the union on that date.

After his release, on 24 February 2021, he was arrested by the Israeli occupation forces.



## 29. B. A

A university Student

On 9.2.202, the General Intelligence Service in Nablus arrested university student B. A. He was brought before the Public Prosecution on February 10, 2021, for interrogation on charges of "possessing, carrying or transporting a weapon or fire ammunition without a license".

It decided to extend his detention for 24 hours.

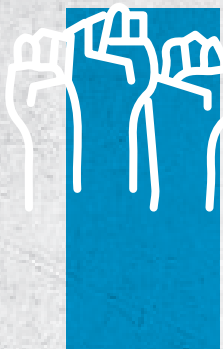
On 11 February 2021, the Magistrate's Court decided to extend his detention for 15 days to continue interrogation, based on the request of the Public Prosecution.

While interrogation centered on his activities inside the university and his political affiliation.

On February 14, 2021, the Public Prosecution sent his file to the competent court with an indictment. The court decided to release him in the same session on bail, so that he would be released on the following day after his relatives provided the required guarantees.

The occupation forces arrested him after he was released.





### 30. Kh.A:

Released prisoner and former political detainee

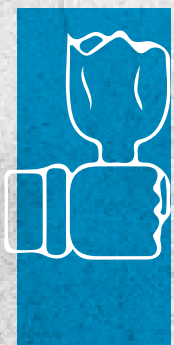
The Preventive Security Agency in Jenin arrested the liberated prisoner Kh.A. On 9/19/2021, at about three o'clock in the morning, after searching his home, with a search warrant without presenting an arrest warrant from the competent authorities.

On 10.1.2021, the aforementioned detainee was transferred to the Public Prosecution, to extend his detention for 48 hours, after being interrogated on charges of "possessing, carrying or transporting a weapon or fire ammunition without a license", while he was released later on 11.1.2021.

He was interrogated by the Preventive Security Agency about cases related to his previous detention by the occupation forces.

He stated in his testimony to the "Lawyers for Justice" group that the security men inside the detention center were constantly shouting at him, as well as at the moment of arrest when he stated that they shouted at him and at his family, while he was threatened to be transferred to Jericho prison.

He also stated that the commitment to safety and preventive measures was partial during the arrest process, while these procedures were not adhered to inside the detention center in line with the requirements of the declaration of the state of emergency, in addition to the transfer of 12 detainees to the prosecution in a vehicle that can accommodate seven people only.



### 31. A.D:

A university student and a former prisoner.

The Preventive Security Agency in Nablus detained university student and the liberated prisoner from Israeli jail A. D on 16.12.2020 after he was summoned by phone to meet with the agency, where he stated in his testimony to the Lawyers for Justice group that he had been suffering from torn ligaments and was forbidden to move for two weeks according to the doctor's instructions, but the security forces threatened his father with the necessity to attend

the interview, under pain Forcibly arresting him from home in case of non-compliance.

He was brought before the Public Prosecution which decided to extend his detention for 24 hours after being interrogated on charges of "collecting and receiving money from illegal associations," before the Nablus Magistrate Court decided to extend his detention for five days for the first time and three days for the second time, before he was released on December 21. 2020 in exchange for a personal guarantee of one thousand Jordanian dinars and the Public Prosecution will later decide to save the file because there is no evidence against it.

He was held in the agency's headquarters in the city of Nablus for six days in a cell measuring one-meter x 2 meters. He described it as being very cold, which caused him severe pain in the feet. The interrogation continued, according to his testimony, throughout the six days except for Friday and Saturday, when he stated: "I was living in a bad psychological state, as the cell is unfit for human life. It is full of cigarette butts, the food is of minimum standards and the covers are in a miserable condition. "

He also stated in his testimony to "Lawyers for Justice" that the investigation with him at the Preventive Security headquarters was about his political affiliation, in addition to his detention by the Israeli occupation forces. He also stated that the security forces did not apply the safety and preventive measures in line with the requirements of the state of emergency.





## 32. A.D:

A former prisoner

On 9.2.2021, , the Preventive Security Agency in Nablus arrested the liberated prisoner from Israeli Jail, A. D after he was summoned for an interview without presenting an arrest warrant from the competent authorities, while he was released the next day on February 10, 2021, without presenting him to judicial authorities.

He reported to “Lawyers for Justice” that he was detained by the security apparatus more than fifteen times, for a total of eight months, while he was detained by the occupation forces for approximately 26 months, and that the security forces were committed to safety and preventive measures.

He confirmed in his testimony that his interrogation with the Preventive Security Service was about the money he received as due since he is a football player, in addition to his political party activities during his university studies, noting that his arrest came nine months after he graduated from the university.

## Detention under the governor's order



### 1. M.A:

High school student

On April 12, 2020, the General Intelligence Service arrested student M.A while he was about to submit his high school exam, and was arrested until 19 April 2020 without being brought before any competent judicial authority. The aforementioned detainee stated to the “Lawyers for Justice” group that he was being interrogated based on his political affiliation. He also stated that “the detainees at the General Intelligence apparatus were forced to sleep on the floor without a mattress for five days after one of the detainees attempted suicide by burning the bed.”



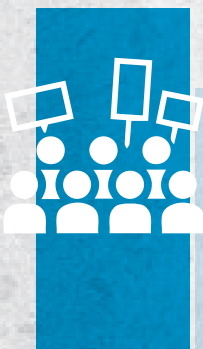
## 2. W.B:

The General Intelligence Service in Tulkarm arrested W.B on 15.6.2020 from inside his shop without presenting a legal arrest warrant from the competent

Authorities, before being referred under the “custody of the governor”.

The 56 years old aforementioned detainee, suffers from 65 % disability; a disc, joint problems, vision and hearing problems. He told the “Lawyers for Justice” group that the interrogators told him that his arrest came on basis of the political division and problems in Gaza. He was also interrogated about a sum of money he received from his brother abroad to treat his sister and also reported that he had been threatened to be beaten.

Subsequently, the aforementioned detainee was released after the group submitted an administrative appeal against the decision to detain him at the disposal of the governor to the competent court, but the General Intelligence Service released him before the court issued a decision on his illegal detention without presenting him to the competent authorities.



## 3. Sh. A:

The Preventive Security Agency in Jenin arrested Sh.A on 9.8.2020, before he was transferred to the headquarters of the Security Committee in Al-Junaid Prison in Nablus. The aforementioned detainee was brought before the Public Prosecutor and investigated with him about “the charge of possessing a pistol without a license”, in violation of Article 25.2 of the Weapons and Ammunition Law of 1998, noting that his arrest was the result of a political dispute.

The Nablus Magistrate’s Court decided to extend his detention for 15 days for the first time, then agreed to extend his detention for the second time for a similar period, but decided to release him on 1.9.2020 in exchange for a personal bail of 2000 Jordanian dinars and a cash bail of 1000 dinars.



Despite the release order, the security services refused to implement it, and the aforementioned detainee was informed that he was being held in the custody of the governor of Nablus until 9.9.2020, to be transferred later to the detention center of the Preventive Security Service in Jenin and there he was arrested until September 17, 2020, under the authority of the Governor of Jenin.

On September 17, 2020, his file was transferred to the Jenin Magistrate's Court, where it decided to declare his innocence due to insufficient evidences.

#### 4. Q.A:

A former prisoner

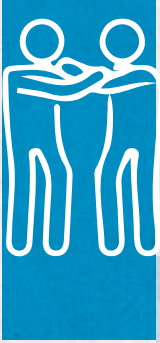
The General Intelligence Service in Qalqilya arrested the liberated prisoner Q. A on November 30, 2020, before he was transferred to the intelligence service in Nablus, to be informed later that he was arrested for "the responsibility of the governor."

"Lawyers for Justice" group filed a complaint with the Public Prosecutor's office, and another complaint to the Military Prosecutor, on basis of arresting him under "the governor's custody", in addition to submitting an appeal to the Court of Justice to challenge the decision to detain him illegally.

The aforementioned detainee remained under the custody of the governor until December 15, 2020, when his file was referred to the Public Prosecution, which investigated him over the charge of "collecting and receiving funds from illegal associations" in contravention of the provisions of Article (162) of the Penal Code No. (16) Of 1960. Subsequently, his detention was extended for 15 days by a decision of the Magistrate's Court, and another 15 days on December 29, 2020.

On 5.1.2021, the Magistrate's Court decided to release him in exchange for a cash bail of 500 Jordanian dinars, which was reduced to 200 dinars, and a personal bail of 2000 dinars. Later on, on 12.1.2021, his file was transferred to the competent court, and the trial sessions have continued since its date.





## **6. R.F:**

A school teacher and a former prisoner Israeli prisoner.

The General Intelligence Service in Tulkarm arrested the school teacher and the released prisoner R.F on December 29, 2020, after he was summoned for an interview by the director of the school in which he works.

The aforementioned detainee stated in his testimony to the “Lawyers for Justice” group that the intelligence services summoned his wife during his arrest and interrogated her, knowing that the interrogation continued for six days intermittently, the focus of the interrogation with him was: his political affiliation and his arrest file with the Israeli occupation forces.

He described the cell in which he was held as a “grave” and a part of psychological torture, in addition to being threatened to be dismissed from his job and to be transferred to Jericho prison (The security Committee), where they told him (you are behind the sun), in addition to threatening to arrest his wife.

He also stated that security does not apply the safety and preventive measures, in line with the requirements of the declaration of the state of emergency.

He was later released on 3 January 2020 without going through the legal procedures and brought before the competent judicial authorities. The lawyer was not allowed to obtain a legal power of attorney during his arrest.





## 6. O.K:

A journalist

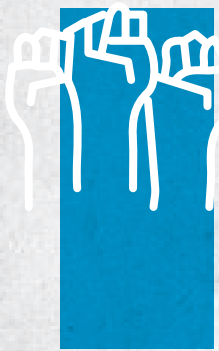
On 12/30/2020, the General Intelligence Service arrested journalist O.Kh after he surrendered to the agency after the security forces tried to arrest him from his home and searched his vehicle without showing a search warrant, and the aforementioned agency notified his family of the agency's intention to confiscate his car to pressure him to surrender.

The aforementioned detainee stated in his testimony to the "Lawyers for Justice" group that he did not receive an arrest warrant from the competent authorities authorizing his arrest after he had surrendered himself. He was later transferred to Jericho Prison after 1:30 am. He was released on 3 January 2021; without presenting it to any competent judicial authority, while the lawyer was not allowed to obtain his signature to get the power of attorney from him to follow the legal procedures.

The aforementioned detainee raised allegations of torture and bad treatment in the form of hanging from the ceiling, insults, and continued interrogation with him during the dawn hours, in addition to insulting and cursing.

He was interrogated, according to his testimony, by a group of Lawyers for Justice, was around his political affiliation and political relations, while he assured the group that this was his fifteenth detention by the security apparatuses.

He reported that security during his arrest and interrogation did not apply the safety and preventive measures in line with the requirements of the declaration of the state of emergency and was detained in a one-meter \* one and a half meters cell while being tested for corona after being transferred to the intelligence prison in Jericho.



## Arrests for other reasons:

### 1. A.H:

A journalist

The security services arrested journalist A. H, on May 15, 2020, at a checkpoint in Anabta at the entrance to Tulkarm governorate. Subsequently, the aforementioned detainee was referred to the Public Prosecution which investigated him on charges of “insulting an employee while doing his job”, “defaming employees and the public authority,” and “violating the decisions, instructions, measures taken by the competent authorities to achieve the goals of declaring the state of emergency,” and “obstructing the work of law enforcement agencies and preserving public order and the competent personnel.

On May 18, 2020, the Tulkarm Magistrate’s Court decided to extend his detention for 15 days, while the same court decided to release him on May 21, 2020, in exchange for a personal guarantee. Later, the Public Prosecution transferred his file to the competent court regarding the charges against him, and since that date, the trial sessions continue.

The aforementioned detainee stated in his statement to “Lawyers for Justice” group that he was going with a member of his family to a sewing workshop in Anabta in Tulkarm to bring cloth for work in light of the closure imposed on the provinces due to the spread of the Corona epidemic.

He also raised allegations of torture and bad treatment during his arrest, as the security forces prevented them from passing, despite the passage of many other vehicles without any problems, and after an argument between him and the officer at the checkpoint, the officer hit him in the face with a water bottle, In addition, other security officers beat him with rifle butts and threw him on the ground.

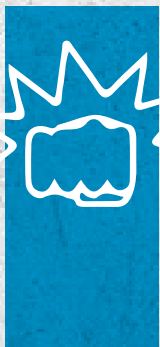
“Within seconds, they threw me to the ground beat me with punches and kicks with the legs from 5-10 soldiers, which I do not count exactly. At that time, my head was injured and needed two medical stitches, I lost my molar with a punch from a soldier, the blood filled my face and my blouse torn by the assault.



"I put my hands on my head and neck to avoid any seriously harmful to happen, at that time, the lieutenant tried to defend me, but unfortunately he took a punch under his eye, when submitting a medical report of the lieutenant's stroke, the hit was attributed to me; could I hit the only officer who tried to defend me? And they let the soldier who slapped me in the beginning to witness against me . "

"At the police station, a clear statement was directed to me: " Give up your right and we are following the matter and go back to your home and shut up" . I agreed to the proposal on the condition that I see the results of the investigation before relinquishing my right to file a complaint against the security, but to my surprised, my words did not satisfy them, and they decided to imprison me since then with accusations that I did not memorize because they were many. "

In his testimony, he stated that the security forces did not apply the safety and preventive measures in line with the requirements of the declaration of the state of emergency, as they were holding 15 detainees within several meters that included a toilet inside the room.

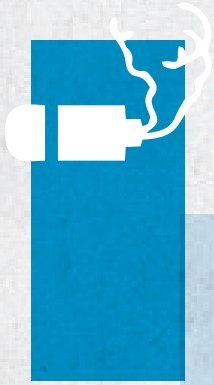


## **2. I.B:**

### **Community activist**

The General Intelligence Service in Tulkarm arrested the activist I. B, on 6 March 2020, at dawn hours, while he was released the next morning after a keen follow-up by the lawyer of the "Lawyers for Justice" group without going through any legal proceedings or being presented to any judicial authority.

He stated in his testimony to the "Lawyers for Justice" group that his interrogation was about the presence of cameras in the building in which he lives, the source of funding for his business, and the password for his Face book account. The aforementioned detainee also mentioned that he was arrested several times by the security services.



### 3. B.H:

A student at An-Najah National University.

The Preventive Security Agency in Nablus arrested university student B. H, on October 27, 2020, and later, on October 29, 2020, the Public Prosecution authorized Preventive Security to investigate him on charges of “collecting and receiving money from illegal associations.” He denied the accusation or any connection with unlawful associations, while he stated in his testimony to the “Lawyers for Justice” group that the actual investigation with him was about his brother who studies abroad, and about the information on his mobile phone, while the issue of money was addressed on the fifth day of his arrest, which he denied. He stated that he works with his father in a building materials store and that the money belongs to the family.

On 1.11.2020, the Nablus Magistrate’s Court decided to extend his detention for 5 days to complete the investigation procedures and requested to provide her with the investigation file, and on 4.11.2020 the court decided to extend his detention for 9 days even though the prosecution did not comply with the court’s request to bring the investigation file.

On 10 November 2020, the Magistrate’s Court decided to release him in exchange for a cash bail of 300 Jordanian dinars, while the Public Prosecution decided to save the file due to insufficient evidences.

The aforementioned detainee in his testimony to the “Lawyers for Justice” group raised allegations of torture and bad treatment and reported that he was pushed during the arrest process. During one of the interrogation sessions, he was handcuffed from the back, as well as beaten on his face while covering his eyes. The aforementioned detainee also stated that he was arrested four times by the Palestinian security services, while he was arrested twice by the occupation forces.





#### 4. A.A:

On 24 July 2020, the police force in Jenin arrested Sheikh A.A, for performing Friday prayers in a public square in the town of Burqin, Jenin district, and in his statement to the “Lawyers for Justice” group, he stated that after a security force came to the town and confirmed that it was forbidden to hold prayers, he announced through the mosque’s loudspeakers that Friday prayers would not be held, after that, the police allowed him to perform the prayer in a public square while maintaining the distance, and as a result he repeated the call for prayer. After 7 minutes of the end of the prayer, and based on the instructions of the police officer, he was informed of the necessity to accompany the security forces, the scene soon turned into altercations with the worshipers, and police fired tear gas canisters at the crowd.

According to his testimony , it was proposed to the police to follow them to the headquarters after five minutes to avoid any problem between the police and the crowd. However the police refused that and insisted to take him to the center, where he was forced to sign a pledge not to hold prayers. Then, he was transferred to prison after taking his testimony informing him that he is detained, according to his testimony to the group; Although there was a prior agreement with the police that he would be released upon signing the pledge not to hold prayer with people again, his release was delayed until the evening, without being brought before any judicial authorities.

He reported that while being transported in Police and National Security vehicles, the police officers were not bound by safety and preventive measures in line with the requirements of the state of emergency declaration. And that he was transferred directly to a small room designated for detention without being examined, especially since he was an old man. He described the aforementioned detention room as small, while with three other detainees with him.



## 5. M. J:

The Preventive Security Agency has arrested M.J in the Qalqilya on 3.12.2020, several days after his brother was arrested before he was transferred to Al-Junaid Prison in Nablus.

The interrogation of the aforementioned detainee was about his brother, who was also detained during that period, and pressured him, as he said, to take information related to "his brother's activity."

On 5.12.2020, the Public Prosecution authorized the Preventive Security Agency to investigate the aforementioned on charges of "collecting and receiving funds from illegal associations."

On 6.12.2020, the Magistrate's Court decided to extend his detention for 7 days, before he was released on 12.12.2020 on bail of 1000 Jordanian dinars.

The aforementioned detainee stated in his testimony to the "Lawyers for Justice" group that the investigators in the Preventive Security Agency did not apply the safety and preventive measures in line with the requirements of the declaration of the state of emergency. He also reported the poor detention situation in the first cell in which he was arrested, as it contains only a small opening for ventilation. , Before he was transferred to another room in better condition than the previous one, but he described placing the mattress in it as unsanitary.







## Findings and Recommendations:

1. The group initially affirms its absolute rejection of all Presidential Decree issued by the President of the Palestinian Authority, including Presidential Decrees related to restricting freedom of opinion and expression that restrict constitutional rights stipulated in the Palestinian Basic Law, including Decree-Law No. (10) Of 2018 regarding cybercrime.
2. The group affirms its rejection of all decisions by laws related to the extension of the state of emergency, due to its unconstitutionality, and the group believes that the declaration and extension of the state of emergency have been exploited by the the executive authority who manipulated and preached the law under the pretext of the state of emergency.
3. Continuing the bullying and exploiting of the executive authority over the legislative and judicial authorities will destroy the principle of separation of powers, and build up no trust between the people of Palestine and its own regime, where the Palestinian people eager for just and free society, they get hit and challenged by a dictatorship leaders play with rules and manipulate the law the way that sever their own filthy interest. among the forms of this abuse; The continued issuance of decisions by laws (Presidential Decrees) to enhance the control of the executive authority over other authorities, in addition controlling the work of the judiciary and the public prosecution.



4. The increase of the arbitrary arrests, detention on behalf of the governor, without legal procedures nor human rights into consideration, un applying the rights under the Palestinian Basic Law, such as freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of work, union activity, freedom of political and party pluralism. These all are bullying over the Palestinian law.
5. Using the state of emergency to justify serious human rights violations.
6. various occupied governorates, with their concentration in the northern governorates, while many activists were re-arrested more than once during this period. The justifying of the ( Security committee in Jericho or Nablus and elsewhere in still occupied Palestine and what is under the Palestinian Authority is a blatant violation for human right, we call urgent and prompt closer to these inhuman prisons, where political prisoner put under torture, " the one who inter hell facility is vanished, and the one who leaves it is reborn.
7. The public prosecution preserving a large number of cases without referring them to the court, the issuance of acquittal decisions in other cases by the courts, and the absence of any judicial process in some files, indicate the use of detention as a punishment and the lack of seriousness of the investigations and lack of relevance to the charges attributed to the detainees.
8. The assertion of more than 50% of the detainees that they are not fully or partially committed to safety and preventive measures from the moment of arrest until release, demonstrates the exploitation of the declared state of emergency to carry out arrests based on the freedom of expression, the right of union action, and party pluralism.
9. There was no commitment to fair trial guarantees and standards.
10. The group confirms monitoring and documenting the allegations of torture and ill-treatments.
11. The absence of oversight and accountability over the work of the securi-

ty apparatuses strengthening the Public Prosecution to continue bullying over the judiciary in Palestine.

12. Inciting the security apparatuses against the “Lawyers for Justice” group and obstructing its work.
13. The cases covered in this report include those that were followed up by the group.

## Recommendations:

1. The group stresses the need to reverse and cancel all decisions of laws (Presidential Decrees) restricting human rights.
2. Restricting the declaration and/or extension of the state of emergency, to ensure that its declaration is not arbitrary.
3. Stop of all forms of arbitrary detention based on exercising constitutional rights guaranteed under the Palestinian Basic Law.
4. Stopping the interference of the executive authority in the work of the judiciary, preventing the interference of the security services to influence the work of the judiciary and the public prosecution, and stopping the detention policy at the disposal of the governor (as administrative detention).
5. Activating oversight and accountability over the actions of the executive authority and the security apparatuses to ensure the check and balance system.
6. Respect and apply the legal texts mentioned in the Palestinian Basic Law, the Criminal Procedures Law, and relevant regulatory laws, as well as international standards for fair trials; to ensure that the arrest procedures are not



arbitrary, and to respect fair trial guarantees for the basic right of human being in Palestine is inevitable.

7. To stop all forms of incitement practiced against the “Lawyers for Justice” group.
8. The group calls on the Public Prosecutor to open serious investigations on the allegations of torture and the ill-treatments mentioned in the detainees’ testimonies.



## References

1. The amended Palestinian Basic Law of 2003.
2. Penal Code No. (16) Of 1960.
3. Presidential Decree- on Cybercrime No. (10) Of 2018.
4. Wireless Communications Law No. (3) Of 1996.
5. Decree-Law No. (7) Of 2020 regarding the state of emergency.
6. Criminal Procedure Law No. (3) Of 2001.
7. Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
8. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
9. Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.



