

Study shows Israel detained one million Palestinians since Nakba in 1948



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Ramallah, May 17 (RHC)-- The director of the Palestinian Center for Prisoners Studies Riad al-Ashqar said the Israel Prison Service (IPS) has been committing brutal crimes against Palestinian prisoners, including women, children, and the elderly.

Palestinian prisoners are subjected to severe physical and psychological torture during the arrest, at interrogation centers, and in jails. According to the center, nearly 230 Palestinians have been killed as a result of torture and medical negligence in Israeli jails over the past decades.

Israeli jail authorities keep Palestinian prisoners under deplorable conditions lacking proper hygienic standards, the center said. Besides dismal sanitary conditions, the prisoners are subjected to other inhumane and degrading circumstances, including administrative detention, solitary confinement, and bans on family visits.

Currently, some five thousand Palestinian political prisoners are being held in as many as 23 Israeli prisons and detention centers. Hundreds of them have apparently been incarcerated under the so-called administrative detention. Some prisoners have been held in administrative detention for up to 11 years.

Palestinians and human rights groups say the administrative detention violates the right to due process since evidence is withheld from prisoners while they are held for lengthy periods without being charged, tried, or convicted.

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