

March 28th, 2022

To: The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel

Dear Honorable Commission,

We, the Jerusalem Institute of Justice, are a not-for-profit human rights organization, with Special Consultative Status at the UN Economic and Social Council, fighting to promote human rights, defend democracy, and improve the overall quality of life for Israelis and Palestinians alike. Due to our hope of ever-lasting peace in the region, we find it of the utmost importance to address your call for submissions of relevant information and documentation to the mandate of the Commission.

The attached report concerning the Crimes against Humanity committed against Palestinian citizens by the Palestinian Authority (PA) was filed by our organization at the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague on the 20th of February 2019, together with the report on Mahmoud Abbas's Crimes against Humanity. The report includes testimonies of 52 Palestinian civilians who have suffered the grave atrocities of arbitrary imprisonment, torture, and murder by the PA during the time period of 1991 to 2004. We argued that a full investigation of crimes against humanity should be pursued, and a case should be lodged, against Mahmoud Abbas, as President of the PA, for his role in the murder, torture, and unlawful imprisonment of innocent Palestinian civilians. Following this communication, and others, an investigation of the "Situation in Palestine" was commenced by the Chief Prosecutor of the ICC on the 3rd of March 2021. The submission of this report is in accordance with the COI's mandate to collect evidence and information of abuses of international human rights law and identify those responsible.

On November 11, 2018, the Israeli Supreme Court rejected an appeal and upheld the district court ruling that found the PA liable for unlawful imprisonment in a precedent-setting ruling and ordered the PA to compensate the 52 plaintiffs. The victims, suspected by the PA of "collaboration with Israel," suffered extreme physical and emotional trauma that has caused numerous long-term damages. The Supreme Court found all testimonies reliable. As President of the Palestinian Authority, Abbas has played a pivotal role in exercising effective authority and control over the imprisonment, torture, and murder of these Palestinian civilians, in furtherance of a state policy designed to deter resistance towards his Government. During his time in power, Abbas has directed or allowed these crimes to be committed against these Palestinians and many more. Abbas's acts of arbitrary imprisonment, torture, and murder against these Palestinians and many more constitute crimes against humanity under Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

We *urge* the commission to look into these violations of Human Rights committed by the Palestinian Authority and include them in their report due to be presented in the Human Rights Council's June regular session.

Yours sincerely,

Flavia Sevald, CEO Jerusalem Institute of Justice



In the

International Criminal Court

The Jerusalem Institute of Justice Notice to the Prosecutor, Crimes against Humanity committed against Palestinian citizens

Notice to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court regarding Crimes against Humanity committed by the Palestinian Authority against Palestinian citizens in the West Bank





Notice to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court regarding Crimes against Humanity committed by the Palestinian Authority against Palestinian citizens in the West Bank

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Introduction

We, the Jerusalem Institute of Justice ("JIJ"), submit to the Office of the Prosecutor ("OTP") of the International Criminal Court ("ICC" or "Court") testimonies and affidavits of 52 Palestinian civilians who have suffered the grave atrocities of arbitrary imprisonment, torture, and murder by the Palestinian Authority ("PA") during the time period of 1991 to 2004.

On July 17, 2017, the Jerusalem District Court found the PA liable for unlawful imprisonment in a precedent-setting ruling and ordered the PA to compensate the 52 plaintiffs.¹ The victims, suspected by the PA of "collaboration with Israel," suffered extreme physical and emotional trauma that has caused numerous long-term damages. The court found all testimonies reliable. The exact amount of compensation is yet to be determined.

On February 20, 2019, the JIJ submitted to the OTP a communication pursuant to Article 15 of the Rome Statute of the ICC concerning Mahmoud Abbas in relation to the alleged crimes against humanity of murder, torture, and unlawful imprisonment. Those crimes were committed through a systematic and widespread campaign against parts of the Palestinian population in the West Bank from February 2011 through February 2019.

The "State of Palestine" deposited a retroactive ad hoc submission to the ICC's jurisdiction under Article 12(3) of the Rome Statute on January 1, 2015. According to the Article 12(3) declaration, the ICC has jurisdiction over crimes committed on the territory of the "State of Palestine" from June 13, 2014 onwards.² This date was intentionally selected to prevent the Court from holding the "State of Palestine" accountable for the murder of three Israeli teenagers on June 12, 2014 and for earlier cases of torture in the West Bank.

In addition to territorial jurisdiction, the ICC also has personal jurisdiction over crimes allegedly committed in the territory of the "State of Palestine." Mahmoud Abbas has held Jordanian

¹ Dov Lieber, "Tortured by the PA for foiling terror, Palestinian finds remedy in Israeli court", *The Times of Israel*, (September 20, 2017), available at: <u>https://www.timesofisrael.com/tortured-by-the-pa-for-foiling-terror-palestinian-finds-remedy-in-israeli-court/</u>

² International Criminal Court, *Preliminary Examination – Palestine*, available at: <u>https://www.icc-cpi.int/palestine</u>.



citizenship/nationality since 2011, and Jordan has been a State Party to the Rome Statute since 2002. Therefore, the ICC may exercise jurisdiction over crimes he has committed since becoming a Jordanian citizen/national, regardless of where they occurred.³

The JIJ is aware of the fact that the crimes against humanity testified to by the 52 Palestinians and submitted with this notice do not fall under the temporal jurisdiction of the ICC since they occurred before 2014. However, the JIJ is firmly convinced that the testimonies prove that a mechanism of systematic torture and unlawful imprisonment has been used by the PA for many years, well before 2014, and is still in place.

Abbas became president of the PA in 2005 and continues to preserve Yasser Arafat's regime of suppression of political enemies. Therefore, this notice supports the allegations against Mahmoud Abbas which were detailed in the communication submitted on February 20, 2019, and completes the picture of widespread and systematic crimes against humanity directed against the civilian population of the West Bank.

³ William A. Schabas, *The International Criminal Court: A Commentary on the Rome Statute* (Oxford, 2016), p. 351 *et seq.*





Chart of Testimonies

Red Text: Signifies that the victim died either during or after the torture *The repeatedly mentioned Shabach Method of torture includes cuffing the victim's hands, typically in abnormal/uncomfortable positions, covering the head, and playing extremely loud music. In many testimonies, torturers also hung victims from the ceiling as part of the method. ^The Chinese Water Torture method includes physically restraining a prisoner and dripping water on the head, one drop at a time, for an extended period of time.

Name and	Torture Method	Interrogation Elements	Long-term Damages
Location of Arrest/ Imprisonment			
I.R. • Mashtal, Gaza • Saraiya Prison, Gaza	 "Shabach Method"*: Hung from legs Bludgeoned Forced into a water barrel while head was covered with sack Tied to a pole and beaten until loss of consciousness Handcuffed for long periods of time Tortured with hot and cold water while a fan was pointed at him Burned using a cigarette Forced into a cell too small for sitting 	 Interrogated undressed for 7 continuous days Deprived use of the shower for days at a time Deprived use of the toilet for multiple days Fed only two slices of bread and one egg each day Tortured with a monotonous, continuous sound for many days Denied legal advice/lawyer Captors demanded and took bribe 	 Disc herniation Kidney problems Memory deficiency Mental problems Sense of suffocation Aggression Suicidality Night terrors Insomnia Inability to work His children suffer from neglect due to his dysfunctionality
A.B.JeninJnaid Prison, Nablus	 "Shabach Method": hung from wrists Bludgeoned Inflicted pain to testicles Beaten while sleeping 	 Murder threats Face covered with a rug Denied legal advice/lawyer No indictment filed during captivity Forced to give a false confession 	 Ulcer Abdominal pain Chest pains Headaches Pain in all limbs Repeating itches Blurry vision Night terrors





T.J. • Jenin • Nablus Prison	 "Shabach Method": hands tied behind back and hung from ceiling while hit by interrogators Stabbed and slashed Burned using cigarettes Tortured using hot and cold water Forced into a closet (60cm X 150cm) "Shabach Method": hung 	 Captors demanded and took bribe Blindfolded during interrogation Forced to do hard labor Medical neglect PA removed his newborn daughter from the incubator prematurely, resulting in disabilities Murder threats, including using electric chair PA performed a show trial against him, falsely accusing him of assisting Israel and seducing women to help this cause, and damaged his reputation irreversibly. Forced cleaning labor 	 Phobias Inability to read or write Confusion Memory deficiency Attention span deficiency Mental disorders Anxiety Inability to form meaningful relationships Excessive smoking Inability to work Leg pain Headaches Back pain Mental disorders Memory deficiency Insomnia Night terrors Stress Phobias Depression Solitude Inability to consume media by radio, television or newspaper Feels responsible for his daughter's severe disability caused by premature removal from incubator Inability to have sexual
 Jenin Nablus	 From wrists Burned using cigarettes	 Forced to walk on all fours Lost consciousness 3 times Denied bathroom access Medical neglect Denied legal advice/lawyer 	 relations Shoulder aches Constant sense of
Prison	and molten plastic Bludgeoned Lashed using wires Forced to shave		suffocation Phobias Night terrors









• Ad Dahariya Prison	 Burned using cigarettes Threats of sodomy using a large glass bottle Bludgeoned using pipes, sticks and firearms Lashed using wires Tortured using hot and cold water 	Cross was the first to know after two months. Denied access to toilet Restrained at all times Head was covered during interrogation Lost consciousness several times due to bludgeoning Murder threats Food deprivation Medical neglect Denied legal advice/lawyer Forced to give a false confession Captors demanded and took bribe	 Loss of sex drive Appetite loss Night terrors Insomnia Excessive smoking Tantrums Inability to participate in social interactions Inability to work Inability to read and write Severe mental trauma
A.H. • Mukataa Prison • Mukhbarat, Nablus	 Hung from wrists Electrocuted Burned using cigarettes His cellmate was killed Deprived of food and water Forced to perform sodomy on himself using a large soda bottle Tied to a wall Forced to masturbate in front of his interrogators Head forced into a toilet bowl Forced into a closet for 5 days straight (70cm X 70cm) Dental damage and teeth lost Hot margarine was poured into his ears 	 Medical neglect Murder threats using a gun, an electric chair, and the "Tanzim" unit Leg mutilated to prevent escape Blindfolded whenever he was taken out of prison Denied legal advice/lawyer Forced to give a false confession 	 Headaches Testicular pain Leg pain Rectal pain Paranoia Phobias Night terrors Suicidality PTSD Violent psychotic episodes Loss of appetite Memory loss Intrusive thoughts Extreme dissociative reaction (i.e."policemen disguised as cats are following me, performing witchcraft") Inability to work Inability to concentrate Excessive smoking Parents' house raided





			 Identifying document confiscated
B.S. • Hebron	 Dental damage Repeated blows to the testicles Repeated blows to the left eye Solitary confinement Tied undressed in the prison yard during winter Forced into a barrel of cold water during winter 		 Extensive dental damages Fractures Inability to have sexual relations Insomnia Mental disorder Tantrums Memory damage Job loss Lost his house in Hebron Loss of connection to family Excessive smoking
J.N. • Hebron	 "Shabach Method": wrists and ankles tied to a wall for a long period of time without sleep or clothes Bludgeoned using sticks and pipes Lashed using wires Forced into a small cell for days at a time. Forced into a small closet for days without access to a toilet Dental damage His feet and legs were soaked in cold water making it impossible for him to run or escape 	 Kidnapped his brother in order to pressure him to confess Captors demanded and took bribe (was released in return) Murder threats 	 Frequent loss of consciousness Abdominal pain Back ache Anxiety attacks Memory deficiency Tantrums Confusion Inability to work Excessive smoking





I.A.	 "Shabach Method": forced 	 The interrogation room had 	 Abdominal issues
	into a painful position with	a distinct odor of sewer	Hemorrhoids
 Mukataa, 	legs in the air for 8 hours	 Denied legal advice/lawyer 	 Difficulty breathing
Nablus	each day	 Medical neglect 	• Leg pain
	 Bludgeoned using sticks 	 Murder threats using a gun 	Depression
	and firearms		Alienation from family
	 Head was covered with a 		Insecurity
	sack		 Inability to work
	• Hands were tied behind his		Loss of romantic partner
	back		and child during
	• Forced to stand for hours		imprisonment
	on one leg		
	 Forced to stand on cups 		
	• Deprived of water and food		
	Denied bathroom access		
	• Forced to crouch on a		
	cement block		
I.H.	 "Shabach Method": hung 	• Denied legal advice/lawyer	Tremors
	from ceiling and beaten	• Captors demanded and took	 Inability to have sexual
 Hebron 	Forced into a small cell	bribe (was released in	relations
	(80cm X 180cm)	return)	 Constant aggression
	• Head was covered by sack.		Phobias
	 Burned by lit cigarette 		Depression
	Electrocuted		• Insomnia
	 Bludgeoned by sticks 		 Memory deficiency
	Head was forced into a		Alienation from family and
	toilet		friends
	• His car and his wife's car		 Inability to participate in
	were set on fire		social events
	• The whole village was		 Inability to work
	invited to watch his		• Divorce
	execution		Debt acquisition
			Requires financial support
			from his children
			 Labeled as a "Traitor" and
			his children suffer social
			fallout
		l	ianout





Z.A. Nablus Prison Jnaid Prison Mukhbarat Salfut Building Mukataa, Nablus	 "Shabach Method": hung by wrists or ankles from ceiling and beaten for 14 hours a day Slashed and stabbed in the back and the wounds were later salted Dental damage: 4 teeth lost Verbal abuse Ribs broken Denied access to toilet Tortured using hot and cold water Feet lashed using wires Testicles kicked Bludgeoned Forced labor Offered the choice between being murdered and performing a suicide bombing 	 Medical neglect During the interrogation, one of the facility's high- ranking officers made it clear that his career depended on a successful conviction, and told Z.A. he'd be found guilty regardless of the actual facts Due to fear for his life, he was willing to sign a deposition he had never read Never appeared before a judge Never had an Evaluation of Detention Denied legal advice/lawyer Witnessed a murder by an interrogator, which was covered up and made to look like a suicide Murder threats Forced to give a false confession Captors demanded and took bribe (He believed it to be the only way out.) 	 Back damage and pain Sterilization Orthopedic damage in shoulders Scars Night terrors Waking terrors Flashbacks Libido loss Energy loss Paranoia Phobias Suicidality Confusion PTSD Dissociative reactions Minimal cognitive functioning Loss of ability to read and write Difficulty concentrating Memory deficiency Shame from physical deformities due to torture Inability to trust Loss of ability to work All identifying documents confiscated
W.A. • Mukataa building, Jenin • Nablus Prison	 "Shabach Method" Bludgeoned Hung upside-down Deprived sleep Forced labor Forced to stand with a bottle/can on his head, which the interrogator then shot Shot in the legs 	 Sentenced to death when he was not there to defend himself Medical neglect Denied legal advice/lawyer Forced to give a false confession 	 Mobility deficiencies due to spinal damage Chronic swelling in left elbow Abdomen pain Inability to lift even the slightest weights Left hand tremors Dizziness Asthma





	 Tortured with hot and then cold water House and car were burned 		 Phobias Night terrors Insomnia Headaches Flashbacks PTSD Memory deficiency Solitude Depression Aggression Suicidality Loss of appetite Paranoia Anxiety Inability to work
H.H. • In his own home • Apartment in Jenin	 Bludgeoned using sticks and firearms Dental damage Tied to a faucet Tied to a bed Forced into a closet for 5 hours Hung from the ceiling, naked, losing blood and eventually lost consciousness Deprived food and water "Shabach Method": hung from wrists for hours Tied to the roof naked in winter No toilet access Confined indoors for 6 months Burned using cigarettes Ear bludgeoned with firearm 	 Medical neglect Denied legal advice/lawyer Murder threats Captors demanded and took bribe 	 Inability to consume media Loss of arm use Loss of speech ability Acid reflux Tonsil problems Back pain Ear problems Headaches Difficulty standing Chronic fatigue Night terrors causing violent action Suicidality Restlessness Bedwetting Self-harm Extremely faulty orientation Amnesia Aggression Insomnia Paranoia Agoraphobia Tantrums





 Back bludgeoned with a garden hoe Back bludgeoned with a garden hoe K.H. Jericho Prison Qalqilya Beaten with a stick on the soles of the feet until he couldn't stand Beaten all over his body until he bled and fainted The torturers poured boiling plastic on his leg Kicked in the face Put into a cupboard so he couldn't sit down for 4 days (100cm x 150 cm) Forced to sit on cans 	 Imprisoned the first time for 3 months Imprisoned the second time for 20 days 	 Memory deficiency Incoherent thoughts Minimal functioning Flashbacks PTSD Traumatic state Loss of ability to work Loss of appetite Excessive smoking Detachment from society and inability to participate in social gatherings Conflicts with law enforcement Loss of valuable possessions All PA identifying documents confiscated Vision problems Scars and pain in right leg Back pain Hallucinations Often no sexual desire PTSD Nightmares Insomnia Fears of the dark Stress Lack of focus Anxiety Restlessness Lack of interest in life Depression Anger Constant sense of persecution Inability to see family, lives in solitude
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Y.O.	 Necessary head surgery	 Sat in a dungeon for 70 days Deprived sleep Provided insufficient food Imprisoned for 50 months 	 Required back operation as
• Jericho	performed by PA's doctor		a result of the torture he
Prison	without anesthesia After the surgeries, cuts not		experienced Two head tumors
 Prison Nablus Prison Jnaid Prison 	 After the surgeries, cuts not sewn up Dental clinic uprooted 4 teeth instead of providing proper medical care for dental problems Forced to stand on fragments of bottles Beaten all over body Hung from his hands Put into a small cupboard for days 	 Imprisoned for 50 months Murder threats Medical neglect 	 Two head tumors Pain and difficulties of function in his back, right leg and left hand Drug dependency to relieve pain Scars Head pain Memory damage (can't remember his own phone number) Confusion Nightmares and sleeplessness Fears Depression Loss of reading and writing aptitude No permanent job Nervous outbursts
			 Identifying document confiscated Lives in solitude because of the fear of hurting people Hurts his wife and children Ruined family life Loss of self-confidence His family was expelled from the PA's areas
T.J.	 Dental damage: 4 teeth lost Broken bottle inserted into	 His family was forced to pay	 Severe damage to back and pelvis Blood in the stool Spinal damage Brain damage Scars
• Nablus	anus Hung from legs for 2	for the food he ate during	
Prison	months	imprisonment Imprisoned for 5 years Murder threats Medical neglect	





	 Bludgeoned all over body (by various objects) Cigarette burns Hard physical labor Tortured using hot and cold water Head wounded Necessary back surgery performed without anesthesia while hands and feet shackled Put into small cupboard for 6 months where he couldn't sit and bucket of excrement emptied once a week 		 Pain in chest, head, ears and legs Dizziness Vision problems PTSD Nervous and violent outbursts Nightmares and insomnia Restlessness Memory damage Restiveness Appetite loss Paranoia Seclusion Anger Inability to work Financial problems Identifying document confiscated During the imprisonment, all his cattle were stolen
H.D. • Nablus	 Kept in a small cabin Tortured using hot and cold water Face bludgeoned with sticks resulting in major loss of blood and consciousness Teeth broken Death threats Penis beaten Head covered by bags Hands tied to the wall 	 Forced labor Captors demanded and took bribe (was released in return) Medical neglect Denied legal advice/lawyer Forced to give a false confession 	 Pain in head, teeth and back Loss of sexual desire Insomnia Memory damage Mental disorders Paranoia Inability to work Significant financial loss Can't enjoy simple pleasures Lives alone
H.A. • Nablus • Jenin	 Condemned to death Sat on a tea cup Strangled by rope pulled tight around his neck Teeth pulled without anesthesia 	 Captors demanded and took bribe (was released in return) 	 Couldn't speak for two years after the arrest Many pains Nervousness Memory damage Sleep disorders (insomnia)





	 Handcuffed to a chair while his feet were under the chair legs. He fell from the chair and injured his head Cut by a knife Ate dog and donkey meat Kept in a small cabin full of sewage 		 Inability to read or write Inability to work Fears and anxieties Confusion Has become a danger to his family His house was burned down
M.D. • Hebron • Dahariya prison	 Burned by melted plastic Pricked by a hot needle Kept in a small cabin with no access to toilet Burned by a cigarette Penis severely injured Handcuffed in painful positions 		 Pains in head, back, liver, legs, penis Sterility Loss of sexual desire Appetite loss Memory damage Fears and anxieties Mental disorders Inability to work Lack of will to live Loneliness, disconnection from family
M.H. • Hebron • Ad Dahariya Prison	 "Shabach Method": hands tied behind back and hung from wrists Humiliation Poured trash and dirty dish water on his head Forced to shower outside with cold water Solitary confinement Deprived sleep/forced to sleep on a wet mattress Left kidney bludgeoned Stuffed into a dark prisoner transport vehicle for 6 months Slapped Medical neglect 	 Threats of murder by bullet to the head and burning to death Interrogated for 8 months Denied legal advice/lawyer Never charged Imprisoned without a warrant Blindfolded while transported Watched murder of his friend Transferred to places the PA presumed the IDF would bomb 	 Ruptured eardrum Neck pain Nausea Sensitivity to light and wind Shoulder pain Back pain Headaches Pain in left leg Memory deficiency Night terrors PTSD Depression Confusion Insomnia Loss of appetite Loss of libido Aggression Suicidality





K.R. • Jericho Prison, Nablus • Qalqilya • Qalqilya • Qalqilya • Calqilya • Qalqilya • Qalqilya • Qalqilya • Conly allowed to drink from toilet • Forced into a dark prisoner transport vehicle • Deprived sleep • Waterboarded • Forced barefoot into a shallow pool with a spikey bottom overnight • Burned using cigarettes and melted plastic • Urinated on • Medical neglect • Forced labor	 Murder threats Prisoners were murdered publicly in order to control the rest of the prisoners Gave false confession to avoid imminent sodomy by large soft drink bottle Was never charged Denied legal advice/lawyer Captors demanded and took bribe (was released in return) 	 Inability to read Paranoia Alienation from family Inability to work Loss of patience Inability to consume media of any kind Inability to participate in social events Loss of 100,000 NIS due to uncompleted jobs due to imprisonment Urinary incontinence Fecal incontinence Loss of right eye functioning Hand tremors Impotency Arthritis Back pain Abdominal pain Pain in the whole body Fatigue Appetite loss Aggression Night terrors Insomnia Intrusive thoughts Memory deficiency Inability to concentrate Paranoia Suffers from dissociative episodes PTSD Anxiety Inability to drive Divorce Excessive smoking
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К.О.	 Bludgeoned Was unable to talk about 	 Beaten right before his trial in order to get a false 	Back painLeft hand pain
 Nablus 	the torture he endured	confession • Medical neglect	Left leg painShoulder pain
			Headaches
			• Insomnia
			• Fatigue
			 Suicidality
			• Paranoia
			• PTSD
			 Memory deficiency
			 Night terrors
			 Aggression
			 Depression
			 Inability to write
			 Inability to talk about the
			trauma
M.A.	 Bludgeoned with pipes 	• Threats of murder by firearm	 Vision loss
	 Lashed with wires 	 Denied legal advice/lawyer 	 Spinal disc herniation
 Hebron 	 "Shabach Method" 	 Deprived sleep 	 Dental damages
	 Deprived sleep 	 Medical neglect 	 Memory deficiency
	 Tortured with hot and cold 	 Captors demanded and took 	 Night terrors
	water	bribe (was released in	 Phobias
	 Forced to sleep naked 	return)	• Paranoia
	Teeth removed		 Aggression
	 Forced into a dark prisoner 		 Appetite loss
	transport vehicle		 Insomnia
	 Wrists were tied to a tall 		 Intrusive thoughts
	window		• PTSD
			 Depression
			 Inability to concentrate
			 Inability to take part in social
			events
			 Inability to consume media
M.A.	 "Shabach Method" 	Blindfolded	 Dental damage
	 Bludgeoned using pipe 	Watched people become	 Chest pain
• Ramallah	• Broke 5 teeth	handicapped, insane, and die	 Headaches
	 Deprived toilet access 	during interrogations	 Neck pain





A.A.	 Burned using cigarettes Electrocuted Solitary confinement for 7 months Cold water poured on him Urine poured on him Tied to buildings to serve as a "human shield" "Shabach Method" 	 Threats of murder by firearm Medical neglect Denied legal advice/lawyer The cell in which he was 	 Back pain Legs pain Impotency Night terrors Aggression Inability to read/write Appetite loss Confusion Depression Memory deficiency Inability to consume media Diabetes mellitus
• Bethlehem • Dahariya Prison	 Bludgeoned all over his body by various objects including iron pipes Lost consciousness from bag placed over his head so he could not breathe Tortured with cold water while he was naked Deprived sleep Burned using cigarette (every day) Tortured with electricity Tortured in the genitals Hair torn off his body Teeth broken Stabbed with needles under his fingernails Left in the sewers 	 being held was flooded Murder threats Witnessed the torture of other prisoners Threats to arrest his family and torture them 	 High blood pressure Chest palpitations Arthritis Pain all over body Dizziness Headaches Tooth pain Delusions Memory deficiency Mental disorders Violent outbursts Paranoia Night terrors Loss of sex drive Nervous outbursts His land was stolen His family suffers from trauma Inability to work Psychiatric drug dependency Attempted suicide twice
M.B. • Hebron • Tul Carem • Ramallah	 Beaten by sticks and electronic cables until losing consciousness Denied toilet access Deprived food and water 	 Medical neglect Denied legal advice/lawyer Forced to give a false confession 	 Back, genital, eye pain Loss of sexual desire Occasional loss of consciousness Nervousness





	 Fed salt water and rotten food mixed with worms Hung from legs/ hands and sand bags were tied to him A prisoner tried to rape him Teeth were broken Tortured in the genitals Burned using cigarettes Kept naked in a small cabin during the cold winter with no blanket or mattress Death threats Didn't see sunlight for two and a half years 	Captors demanded and took bribe	 PTSD Nightmares Memory deficiency Inability to work Desire to be alone, far from the people around him
A.A. • Jnaid Prison, Nablus	 Kept in a small cabin (50cm X 50cm) Hung from hands overnight while beaten Burned using cigarette Tortured with cold water A bottle was inserted into his anus 		 Loss of all teeth Inability to eat Nervousness Memory deficiency Fear Lack of ability/desire to leave his house Low socioeconomic status Beats his wife and his children Inability to work
I.A. • Salafit (Samaria)	 Bludgeoned by sticks and rubber pipes while hanging naked from ceiling Hung out the window in the winter and cold water was poured on him Loss of consciousness Deprived sleep Teeth broken Handcuffed, naked on the floor 	 Denied legal advice/lawyer Forced to give a false confession 	 Memory deficiency Hopelessness Inability to trust people Impatience Inability to read and write His wife and children left him because he was accused of being a 'collaborator' His car was burned His parents' house became a target for stone throwers





I.F.	• Teeth broken	 Medical neglect 	Inability to orient himself
	 Burned using cigarette 	 Denied legal advice/lawyer 	 Leg, head and back pain
 Hebron 	 Beaten all over his body 		 Instability
 Dahariya 	• Tortured with cold water		Mental disorder
Prison	during the winter		Confusion
	 Stood naked next to an air 		 Independence deficiency
	conditioner		Nightmares
	• Death threats (for his family		• Loneliness
	as well)		 Inability to drive
	 No access to toilet 		Inability to work
	• Deprived sleep		
	• Forced to drink soap which		
	led to severe abdominal		
	pain		
	 Handcuffed in painful 		
	positions		
	 A chair was placed on his 		
	head		
	 Head covered by a urine- 		
	soaked bag		
	 Coffee poured over his 		
	wounds		
	 Hung by his feet to a ladder 		
	Kept in a small cabin		
I.F.	 "Shabach Method" 	 Blindfolded 	 Impotency
	 Bludgeoned 	 Handcuffed 	 Inability to shower
• Jenin	• Forced into a small closet for	 Interrogation and torture 	• Insomnia
Mukataa	4 days (150cm X 70cm X	continued despite a full	 Extensive psychological and
 Jnaid Prison, 	20cm)	confession	psychiatric care
Nablus	 Forced labor 	 Murder threats 	 Night terrors
 Residential 	 Lashed using wires 	 Interrogated in a second 	 Suicidality
home in	 Solitary confinement 	location at a residential	 Aggression
Jenin		home in Jenin	Memory deficiency
		 Was never charged 	• PTSD
		 Denied legal advice/lawyer 	Depression
		 Medical neglect 	Compulsive eating
		 Forced to give a false 	• Flashbacks
		confession	 Inability to read/write





		 Captors demanded and took bribe His family was threatened 	 Inability to concentrate Solitude Inability to consume media Inability to work Excessive smoking
Dr. D.M. • Nablus Prison	 Head covered Handcuffed Bludgeoned using pipes Lashed using wires Head hair plucked out Pain inflicted to legs, head, chest, abdomen, and genitals until unconsciousness Deprived food Deprived water Ear twisted Medical neglect Fed expired produce 	 Solitary confinement Heard his brother being tortured in the next room Murder threats Deprived access to toilet Swearing Threats of murder by hanging Forced to give a false confession 	 Suicidality and eventual suicide Chest pains Major cardiac complications due to medical neglect, physical abuse, and trauma he endured after heart surgery. Resulting kidney problems, eye problems, and elevated blood pressure. Nausea Joint pain Headaches Fatigue Insomnia Night terrors Depression PTSD Loss of appetite Phobias Inability to take part in social events Inability to read Inability to consume media 600,000 NIS was stolen Car worth 150,000 NIS was stolen
I.F.	"Shabach Method"	Arrested over a hundred	Back pain
• Jnaid Prison	• Forced into a closed trash can for a week (1m in height)	times ● Verbal abuse	 Spinal disc herniation Paresthesia in legs
	Deprived toilet access		• Scars on eye and finger





A.I. • Tulkarm Mukataa	 Wounds salted Extensive dental damage Bludgeoned Burned with cigarette • Deprived toilet access Deprived food Deprived mater Burned with cigarette Chained to a wooden beam 	 Forced to give a false confession Asked, under torture, to state that he had intercourse with his sister Sister, father, and aunt were murdered 	 Sleepwalking PTSD Night terrors Insomnia Solitude Phobias Memory deficiency Depression Suicidality Anxiety Aggression Compulsive behavior Inability to work Excessive smoking Inability to concentrate Separation from family Leg pain Back pain Loss of libido Headaches Night terrors Insomnia Loss of appetite Memory deficiency Phobias Aggression PTSD Solitude Inability to work Inability to work
A(F).T.	"Shabach Method"	Interrogation took place in	Inability to consume mediaLeg pain
• Jenin	 Tied to a tree Blindfolded Deprived sleep Deprived food Handcuffed 	 the woods Not allowed to relieve himself Threat of murder by firearm Forced to give a false confession 	 Back pain Dental damage Loss of libido Night terrors Insomnia Suicidality





	 Bludgeoned until unconscious Tortured using cold water Tooth removed 	 Deprived shower for 3 months Denied legal advice/lawyer 	 Memory deficiency Inability to concentrate Anxiety PTSD Paranoia Aggression Solitude Alcohol abuse Depression Inability to write Inability to maintain a romantic relationship
S.R. • Hebron • Ad Dahariya Prison	 "Shabach Method" Bludgeoned Needles inserted under fingernails Deprived toilet access Medical neglect Lashed using wires 	 Murder threats Handcuffed Blindfolded Denied legal advice/lawyer Captors demanded and took bribe (was not released in return) 	 Excessive smoking Headaches Back pain Insomnia Night terrors PTSD Memory deficiency Confusion Solitude Inability to consume media Inability to read/write
N.Z. • Salafit • Nablus Prison	 Hung from legs and beaten all over body Bludgeoned Hung naked to a tree for many nights in the winter Tortured using cold water Forced to sit on a heater Cans were placed under his body while the investigator stood on his back Teeth broken Burned with cigarette Deprived toilet access Deprived food Deprived sleep Handcuffed 	 Arrested several times since the first Intifada Aware of the murders of 6 fellow inmates Confined in a dark cellar for 6 months 	 Nose pain Back pain Vision deficiency Memory deficiency Mental disorders Nightmares Loss of appetite Tantrums Inability to work Apathy Inability to consume media Solitude Increased smoking Loneliness





	 Medical neglect Nose broken 		
M.S. • Jnaid Prison, Nablus	 Handcuffed Teeth broken Melted, boiling plastic poured on leg and penis Electrocuted until unconscious Hung from legs and handcuffed Bludgeoned with metal pipes 	 Murder threats Verbal humiliation Solitary confinement Medical neglect Denied legal advice/lawyer 	 Pain and problems in chest, legs, back, heart, kidneys Cognitive fitness deficiency Motor dysfunction Night terrors Hallucinations Mental disorders Loss of appetite Weight loss Memory deficiency Fears Lack of interest Depression Insomnia Loss of self confidence Inability to concentrate
M.A. • Jnaid Prison, Nablus • Mukataa building, Nablus	 "Shabach Method": Hung from hands for a month while head covered Tortured with cold water Deprived toilet access Kept in a small crate for days Heated until he couldn't eat 	 Murder threats Other prisoners were killed in his presence Imprisoned 13 months Medical neglect Denied legal advice/lawyer Captors demanded and took bribe (was released in return) 	 Skull fissures Inability to stand for more than 5 minutes Nightmares Fears Depression Impatience Lack of interest Mental disorders Insomnia Inability to work Increased smoking Inability to maintain a relationship Despondency, solitude PTSD





S.F.	• "Shabach Method"	Murder threats	Vision deficiency
	 "Chinese Water Torture"^ 	 Verbal humiliation 	Impotency
 Dahariya 	• Deprived toilet access	• Forced to pay for his food in	• Pain in head, legs
Prison	 Tortured using cold water 	prison	Memory deficiency
 Amin al 	• Teeth broken	• Other prisoners killed in his	Lack of appetite
Wakai	• Legs burnt with iron chain	presence	Nightmares
building	Rope pulled tight around	 Denied legal advice/lawyer 	Nervousness
	penis	 Medical neglect 	Mental disorders
	 Forced to perform sodomy 		• Fears
	on himself with broken		Confusion
	glass bottle		 Inability to work
	 Sat in ice water for hours 		• Need for psychiatric drugs
	 Bludgeoned with metal chains and belt 		 His home and his car were burned by the PA
			Unstable family relations
A.O.	 "Shabach Method" 	 Witnessed the murder of 	Heart disease
	 Locked inside a hot 	two of his friends	 Dental damage
• Abu-Dis	container for 4 summer	 Imprisoned for 11 months 	 Vocal cord damage
 Mukataa, 	months	 Murder threats 	Headaches
Ramallah	 Denied toilet access 	 Captors demanded and took 	 Hearing deficiency
 Beitunia 	Bludgeoned	bribe	• Eye problems
	Restrained		Diabetes
	• Forced naked into a barrel		 Elevated blood pressure
	filled with hot water		• Hand pain
	• Blindfolded		 Impotency
	Deprived sleep		 Memory deficiency
	• Two teeth removed		Depression
	• Electrocuted		• Tantrums
	Deprived food		 Aggression
	Deprived water		• Paranoia
	Wounds were salted		 Night terrors
	Medical neglect		• Insomnia
	 Rubbed hot peppers on 		• Solitude
	eyes		Confusion
	 Burned by cigarettes 		Flashbacks
			Appetite loss
			 Inability to work
			 Lost access to his house





			• His car was lit on fire by the PA
S.N. • Nablus Prison • Army's Attorney General's office	 "Shabach Method" Tortured using cold water Bludgeoned using metal pipes and a chair Rope pulled tight around penis Electrocuted Teeth harmed and removed Inflicted with ear pain Left leg broken Right hand broken Deprived toilet access Medical neglect 	 Imprisoned for 2 years Murder threats 6 months of solitary confinement Was aware of the murder of fellow inmates Forced to give a false confession 	 Ear inflammation Impotency Dizziness Dental damage Paranoia Drug dependency Dental damage and pain Heartburn Leg pain Back pain Testicle pain Tantrums Phobias Aggression Depression Night terrors Insomnia Solitude Memory deficiency PTSD Appetite loss Inability to read Inability to work Excessive smoking All identifying documents confiscated
 F.S. Unknown olive plantation 	 "Shabach Method" Bludgeoned using a hammer Inflicted with genital pain Stapled 	 The assigned physician tortured him as well Imprisoned for 5 years Forced to give a false confession 	 Leg pain Back pain Dental damage Headaches Insomnia
	5 teeth brokenTied to and dragged by a car	 Threat of raping his sisters 	Scars Confusion





	 Deprived toilet access Medical neglect Solitary confinement in a small room for 120 days (1m X 1m) Toenails removed Raped Slashed 	 Witnessed the murder of a fellow inmate Captors demanded and took bribe Sentenced to capital punishment thrice Murder threats 	 Memory deficiency Night terrors Aggression Solitude Phobias PTSD Flashbacks Paranoia Appetite loss Inability to work
M.I. • Tulkarm	 Bludgeoned using a metal pipe Strangled using a wire Burned with cigarette Burned by melted plastic 	 Year prior to the arrest, her husband was murdered by the PA Her son and her daughter were arrested as well Her daughter was murdered by firearm during the arrest; no death certificate was issued The PA murdered her sister, dumping her body on the road next to the Mukataa in Tulkarm. Her body had gunshot wounds and cigarette burns. 	 Pain in whole body Blindness in one eye Elevated blood pressure Paralysis in left arm and legs for an extended period of time; could not fully rehabilitate Fatigue Night terrors Insomnia Suicidality Solitude Depression Tantrums Hearing noises Her house was burned down during the arrest Her remaining family fled to Israel illegally Poverty Inability to consume media Inability to take care of children
N.H. • Nablus Prison	 Hung from legs for 60 days Bludgeoned Denied toilet access 	 Murder threats Rape threats Threats of raping his sister Forced to witness the murder of fellow inmates 	 Scarring Pain in the whole body Dizziness Dental damage Hand tremors





	Exception		1
Mountains	• Forced into a small iron	Imprisoned for 5 years	• Leg pains
near Nablus	chamber for 4 months	 Forced to give a false 	Headaches
• Jnaid Prison,	where he could only stand	confession	 Hallucinations
Nablus	Forced labor	 Medical neglect 	 Phobias
	 Burned with cigarette 		• Insomnia
	 Nails ripped from body 		 Night terrors
	 Insufficient food 		 Depression
	 Tied naked in the rain 		 Aggression
	• Forced to sit on a bottle for		 Suicidality
	hours (sodomy)		Appetite loss
	 Teeth broken 		 Memory deficiency
			 Loss of identifying
			documents
			 Inability to work
			Poverty
			• Inability to consume media
			 Inability to read and write
			 Lost connection to family
			due to fear of the PA
F.S.	"Shabach Method"	• Murder threats using firearm	 Inability to stand for more
	• Lashed using wires	• Given the choice between a	than a few minutes
• Jenin	Bludgeoned using sticks	false confession and death	Headaches
Mukataa	• Burned with boiling water	• Forced to give a false	• Appetite loss
	• Burned with cigarettes	confession	• Aggression
	• Tortured using cold water	Medical neglect	Memory deficiency
	Denied toilet access	Denied legal advice/lawyer	• Insomnia
	• Hung from ceiling fan	Was never charged	Night terrors
	• Forced to stand on cups	Was not made aware of the	Confusion
	while holding building	length or reason of his arrest	• PTSD
	blocks	length of reason of his arrest	Inability to work
	• Forced into a closet for 12		Inability to consume media
	days where he couldn't		 Inability to read and write
	stand (1.5m X 2m)		Fled to Israel, separated
			from his house in the West
			Bank
			All identifying documents
			taken
			Lakell





F.S.	Bludgeoned using sticks and	Forced to strip naked	Reduced left hand function
	pipes	 Blindfolded 	 Headaches
• Jenin	 Tortured using cold water 	 Murder threats 	 Back pain
Mukataa	 Burned using hot water 	 Denied legal advice/lawyer 	• Fatigue
	 Insufficient food 		 Dizziness
	 Forced into a closet for 30 		 Depression
	days where he could not		 Psychotic episodes
	stand		 Night terrors
	 Knife cuts in legs 		• Insomnia
	 Nails inserted into testicles 		 Flashbacks
	 Nails inserted into penis 		 Aggression
	 Nails inserted into legs 		 Confusion
	 Nails inserted into head 		 Suicidality
	 "Shabach Method" 		• PTSD
	 Left hand broken 		• Paranoia
			Phobias
			 Inability to read and write
			 Inability to work
			 Inability to consume media
			 Inability to take part in social
			gatherings
R.K.	"Shabach Method"	Murder threats	Dental damage
	• Sacrum broken	• Aware of the murder of six of	• Back pain
• Salafit	 Bludgeoned 	his fellow inmates; their	 Reduced functioning of
	• Lashed using wires	bodied were burned in a pit	fingers
	• Hung from legs	in the yard	 Night terrors
	• Teeth broken	 Sentenced with capital 	• Insomnia
	 Rope pulled tight around 	punishment	• Phobias
	penis	 Was never charged 	Depression
	 Head banged against table 	 Denied legal advice/lawyer 	• Loss of appetite
	• Forced to perform sodomy	 Medical neglect 	Memory deficiency
	on himself by sitting on a	 Forced to give a false 	• PTSD
	large soft drink bottle	confession	• Suicidality
	• Denied toilet access		 Inability to work
	• Deprived sleep		 Inability to consume media
	 Forced outside, naked 		• Separated from his family in
	during winter		the West Bank due to fear of
	U -		





R.J. • Jenin Mukataa	 Bludgeoned using firearms, chairs and other objects Burned with cigarettes Testicles and penis harmed Forced to stand on one leg for an extended period of time Denied toilet access Denied shower access 	 Murder threats using firearms during transportation to the prison and while in prison Medical neglect Was never charged Denied legal advice/lawyer 	 Dental damage and pain Headaches Leg pain Back pain Arm pain Appetite loss Phobias PTSD Flashbacks
	 Teeth broken Forced under blankets during hot summer days Burned using boiling oil 		 Paranoia Solitude Fatigue Insomnia Anxiety Aggression Night terrors Memory deficiency Inability to consume media Inability to take part in social gatherings Inability to concentrate Inability to work
H.M. • Hebron • Ad Dahariya Prison	 "Shabach Method" Denied sufficient food Bludgeoned using sticks and metal pipes Forced outside naked, and cold water was poured on him on cold winter days Teeth broken Forced into a compartment (1.2m in height) Lashed using wires Denied toilet access 	 Sentenced to capital punishment Hospitalized due to torture 6 times under pseudo-names Murder threats Was aware of murders of fellow inmates Blindfolded Medical neglect Denied legal advice/lawyer 	 Heart attacks Elevated blood pressure Joint pain Loss of libido Dental damage Pain in the whole body Night terrors Insomnia Memory deficiency Aggression Solitude Appetite loss Inability to take part in social gatherings





• P.S.	• "Shabach Method"	Blindfolded	Bloated testicle
	Bludgeoned	Medical neglect	• Back pain
 Hebron 	 Inflicted with pain to 	Restrained	• Leg pain
• Ad Dahariya	genitals	Murder threats	Hand pain
Prison	Forced labor	Humiliations	• Shoulder pain
• Mukataa,	• Denied sufficient food and	• Denied legal advice/lawyer	Headaches
Hebron	water	• Captors demanded and took	• Right eye pain
• Amin al-	• Denied shower access	bribe (was not released in	• Left ear pain
Wakai		return)	• Inability to stand for more
building,		,	than a few minutes
Hebron			• Insomnia
			 Night terrors
			Memory deficiency
			• Solitude
			Depression
			• Fatigue
			Phobias
			• Solitude
			• Paranoia
			Aggression
			Anxiety
			Inability to write
			• Inability to consume media
			 Inability to take part in social
			events
			 Inability to work
			Inability to concentrate
			 Intrusive thoughts
F.H.	Forced imprisonment		
	• Murdered during captivity,		
 Nablus 	therefore no additional		
Prison	information is available		



All victims were assessed by professional, licensed psychologists and psychiatrists. These reports are based on the findings of those professionals. Each torture victim reported the organization by whom they were tortured and, in some cases, mentioned specific names of people involved.

- 97% of the prisoners reported having been tortured by the Palestinian Authority (PA). In many cases, that was the only organization mentioned, however some prisoners were able to identify more specific forces within the PA's structure.
- 11 of the victims specifically mentioned the Palestinian Authority's Preventive Security Forces, calling them "Amin al Wakai."
- 8 of the victims reported people from the PA's either general or military intelligence services.
- 2 of the victims mentioned the PA's "Force 17" unit.
- 4 of the victims mentioned Palestinian police forces or the police/security forces of the specific city in which they were arrested/imprisoned.

Legal and Factual Analysis

These cases constitute crimes against humanity according to Article 7 of the Rome Statute, specifically Article 7(1)(a), (e) and (f). The elements of this crime and its application to the facts will be specified in the following chapters.

A. "Widespread or Systematic"

Article 7(1) of the Rome Statute requires that for an attack to be considered a crime against humanity, it must be either *"widespread or systematic." "Widespread"* refers to the *"large-scale nature of the attack, which should be massive, frequent, carried out collectively with considerable seriousness and directed against a multiplicity of victims."*⁴ *"Systematic"* refers to *"the organized nature of the acts of violence and the improbability of their random occurrence."*⁵

 ⁴ ICC Pre-Trial Chamber II, Decision Pursuant to Article 15 of the ICC Statute on the Authorization of an Investigation into the Situation in the Republic of Kenya [2010], ICC-01/09-19-Corr, (March 31, 2010), para. 95.
 ⁵ Ibid., para 96.



This notice documents ample cases to demonstrate the widespread nature of the attacks. Abundant testimony exhibits that crimes against humanity have been carried out in different places over the West Bank for over a decade. The commission of crimes such as murder, torture, and unlawful imprisonment against political opponents in the furtherance of a wider campaign to subdue and discourage dissent with the PA is compelling evidence that those crimes were systematic in nature. A Human Rights Watch report states: *"In the 25 years since Palestinians gained a degree of self-rule over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, their authorities have established machineries of repression to crush dissent, including through the use of torture."*⁶ The relevant incidents are not limited and random. Instead, they have been and continue to be part of the PA's governmental policy.

B. "Attack Directed Against Any Civilian Population"

For an attack to amount to a crime against humanity it must be "directed against any civilian population" according to Article 7(1) of the Rome Statute. The ICC Pre-Trial Chamber held that: "The commission of the acts referred to in article 7(1) of the Statute constitute the 'attack' itself and, beside the commission of the acts, no additional requirement for the existence of an 'attack' should be proven." An attack need not be a military act but can be a "campaign or operation carried out against the civilian population."⁷

For an attack to be directed against a civilian population, multiple instances of the relevant crimes enumerated in Article 7(1) must have been committed, in the form of a *"policy to commit such attack."*⁸ A single isolated incident will not qualify. It is required that *"the State or organization actively promote or encourage such an attack against a civilian population."*⁹ The term 'civilian

⁶ Human Rights Watch, *"Two Authorities, One Way, Zero Dissent. Arbitrary Arrest & Torture Under the Palestinian Authority & Hamas*", (October 2018), p. 1.

⁷ ICC Pre-Trial Chamber II, *Decision Pursuant to Article 61(7)(a) and (b) of the Rome Statute on the Charges of the Prosecutor Against Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo* [2009], ICC-01/05-01/08, (June 15, 2009), para. 75, available at: <u>https://www.icc-cpi.int/pages/record.aspx?uri=699541</u>

⁸ United Nations General Assembly, Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (last amended 2010), (17 July

^{1998),} Article 7(2)(a), available at: https://www.icc-cpi.int/resource-library/documents/rs-eng.pdf

⁹ ICC, Elements of Crimes, Article 7, available at: <u>https://www.icc-cpi.int/nr/rdonlyres/336923d8-a6ad-40ec-ad7b-45bf9de73d56/0/elementsofcrimeseng.pdf</u>



population' is defined in Article 50(1) of the Additional Protocol I of the Geneva Convention as, *inter alia*, anyone who is not part of an armed force, member of militia or volunteer corps, and who is not engaging in the customs of war (for example, carrying arms openly).¹⁰ The Pre-Trial Chamber has further stated that *"the population targeted can include a group defined by its (perceived) political affiliations."*¹¹ The civilian population against which the attacks by the PA are directed is the Palestinian population of the West Bank. The attacks have specifically been aimed at individuals who do not cooperate with and/or do not support the PA government, especially against persons who are thought to be supporting or assisting Israel. Hence, the immediate victims of such crimes are various suspected or known political opponents, but the wider class of victims is the entire Palestinian population in the West Bank who are intimidated into submitting to the PA's regime. Therefore, the attacks carried out by the PA are directed against specific groups within the Palestinian population, defined by their (real or perceived) political affiliations.

C. "With Knowledge of the Attack"

Article 7(1) of the Rome Statute requires that for crimes against humanity to be committed, there must be "knowledge of the attack." The perpetrator must have knowledge "that the conduct was part of or intended the conduct to be part of a widespread or systematic attack against a civilian population."¹² However, the perpetrator need not know all the characteristics or precise details of the plan, policy, or attack of the State or organization to have the requisite participation in and knowledge of a widespread or systematic attack against a civilian population. The mental element in the intent clause "is satisfied if the perpetrator intended to further such an attack."¹³

The perpetrators of the underlying criminal acts had the requisite knowledge and intent to fulfill Article 7(1) of the Rome Statute. That the acts of violence and intimidation described herein were

¹⁰ Definition of Civilians and Civilian Population." *Treaties, States Parties, and Commentaries - Additional Protocol (I)* to the Geneva Conventions, 1977 - - Part IV : Civilian Population - Section I -- General Protection against Effects of Hostilities - Chapter II -- Civilians and Civilian Population, ihl-databases.icrc.org/ihl/WebART/470-750064?OpenDocument.

¹¹ ICC Pre-Trial Chamber II, Prosecutor v. William Samoei Ruto and Joshua Arap Sang, Decision on the Confirmation of Charges Pursuant to Article 61(7)(a) and (b) of the Rome Statute [2012], (ICC-01/09-01/11), (February 4, 2012), para. 164, available at: <u>https://www.icc-cpi.int/pages/record.aspx?uri=1314535</u>

¹² ICC, Elements of Crimes, Article 7, available at: <u>https://www.icc-cpi.int/NR/rdonlyres/336923D8-A6AD-40EC-AD7B-45BF9DE73D56/0/ElementsOfCrimesEng.pdf</u>

¹³ Ibid.





carried out predominantly against individuals politically opposed to the PA is strong prima facie evidence that those carrying out the individual actions knew precisely why such individuals were singled out for abuse; it was not a random selection.

D. Murder

The ICC's Element of Crimes provides that for the crime of murder to constitute a crime against humanity, the following factors must be present:

"1. The perpetrator killed one or more persons.

2. The conduct was committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against a civilian population.

3. The perpetrator knew that the conduct was part of or intended the conduct to be part of a widespread or systematic attack against a civilian population."¹⁴

The perpetrator must have intended to engage in killing one or more persons, meant to cause death, or was aware that death would occur in the ordinary course of events.¹⁵ The death of a victim must have occurred as a result of an act or of an omission of the perpetrator.¹⁶ The Palestinian individuals' testimonies herein presented evidence the murder of one or more persons. The testimonies describe how individuals' friends, family, and other acquaintances have been killed by the PA Security Forces, partially as an intimidation method. One of the murders in question took place while the victim was in the custody of the police and/or security forces in Nablus Prison. Another murder occurred after the victim was freed from Jnaid Prison in Nablus. He was killed by Palestinian officials upon returning to PA territory. Overall, there have been four deaths as a result of the torture; two of the deaths were directly at the hands of the PA, and two were due to the psychological and physical effects of the torture. The requirements for crime against humanity of murder are hence fulfilled.

¹⁴ ICC, Elements of Crimes, Article 7(1)(a), available at: <u>https://www.icc-cpi.int/NR/rdonlyres/336923D8-A6AD- 40EC-AD7B-45BF9DE73D56/0/ElementsOfCrimesEng.pdf</u>

¹⁵ ICTY Appeals Chamber, *Prosecutor v. Vlastimir Dordevic Judgement* [2014], (IT-05-87/1-A), (January 27, 2014), para. 548, available at: <u>http://www.icty.org/x/cases/djordjevic/acjug/en/140127.pdf</u>

¹⁶ ICTY Appeals Chamber, *Prosecutor v. Kvocka et. al.* (IT-98-30/1-A) Judgement [2005], (February 28, 2005), para. 251, available at: <u>http://www.icty.org/x/cases/kvocka/acjug/en/kvo-aj050228e.pdf</u>





E. Imprisonment

For imprisonment or other severe deprivation of personal liberty to amount to crimes against humanity, the following factors must be present:

"1. The perpetrator imprisoned one or more persons or otherwise severely deprived one or more persons of physical liberty.

2. The gravity of the conduct was such that it was in violation of fundamental rules of international law.

3. The perpetrator was aware of the factual circumstances that established the gravity of the conduct.

4. The conduct was committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against a civilian population.

5. The perpetrator knew that the conduct was part of or intended the conduct to be part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against a civilian population."¹⁷

Imprisonment is frequently associated with the commission of the crimes of murder and torture. The imprisonment of those who are deemed enemies of the PA is frequently a precursor for their torture and, in some case, death. Where such acts of imprisonment are conducted without a legal basis, it is indicated that they violate international criminal law. An initially lawful act may become unlawful when certain procedural rights and guarantees fail to be kept.¹⁸ Legal imprisonment requires adherence to procedural codes. Police forces and public officials must be knowledgeable of these directives and are required to abide by them. When the local authorities uphold imprisonment contrary to judicial order, they knowingly participate in illegal behavior. All elements of the crime against humanity of imprisonment are therefore fulfilled.

¹⁷ ICC, Elements of Crimes, Article 7(1)(e), available at: <u>https://www.icc-cpi.int/NR/rdonlyres/336923D8-A6AD- 40EC-AD7B-45BF9DE73D56/0/ElementsOfCrimesEng.pdf</u>

¹⁸ ICTY Trial Chamber III, *Prosecutor v. Jadranko Prlić et al.* Judgement [2013], IT-04-74-T, (May 29, 2013), para. 63-68, available at: http://www.icty.org/x/cases/prlic/tjug/en/130529-1.pdf





F. Torture

According to the ICC's Elements of Crimes, torture occurs where:

"1. The perpetrator inflicted severe physical or mental pain or suffering upon one or more persons.

2. Such person or persons were in the custody or under the control of the perpetrator.

3. Such pain or suffering did not arise only from, and was not inherent in or incidental to, lawful sanctions.

4. The conduct was committed as part of a widespread or systemic attack directed against a civilian population.

5. The perpetrator knew that the conduct was part of or intended the conduct to be part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against a civilian population."¹⁹

Article 7(1)(f) of the Rome Statute does not require any special purposes of inflicting pain and suffering upon the victim and is not limited to persons acting as, or with the consent or acquiescence of, a public official or in an official capacity.²⁰

The element of inflicting severe physical or mental pain or suffering upon one or more persons is fulfilled by the actions of the PA's employees and agents. Each of the 52 testimonies submitted with this notice prove that physical and mental torture were employed by the PA during custody. The PA tortured the victims using a wide range of methods ranging from being hung from the ceiling and beaten repeatedly, to solitary confinement in restrictively small spaces, to forced sodomy with broken glass bottles.

The second condition for the crime against humanity of torture is that the victim be in custody or under control of the perpetrator. The testimonies show that the cases of torture and abuse occurred during the arrest process and/or during detention. Therefore, this criterion is clearly fulfilled.

¹⁹ ICC, Elements of Crimes, Article 7(1)(f), available at: <u>https://www.icc-cpi.int/NR/rdonlyres/336923D8-A6AD- 40EC-AD7B-45BF9DE73D56/0/ElementsOfCrimesEng.pdf</u>

²⁰ Johan D. Van Der Vyer, Torture as a Crime under International Law, vol. 67 Alb. L. Rev., (2003), p. 437.



The third criterion, namely that the pain and suffering did not arise from and was not inherent in or incidental to lawful sanctions, is met as well. Article 108 of the Penal Code and Article 280 of the PLO Revolutionary Law of 1979 actively criminalized torture, as defined in Article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 1984.²¹ Article 13 of the Palestinian Basic Law renders confessions made under torture invalid.²² It also appears that the use of torture is an unlawful practice under the local Palestinian law, whereby the third criterion is also given. Furthermore, the use of torture in the West Bank by PA officials, including police officers and special forces, was widespread. Though placed in different jails in the West Bank, many prisoners described specific and uniform torture methods, showing consistency between jails. This is a strong indication that systematic torture was ordered from above, and not at the discretion of a single official.

²¹ The Palestine Gazette, *An Ordinance to Provide a General Penal Code for Palestine*, Article 108, (September 1936), p. 973, available at: https://www.nevo.co.il/law_html/law21/PG-e-0633.pdf. Article 108 reads: "Any person employed in the public service who subjects or orders the subjection of any person to force or violence for the purpose of extorting from him or from any member of his family confession of an offence or any information relating to an offence, is guilty of a misdemeanor".

²² The Palestinian Basic Law, 2003 Amended Basic Law, Article 13, (March 18, 2003). Article 13 reads: "1. No person shall be subject to any duress or torture. Indictees and all persons deprived of their freedom shall receive proper treatment. 2. All statements or confessions obtained through violation of the provisions contained in paragraph 1 of this article shall be considered null and void."





Admissibility on the Principle of Complementarity

Introduction

In order for the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) to open an investigation, it must verify the three admissibility requirements as set out in Article 53 of the Rome Statute; namely the principles of gravity, complementarity, and interest of justice. This report focuses on the principle of complementarity because it reveals a serious problem with the PA's claim to have a good, working independent judicial framework. In reality, the PA's government can and does control the judicial system to further political interests. Because of this absolute political control, there is no prospect of improvement regarding future investigations, prosecutions, or policy changes.

Complementarity Article 17 of the Rome Statute

In the case of former Congolese warlord Germaine Katanga, the ICC Appeals Chamber established an empirical test to verify the complementarity requirement under Article 17 of the Rome Statute.²³ The Court considers the presence or the absence of national proceedings in the relevant state by asking the empirical question: "Are there on-going investigations or prosecutions, or have investigations been carried out and a decision made not to prosecute?"²⁴ In other words, did the State of Palestine conduct relevant national investigations of the alleged crimes against humanity committed against the 52 Palestinians in question? Unfortunately, the answer is no. The PA's officials enjoy an alarming level of impunity.

This is also what the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) concluded in July 2017. He determined that the State of Palestine has not complied with the calls for accountability and he urged the State of Palestine to conduct a prompt, impartial, and independent investigation of all alleged violations of international human rights.²⁵

²³ ICC Appeals Chamber, *The prosecutor v. Germaine Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chu Judgment (2009),* ICC-01/04-01/07-1497, (September 25, 2009), §78, available at : <u>https://www.icc-</u> cpi.int/CourtRecords/CR2009_06998.PDF

²⁴ Ibidem.

²⁵ Human Rights Council, *Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem : comprehensive review on the status of recommendations addressed to all parties since 2009, A/HRC/35/19, available at :*

https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session37/Documents/A_HRC_37_41.docx.





Freedom House has reported in this regard that the allegations of torture and other abuse by PA security forces are common, and officers are rarely punished for such violations.²⁶ Amnesty International confirmed that the impunity for human rights abuses in the West Bank and Gaza have persisted and that no criminal investigations have successfully been launched.²⁷ Consequently, victims do not have any access to justice and reparations.

In summary, the relevant authorities have not competently exercised adequate judicial powers in their territory. Law enforcement officials systematically fail to open investigations or prosecute the PA's officers despite the judicial framework that is theoretically in place. Under Palestinian Basic Law, PA President Mahmoud Abbas, must authorize all judicial appointments. As a result, each serving judge owes his position and its continuity to Abbas. It is no surprise that these judges will not investigate Abbas' high officers, let alone prosecute them. Additionally, many systematic, politically-motivated crimes occur in penal institutions within the West Bank, all of which are controlled by the PA. We conclude that the PA's judicial framework is in the hands of the politicians who are abusing the system to further their own agendas. Therefore, there is no prospect of improvement regarding future investigations, prosecutions, or policy changes. An investigation by the OTP has the power to overturn this systematic injustice.

 ²⁶ Freedom House, « Freedom in the World 2018 : West Bank Profile », available at : https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2018/west-bank
 ²⁷ Amensty International, *Report 2017/2018 – The state of World Human Rights, (February 2018), available at :* https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/6700/2018/en/



Conclusion

In conclusion, all elements of the crimes against humanity of murder, imprisonment, and torture are satisfied. The testimonies submitted prove that crimes against humanity have been committed systematically under the PA's regime. The mechanical oppression of political opponents under Yasser Arafat has been continued by Mahmoud Abbas. It is evidenced that the same methods and mechanisms have been employed by the PA for more than 20 years. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to shine a light on these human rights violations committed by the PA. Hence, we respectfully submit that the evidence presented in this notice supports the allegations made against Mahmoud Abbas for crimes against humanity committed against the Palestinian population of the West Bank, and we call for the ICC to open a preliminary examination into this case.