

# IMPRISONED VOICES:

Corporate complicity in the Israeli prison system



Corporate  
Watch

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## Corporate complicity in the Israeli prison system

By Therezia Cooper and Tom Anderson

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### Cover illustration

Cover illustration by Shahd Abusalama. Shahd is an artist and writer from Gaza whose father is a former Palestinian prisoner. Her website is <https://palestinefrommyeyes.wordpress.com>

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# INTRODUCTION

**This briefing collects the memories of the pain, suffering and resilience of Palestinians who have been imprisoned by Israel. In 2013, Corporate Watch visited the West Bank and Gaza Strip and interviewed released prisoners about their experiences. Many of them had been released in the 2011 deal that saw captured Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit released in return for the freedom of 1,027 Palestinians.**

The 11 accounts give a glimpse of the struggle of Palestinian prisoners. They have been collected together here to inspire readers to take action in solidarity with them and against the companies profiting from their suffering. This briefing is being published on 17 April 2015 to coincide with the annual day of solidarity with Palestinian prisoners. Today activists all over the world will be taking to the streets.

This global movement in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners has been spearheaded and inspired by the struggle of those inside the Israeli prison system. Since 2011, a wave of hunger strikes organised inside the prison system have won concessions from the Israeli Prison 'Service' (IPS) and have focused world attention on the prisoners' fight. Despite the failure of the mainstream media to cover the strikes, the prisoners' message came across loud and clear through the solidarity movement. One participant in the strikes said: "The people decide to organise these hunger strikes because they are looking for a human life in prison. You have your stomach and your will. And you are facing the state of Israel with this."<sup>1</sup>

In 2012, a call was made from Palestinian prisoners' organisations for a campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against G4S until the company ceased providing equipment and services to the IPS, demanding that: "In light of this increasing campaign of civil disobedience from within the prisons, we demand accountability for all corporations that both enable and directly profit from Israel's continued violations of Palestinian prisoners' rights being committed with impunity. Specifically, we call for action to hold to account G4S, the British-Danish security company whose Israeli subsidiary signed a contract in 2007 with the Israeli Prison Authority".<sup>2</sup> This, and calls for boycotts of all firms complicit in the Israeli prison system, have been repeatedly reaffirmed since then. They are made within the context of the civil society call for BDS made in 2005 against Israeli goods and companies and against all international companies complicit in Israeli occupation and apartheid.<sup>3</sup>

The campaign against G4S continues to gather momentum. On the 16 April 2015, after grassroots pressure from campaigners, over 20 South African businesses terminated their contracts with G4S over its involvement in Israeli prisons and human rights abuses.<sup>4</sup>

The first part of this briefing compiles interviews with prisoners from the Gaza Strip. The second part focuses on the West Bank. The final part summarises the companies providing equipment and services that aid the arrest and imprisonment of Palestinians and gives detailed profiles of two of the biggest culprits: G4S and Hewlett Packard.

800,000 Palestinians have been detained by the Israeli authorities since the beginning of the Israeli occupation, which means that 40% of all Palestinian men have been arrested at least once.<sup>5</sup> Palestinians arrested by Israeli occupation authorities in the West Bank and Gaza are tried in military courts under military law, whereas Israeli settlers in the West Bank are tried in civilian courts. As one interviewee told us: "The military courts are parts of the occupation. In those courts you are condemned from the start".

According to the Independent Middle East Media Centre, there are currently 6,500 Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli prison system. 100 of these originate from within Israel's 1948 borders.<sup>6</sup> The remainder are from the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. Despite this fact, the majority of them are imprisoned inside Israel in breach of international law. According to Addameer, "Palestinians from the OPT are currently held in a total of 4 interrogation centres, 4 military detention centres, and approximately 17 prisons". All the prisons, except for Ofer, are located

# INTRODUCTION

within the 1948 borders of Israel, in violation of international humanitarian law. Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states that "individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations of protected persons from occupied territory to the territory of the Occupying Power or to that of any other country, occupied or not, are prohibited, regardless of their motive". While Article 76 states clearly that "protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein".<sup>7</sup>

The fact that Palestinian prisoners are held within Israel's 1948 borders means that many prisoners are never able to receive a visit from their loved ones, who lack the requisite permits. Several of our interviewees spoke of the isolation they felt because their families were unable to visit them, and of loved ones who died without being able to see them again. Removal of visiting rights has also been used as a form of collective punishment. All prisoners from the Gaza Strip were stripped of visiting rights in retaliation for the capture of Gilad Shalit.

454 Palestinians are currently imprisoned without charge under the 'administrative detention' law. Administrative detention has been imposed on Palestinians since the time of the British Mandate. In its current form administrative detention allows the Israeli state to imprison Palestinians indefinitely on the basis of secret evidence without charging them or allowing them a trial. The term of detention can be renewed indefinitely. Several of our interviewees were held in administrative detention, many of them simply for being a member of a political party. One interviewee told us: "Administrative detention is a kind of psychological torture where you never know if you are going to be released at the end of each detention period... Sometimes they only tell you on the same day as the possible release if they are extending it or not. It is torture for you and for your family".

The Israeli authorities persistently detain and imprison politicians in an attempt to exert control over Palestinian politics. Currently 14 legislators and one government minister are serving prison terms.

200 children under the age of 18 are in prison, some of

whom are under 16 years old. These children are treated the same way as adults during arrest and imprisonment, are often denied access to lawyers or to an appropriate adult during interrogation processes and are denied a proper education while in prison. An international campaign is underway in solidarity with the five 'Hares boys', imprisoned since 2013 for allegedly causing a car accident by throwing stones.<sup>8</sup>

Activists have also been campaigning in solidarity with Khaled Sheikh, a 15 year old sentenced to four months imprisonment by a military court for throwing a stone.<sup>9</sup> He was released on 16 April 2015. According to Israeli human rights association B'Tselem, 97% of youth stone-throwing cases between 2005-2010 (out of a total of 835 cases) resulted in jail sentences, 19 of these children were under 14-years-old.<sup>10</sup>

Our interviews show that physical violence is commonplace in the Israeli prison system, both during interrogation and for long-term prisoners. The interviewees also describe psychological pressure and attempts to recruit them as collaborators during interrogation periods.

There are currently up to 600 sick prisoners in Israeli prisons, 160 of whom are in critical condition.<sup>11</sup> Withholding medical care from Palestinian prisoners is common practice. Detainees are prevented from going to hospital or brought to hospital in shackles, denied cancer treatment and life-saving operations. Our interviewees also informed us that denial of medical care was used as a punishment for prisoners. One prisoner from Gaza told us, "I saw doctors telling the hunger strikers: 'if you do not stop your hunger strike we will not give you your medicine.'" Because of the complicity of Israeli physicians in the mistreatment of Palestinian prisoners, a group of doctors has called for a boycott of the Israeli Medical Association.<sup>12</sup>

**We hope that reading this briefing will inspire renewed action against the companies making a profit from the imprisonment of Palestinians. We dedicate this briefing to all those who remain imprisoned, and to everyone living within the open air prison that is occupied Palestine.**



# **PART ONE:**

# **Prisoners'**

# **voices from**

# **Gaza**



# LIFE FOR A SICK PALESTINIAN PRISONER

**We met Salah\* at his home in Beit Hanoun in the Northern Gaza Strip a few weeks after his release from seven years prison in Israel. A celebration tent had been set up in his house since his release. We wanted to speak to Salah about the conditions for sick patients in Israeli jails, the particular problems for prisoners from Gaza and the complicity of international companies like G4S and Hewlett Packard in the Israeli prison system. The Ketziot prison where Salah spent some of his period of imprisonment has been receiving services from British/Danish company G4S since 2007.**

The effects of Israeli air attacks are never far away in Beit Hanoun. As his sons and grandsons bring us tea to drink, Salah tells us that during the Israeli bombardment in November 2012 his grandson Hisham, who was three and a half years old, "was playing a little way away from a government building. The building was struck by an F16 and rubble hit him on the head. He was in intensive care for seven days." We are invited to feel the soft patch in Hisham's skull where he was injured. Salah goes on to tell us: "My son Abed, now 20 years old, was in the street when the group of boys he was with was targeted by an Apache [helicopter]. One of them was killed and 18 injured. Abed's hand was amputated, he is seriously psychologically affected."

## **When we defended our children, our homes and our homelands**

Salah tells us that he wants to tell us the story of what happened when, as he puts it, "we defended our children, our homes and our homelands". "I was arrested during the first intifada [uprising] and detained under administrative detention for four months. During my arrest I was hit on the head with a stone. While I was interrogated they tortured me by squeezing my testicles. I was released for ten days then detained without charge again for another two years. During that period I remember one of the soldiers pissed on the ground and then scooped up the urine and forced it to my mouth. During the interrogation they hit my legs and toes with sticks." He rolls up his trouser leg and shows us his bent and scarred legs and feet.

He goes on to say that in November 2006 the "Israelis invaded [Beit Hanoun] and ordered all the men aged from 15 to 50 to gather in one place and asked for our IDs. When they came to me they looked at my ID, then they told me to take off all my clothes except my underwear. They made me walk around several times, it was embarrassing. Then they arrested me."

At the time of his arrest Salah was being treated for a heart problem. He was taken to the Beit Hanoun (Erez) checkpoint where he was detained for three days, then they took him to Ashkelon prison where he was allowed

to see a doctor. The doctor said 'that he would not be responsible for what happened during interrogation' as Salah 'might die' due to the weakness caused by his health problems. Despite this, Salah was interrogated continuously for ten hours. During the interview he had a pain in his chest. They gave him painkillers but the interrogation continued.

Salah told us: "I spent 35 days inside the interrogation cells without any medical care. During my interrogation my health deteriorated. The last part of the interrogation was non-stop for 17 hours – I was exhausted. When it was over they forced me to sign documents in Hebrew which I didn't understand. They accused me of being a leading figure in Fatah and of membership of the Al Aqsa Martyr Brigades [an armed resistance group aligned to Fatah] and of inciting the Al Aqsa Martyr Brigades. I told them that I had nothing to do with these things. In Bir al Saba [Beersheva] prison in 2007 I had a heart attack. They put me in a prison vehicle similar to an ambulance but I was on a stretcher handcuffed and leg-cuffed and wearing an oxygen mask. When I got to Bir al Saba hospital I said 'where am I, where am I?' But they didn't tell me anything. I stayed there for a few hours. The doctors in the hospital didn't communicate with me, they just spoke to the soldiers. Then I was driven back to the prison. I asked what the doctors had said about my condition when I returned to the prison. I was told by the officer that he could not tell me anything about my health, as it was a security matter. I had to return to the hospital regularly. It took more than nine hours from the hospital to the prison. I asked to be transported in a proper ambulance but they refused.

## **'He is a dog'**

In 2012 when I was being taken to hospital, one of the guards slammed the door on my legs on purpose. The other guard said to him, 'why did you do that?' The first guard answered, 'he is a dog, don't worry about him'.

I was always protesting about inappropriate medical care and because of this they constantly transferred me from prison to prison. Painkillers and water drinking



# INSIDE THE ISRAELI PRISON COMPLEX

are the only solutions they give to medical problems when you bring them up. I met with the International Committee of the Red Cross inside the prisons. I explained to them about the conditions. They made promises but it seemed like it was only slogans, only words.

During the 2012 hunger strike I was in Nafha prison. I was too sick to participate in the strike. The guards tried to make people eat. I saw how they did this. Me and the other sick prisoners threatened that if the Israelis did not meet the demands of the other prisoners we would join the hunger strike and not take food or water.

When I was in the prison clinic getting oxygen I saw the Israeli units kicking and punching the hunger strikers. The guards had food with them and were telling them to eat.

I saw doctors telling the hunger strikers: 'if you do not stop your hunger strike we will not give you your medicine.' It was like a battle of defiance between the Palestinian prisoners and the IPS. If an inmate did break the hunger strike the guards tried to humiliate them. Sometimes our clothes were taken and we were left in our underwear. They invaded our cells all the time.

The lives of the people on hunger strike were worth nothing – but what can you expect from people who kill children?"

## **Denial of visits**

After the election of Hamas in 2006 and the power struggle between Hamas and Fatah, which ended with Hamas remaining in control of the Gaza Strip, the Israeli military decided to end all visits to Israeli prisons by the families of Palestinian prisoners from Gaza. According to Salah, "From 2006-2012 I received no visits. Then, after 28 days of the hunger strike there was an agreement under the supervision of the Egyptians. The IPS agreed to allow some family visits. I received visits about every 2 months". The number of visits received by prisoners from Gaza is still limited by the IPS.

Salah was imprisoned in Ketziot in the Naqab (Negev) for three years. G4S have a contract to supply equipment and services to Ketziot. Salah told us that the conditions in Ketziot were particularly bad: "We were kept in the caravans. There were three sections to Ketziot: tents, caravans and cement huts. One of the Israeli officers at Ketziot came to my cell and threatened to kill me. Another of the guards there took a stapler and fired a staple into my head.

When they invaded our cells in Ketziot they shot tear gas grenades and used pepper spray. They sprayed canisters of gas into the cells. There was a bad smell – you would wash your clothes but the smell would still linger for days. It made you sneeze. Some people lost consciousness because of this. During that time in Ketziot they no longer distinguished between the healthy and the sick and the elderly. My friends used to put me under the bed to protect me because I was weak and they were afraid that I would be killed. I was also imprisoned in Ramon and Ohalei Keidar prisons".

## **'From a small prison to a big prison'**

"When I was released they said 'let it be the last time for you Salah'. They claimed they could get me back easily if I caused trouble. Since my release I am very nervous, I cannot bear to hear any loud noise. I prefer to be alone". As he describes this Salah begins to cry. "I have gone from a small prison to a big prison, here there are drones in the sky and the crossings are closed.

The British government should put pressure on Israel to release the prisoners – it is Britain's responsibility. Administrative detention is their law and the Balfour Declaration started all the problems. I would like the international community to continue their efforts to raise awareness of the conditions for people in Israeli jails.

G4S and other companies should be prosecuted and pursued in the International Criminal Court. They are making money out of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people."

## **Physicians instrumental in the Israeli prison system**

A group of doctors has called for a boycott of the Israeli Medical Association in line with the Palestinian call for boycott, divestment and sanctions. The call is on the basis of the IMA's complicity in torture and Israeli violations of the rights of the civilian population under the fourth Geneva Convention. Dr. Derek Summerfield, a British supporter of the boycott, said it was justified as many Israeli physicians were complicit in the occupation's crimes. According to Summerfield, one Israeli physician had confessed that he had "removed the intravenous drip from the arm of a seriously ill Palestinian prisoner, and told the man that if he wanted to live, he should co-operate with his interrogators."

**One way to act in solidarity with sick prisoners is to support calls for the Israeli Medical Association's expulsion from the World Medical Association over its complicity in Israeli militarism and apartheid.**

\* all names in this article have been changed at our discretion.

# BORN IN AN ISRAELI PRISON

**We visited Fatima Al Zak in her home in Shuja'iyeh, a neighbourhood in Eastern Gaza City, in November 2013 to hear about her experience of giving birth and trying to bring up an infant in an Israeli prison. Fatima is one of many Palestinian prisoners who have been denied proper medical care while in prison.**

Eight months after our visit, Shuja'iyeh was one of the most devastatingly bombed areas during Israel's 'Operation Protective Edge' attack in Summer 2014.

Fatima used to be a women's organiser for Islamic Jihad, but since her release she has been working as an independent activist on prisoners' rights issues.

## **Arrest and detention**

Throughout our meeting Fatima appeared open about the circumstances surrounding her arrest, as well as being clear about the abuses that she and her new-born baby suffered whilst in Israeli detention.

She was arrested inside the Beit Hanoun (Erez) checkpoint in 2007, while travelling from the Gaza Strip into Israel's 1948 borders. In her words she was on the way to "do an operation inside Israel". She had been told it was to be an Islamic Jihad suicide bombing targeting soldiers and army recruits inside a bus station. She had obtained a permit to cross the checkpoint for medical treatment and left her husband and eight children in Gaza, but when she got there she was intercepted by the Israeli military and charged with

attempted murder.

Once detained, the Israeli soldiers asked her to take off her hijab and took her to a separate room to be searched by a body scanner before she was handcuffed, blindfolded and transferred to an isolated cell for initial interrogation. "The first interrogation lasted around two hours", Fatima told us. "They tried to blackmail me by saying that if I cooperated and gave them information they would not arrest me but just send me back to Gaza. They asked me about other people involved in the operation but I did not give them any information and just kept smiling". During this time the interrogators had her phone and kept threatening to arrest her children and her husband if she did not talk. She could hear her phone ringing over and over again and was told that the calls were from her son.

After the initial interrogation at the checkpoint, Fatima was taken to a detention facility in Ashkelon prison where she underwent a medical examination and was asked if she was pregnant. She said that she did not know and asked for a pregnancy test. "After kicking up a fuss I was eventually given one", Fatima said. "It was

Families and supporters of Palestinian prisoners rally in the courtyard of Gaza's Red Cross office in October 2014. Photo by Joe Catron.





an immediate test but I was not given the result until two days later. I don't think they asked about the pregnancy for medical reasons but to find out a prisoner's weak point". Fatima wanted to stay defiant and went on hunger strike, refusing to take their food.

### **Treatment during pregnancy**

Fatima was kept in Ashkelon for 21 days. Despite her condition, she was put under brutal interrogation for extended periods of time, jeopardising the health of her unborn baby. She told us that she was handcuffed and blindfolded when taken to the interrogation room, and once there the interrogators removed her blindfold and kept her on a small metal chair, often with her hands cuffed behind her back. Sometimes the handcuffs were attached to legcuffs so that she could not sit upright. She was only allowed to leave to pray, and sometimes not even then. "I was only taken to my cell rarely, for a few minutes, and was deprived of sleep", Fatima said. "This very intense interrogation went on for one week and I did not talk at all".

After a week Fatima called the interrogators to her cell and told them that she had something to tell them. "They thought I wanted to confess and made a great atmosphere for me, brought me snacks and restaurant food to tempt me to eat for the baby. I told them that "I left eight children and one granddaughter. I left all my friends in Gaza. I left a good position of work [...] I was prepared to leave all this and do the action because of the daily killings and demolitions in Gaza. My punishment comes from God, not from your prisons". She refused to give them any more information.

When the interrogators realised that they could not get any detailed information out of Fatima, they changed tactics. They put someone in Fatima's cell, who she is convinced was a collaborator, whose job was to get her to talk. Collaborators are commonly used by the Israeli army to extract information which is then used in prosecutions.

When two young boys were put in a cell next to her, Fatima wanted to give them advice. She warned them not to trust anyone and not to talk or confess to anything they were being accused of. She thinks that triggered what happened next. She told us that the Israeli guards came to her cell in the middle of the night and handcuffed and blindfolded her and spat at her. She was told that she was being taken to the 'dog house' to die. This turned out to be a small cell, about one point five times one metre, with no air circulation. The cell was very dirty and full of insects that bit her. There was just a thin mattress on the ground. During the first three days of her time in the 'dog house' she had to undergo lie detector tests for eight to twelve

hours a day, where she was presented with profiles of other people and continuously asked for information about them. Fatima told us that she was regularly beaten during interrogation. "Every minute in that cell was like torture", Fatima told us. "Two days after being moved there I started to have bleeding, and I thought I was losing my child, which was what they wanted. As this was happening they were mocking me and laughing at me. I was there for one week".

Up until this point Fatima had not had access to any lawyer or outside help, but on day 18, after her bleeding, she got a visit from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and got to see a lawyer for the first time. The lawyer appealed to the high court to allow her to go to hospital and on day 21 she was finally moved from Ashkelon. The court had ruled that she should be taken straight to hospital, but instead Fatima was transferred to Ha'Sharon prison near Netanya. Finally, 12 days after the move, she was

**"EVERY MINUTE IN THAT CELL WAS LIKE TORTURE. TWO DAYS AFTER BEING MOVED THERE I STARTED TO HAVE BLEEDING, AND I THOUGHT I WAS LOSING MY CHILD, WHICH WAS WHAT THEY WANTED. AS THIS WAS HAPPENING THEY WERE MOCKING ME AND LAUGHING AT ME"**

# BORN IN AN ISRAELI PRISON

taken to a hospital and was given an ultrasound scan to check on the baby's health.

## Born in Prison

Fatima told us that after that she at least got regular check-ups at the prison and was allowed to visit the hospital. But life was far from easy or suitable for a pregnant woman. After her first visit to the prison physician, he asked that in future she should be shackled when she was brought to see him. After that she had to wear hand and legcuffs to her visits. She was also shackled at the hospital. "Around a week before the due date I had strong delivery pains and was taken from the prison to the hospital in Kafr Saba", Fatima said. "The pain disappeared but then the same thing happened a week later. Both times I was kept chained to the delivery bed and was arguing with them to unchain me". She made a complaint to the ICRC to argue her right not be shackled whilst giving birth. After that the general director of the prison came to see her and said that they would let her deliver the baby unchained but that she would be cuffed straight afterwards. She was denied her request to be allowed to have a family member with her during the birth.

The delivery itself took four hours but was hard as Fatima was denied any pain relief until just at the last minute, after a lot of cursing. "The doctor who refused it kept saying that I was a terrorist and that I was going to deliver a terrorist. Even the guards that came with me to the hospital were shocked at the treatment I received".

The baby, named Youssef, was born on 17 January 2008. Fatima only got to see him for a few minutes before he was taken away and she was shackled again. During the three days she stayed in hospital she was allowed to breastfeed him, and see him, for just 10 minutes, three times a day, with the rest of the feeding being done away from her.

After three days Youssef came back with Fatima to Ha'Sharon prison, where mum and son were kept in a cell with three other women. Youssef spent the first 21 months of his life behind bars. The prison authorities did not allow any clothes or toys to be brought in for him from the outside and just once they allowed her to buy him a small toy car from the prison shop. They also stopped allowing baby milk in for him, which he needed as Fatima was not getting

enough good food to be able to breastfeed him properly. After this stopped, Youssef got really ill with the flu and had to be taken to hospital with a weakened immune system.

Despite these hardships, the most difficult thing, Fatima said, was the lack of stimulation and other children to interact with in the prison. There was one other small child there, Ghada Abu Omar, daughter of Khoula Zitawi, a prisoner from the West Bank. "Youssef and this girl were great friends and he cried a lot when she left", Fatima said. "When Ghada and her mum were released he had no other child to play with. The only other place he saw other children was at the hospital. He used to run up to them and want to talk, but as he was with a shackled detainee they always ran away from him or were not allowed to play with him by their parents".

Fatima and Youssef were released as part of a deal where twenty Palestinian female prisoners kept in Israeli jails were released in exchange for a video of the then captured Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit in October 2009.

< Fatima holding a picture of her son Youssef, who was born in an Israeli prison.

Photo taken by Corporate Watch, November 2013.





# BANNED FROM RETURNING HOME

**We met 44 year old Mahmoud Mustapha Saleh Badaweh in Gaza City in November 2013 to speak to him about his time in the Israeli prison system. Mahmoud is from the West Bank but had been prevented from returning there since his release from prison in 2011.**

Mahmoud was arrested on the 28th October 1992, and he spent 22 years in prison for carrying out military operations as part of a Hamas unit. Mahmoud jokes that his time in prison was just “small change”.

His arrest took place near Qalqillya in the West Bank. However, after a period of interrogation he was transferred to a prison inside the 1948 borders of Israel. The transfer of Palestinians arrested in the West Bank and Gaza into the Israeli prison system is in violation of articles 76 and 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The companies providing equipment to the Israeli Prison ‘Service’ are complicit in these breaches.

Mahmoud tells us that he was imprisoned in Junaid, Beer Sheva, Ramla, Ashkelon, Nufha, Ramon and Ketziot prisons.

According to Mahmoud, the Israeli prison services often raid prisoners’ cells armed with “tasers, rifles, pepper spray and flame-throwers.” He often saw these weapons being used against the prisoners.

He was one of over a thousand prisoners released in

exchange for captured Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. Mahmoud tells us that of the 1027 people released in the exchange, 145 people were restricted from returning to their homes in the West Bank.

Before his release, Mahmoud was transferred to Ketziot prison in the Naqab, where G4S is known to provide services. He was told to sign papers promising not to affect the security of Israel. He was released into the Gaza Strip. According to Mahmoud, there was no option for him to be released to the West Bank, where his family live: “I did not have a choice about where I would be released to. If I didn’t agree to go to Gaza I would have had to remain in jail”.

Mahmoud is from the village of Habla in the West Bank and has a large family there. On his release from prison he was banned from the West Bank for three years. As a result he was unable to see his brothers, who were prevented from leaving the West Bank to go and see him because of Israeli border restrictions.

Mahmoud has married since his release from prison. He told us that he was “hopeful that now he will be able to return to the West Bank with his family.”

Palestinians hold a vigil to support prisoners in Israeli prisons at the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Gaza City. Photo taken by Corporate Watch, November 2013.



# AVOIDING ACCOUNTABILITY: LIFE IN

**Corporate Watch interviewed Akram Salameh in November 2013 at the government's Ministry of Detainees in Gaza City. He had been arrested in Gaza and imprisoned in Israel for over 20 years. He was released in October 2011 from Ketziot prison in the prisoner swap that exchanged 1,027 Palestinian prisoners for the release of the captured soldier, Gilad Shalit.**

G4S has been providing services to the Ketziot prison since 2007.

Akram had been a student nurse before his arrest. During his imprisonment he worked for 13 years as a representative for sick inmates at Ramleh's infamous prison hospital. He told Corporate Watch:

"Before I was arrested I was studying nursing in Khartoum in Sudan. I was arrested while returning from university, coming through the Rafah crossing [from Egypt into Gaza]. I was accused of being a fighter for the Hamas movement and a member of Hamas. They did not accuse me of involvement in any particular Hamas operation but my party membership was used against me. I was sentenced to 30 years. I spent 22 years in prison in total in Ramleh [Ramla], Nafha, Shikma [Ashkelon], and Ketziot [all prisons inside Israel's 1948 borders]."

According to Akram, far from providing care to people who need it, Ramleh hospital simply goes through the motions of looking after the prisoners: "Legally when you have a prison you should have a medical centre. So the hospital is a cover they use in the courts, a facade of legality. The IPS gives basic treatment but seeing a specialist or having an operation may take years."

Akram gives the example of a prisoner named Moatassem Raddad who "has been waiting more than four years for treatment for intestinal cancer." According to Akram this is one of the ways that the IPS goes through the motions of providing care while withholding lifesaving treatment. Akram tells us that patients are put on the waiting lists for treatment but never receive it. Moatassem "was promised an operation five years ago" but was still waiting in November 2013.

"I was a prisoners' representative in Ramleh from 1997–2011", Akram said. "I lived in the prison hospital



which is a part of Ramleh prison. I was a point of contact between the Israeli prison authorities and the prisoners and I helped with things like translation. There are over 1,000 sick Palestinian prisoners and the majority of them are imprisoned in Ramleh. There are many prisoners there who are completely paralysed. Ramleh prison hospital has a floor set aside for Palestinian political prisoners.

Ramleh prison is reliant on cameras. Cameras are all over the place and they have replaced the soldiers who previously had a much bigger presence there. Since 1994 you hardly saw any soldiers at all. The modern technology makes it more difficult for prisoners: the cameras see everything and microphones record everything. To get back to my cell from where I worked as a representative I had to go through 22 automated doors. At each door you had to speak to a soldier through a speaker system. If a prisoner placed his hand over the camera lens to get some privacy he would be punished.

"The prison is supposed to be a hospital but if a prisoner needs medical help the cameras cannot help him. If someone needed help I had to get the soldier's attention by waving at the camera but if he is not looking then what can I do? We had many martyrs because of this.

## **Doctors can 'switch in a second'**

"When the prison doctor takes a round of the building he is accompanied by soldiers. The doctors can switch in a second to become soldiers themselves. It is very easy for them to attack or oppress the sick prisoners. Some prisoners are paralysed and it is difficult for the soldiers to strip-search them so they are strip-searched by the doctors."

Akram showed us pictures of several paralysed prisoners who were regularly strip-searched by the prison doctors.

# RAMLEH PRISON HOSPITAL

## 'Dual loyalty'

According to Addameer, the “primary obligation” of the prison doctors is “towards the State and the Israeli security apparatus, rather than the patient”. Doctors working in detention and interrogation centres often fail to report incidents of torture and ill-treatment to the relevant legal authorities for fear of losing their jobs. Similarly, physical signs of torture and abuse are rarely reported in the detainees’ medical files, making it almost impossible for the victims to seek justice and compensation. Doctors also often advise Israeli Security Agency officers on the health condition of a detainee held under interrogation and as such, they become complicit in the practice of torture and physical and mental abuse.

There is no medical reason to conduct a strip-search, and in doing so doctors are doing the prison guards’ jobs for them. Conducting these strip searches of prisoners on behalf of the prison authorities makes doctors complicit in the imprisonment of Palestinian political prisoners in contravention of international law.

## Prisoners released when close to death

According to Akram: “I think the IPS releases prisoners just before they die in order to avoid being held legally responsible for their deaths”. This was the case for Rabee Ali. Akram said: “I got to know Rabee because he was very ill and I used to support him by feeding him and taking him to the toilet.

**“He was shot in the back during his arrest and had developed blood poisoning.” The Independent Middle East Media Center reported in 2008 that Rabee was being denied medical attention. He was given early release due to his condition but died a week after.**

Another prisoner, Ashraf abu Dhra, had muscular dystrophy. He was arrested in 2006. His condition quickly deteriorated while he was in prison. Akram said: “Ashraf was brought to Ramleh after his interrogation. Before he

was in prison he was having regular physiotherapy. The doctors in Ramleh refused to do anything for him apart from feed him, clothe him and take him to the toilet and his condition got worse and worse.”

Akram showed us a picture of Ashraf before he was imprisoned and an emaciated picture of him on the day of his release. Physicians for Human Rights filed a request to the Israeli District Court for Ashraf to receive physical therapy and this request was granted. However, the authorities at Ramleh refused to give Ashraf the therapy he needed, saying that it was unnecessary. According to Akram: “He was released three to four months ago after serving his sentence. After one week he fell into a coma. He died 40 days after his release.”



Mukarram Abu Alouf from the government Ministry of Detainees holds up two pictures of Rabee Ali, one before he was arrested and one on the day he was released. Rabee died soon after his release. Photo taken by Corporate Watch, Gaza City, November 2013.



# PART TWO: Prisoners' voices from the West Bank



# ARRESTED FOR USING FACEBOOK

**This is the testimony of Ghada, a 22 year old woman from Ramleh who lives in Ramallah. At the time of her arrest Ghada had been active in student organising and in prisoner solidarity work.**

Ghada was arrested in the West Bank under military law but transferred to prisons inside Israel. While in prison she was interrogated about her involvement with proscribed groups; in this case groups deemed to have ties with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). The Israeli military has declared hundreds of organisations

illegal, including every Palestinian political party, every student body, sports clubs, charity organisations and women's centres. Any association with any of these unlawful organisations is deemed an offence. Charges arising may include, for example, being a member of the organization, providing services to the organization, having a position in the organisation or donating money to the organisation. A list of military orders proscribing Palestinian organisations can be found at <http://nolegalfrontiers.org/he/military-orders/mil08>



## **House invasion and arrest**

Ghada was arrested on 26 March 2012. The soldiers came to her house in Ramallah at 1.30am. Her parents woke up because of a noise and found them inside the house: they didn't knock on the door, they simply broke in.

When Ghada opened the door the soldiers immediately asked her for a phone that they were looking for. She said that she no longer had it. She was told that if she did not give them the phone they were after they "would make a mess of the house". They entered the house and headed for her room, where they turned everything upside down and confiscated some phones, USB sticks and her laptop. They also took away some papers and pictures of her friends at university. They would not tell either her or her parents why they wanted the phone or why they were arresting her. She was held by the army in her house for two hours. At first the soldiers refused to let her change out of her night clothes or go to the bathroom but eventually she was allowed to go, accompanied by a female soldier.

After two hours she was led downstairs, where three or four jeeps were waiting. She was dragged into one of the jeeps and driven away. She was blindfolded, handcuffed and her legs were put in shackles. After a while they stopped and she was transferred to another jeep. As she was blindfolded she could not see where they were. This happened three times. Eventually, they arrived at their destination, which was an interrogation centre in Ashkelon, inside Israel.

## **Detention and interrogation**

Once inside the detention facility, Ghada was asked if she had any diseases and scanned with a metal detector before she was taken to an isolation cell. They also tried to strip-search her but she refused. She had been wearing a blindfold since she left Ramallah.



# ARRESTED FOR USING FACEBOOK

After about two hours in the cell, Ghada was taken away for investigation and was interrogated for four hours. During the interrogations it became clear that she had been arrested for her involvement with a prisoner solidarity Facebook page called 'Freedom Voice'. Ghada was one of the administrators of the page which collated media reports about Palestinian prisoners. She had also been a volunteer for the Palestinian prisoner support and human rights NGO Addameer. The interrogators said that she was accused of planning for military action against Israel and for supporting and updating news about prisoners.

"They asked me a lot about the prisoner Facebook page and other people involved in the administration of it", Ghada said. "They wanted me to tell them things about the other people and create connections between us. They had already arrested two people before me. But all we did was spreading news about prisoners.

They accused us of planning military action against Israel – accused us of dealing with illegal organisations and that illegal organisations were helping us".

**For the next 15 days they interrogated her for ten hours a day in chunks. When she was not being interrogated she was kept alone in the cell. On each occasion she was blindfolded until they put her on the chair in the interrogation room. There were four main interrogators. She was there for a total of 26 days.**

"They used a lot of emotional pressure during the interrogations", Ghada said, "like "your mum must be crying now, you'll stay here forever' and threats like 'It only takes one phone call for us to get you here. We can take you anytime'. They asked a lot about my family. Once they mentioned my brother's birthday and how they had to make the interrogations quicker so that I would talk and be able to see my brother on his birthday. I felt like this was intended to make me feel guilty about my family and make me talk. The interrogations were hard but the hardest thing is to be in the cell. If you are strong enough you will cope with the investigation, but it is hard to be alone in the cell. I was not allowed any books, pens or paper."

During this period Ghada got to see her lawyer every eight to ten days, and her case went to court three or four times but the military prosecutors kept asking for more time. During the hearings the Israeli military prosecutors claimed they had secret files on her that they could not share, and that a student group she worked with was connected to the PFLP. She said that she was not a member of any political party. In the end the only charge was for selling educational books through the group at the university.

Ghada was transferred, during her imprisonment, to Ha'Sharon prison, South of Haifa. She was imprisoned alongside Israelis serving sentences for criminal offences in the Israeli civilian legal system. The ordinary prisoners wore orange prison fatigues whereas the Palestinian prisoners, who had been arrested in occupied territory and were being processed under military rather than civilian law, wore brown.

The last few hearings took place in Ofer military court in the West Bank. This at least gave her the comfort of her family being able to attend, something they could not do when the hearings took place inside Israel. However, even in Ofer they always put her family in the last line and had a soldier standing in her line of vision so that they could not see each other.

The journey to Ofer from Ashkelon took several hours. Ghada was transported by military jeep, shackled and handcuffed. Often she arrived too early and was left like this for hours, in the jeep waiting outside the court.

In the end the judge ruled that she should be released as she had been in solitary confinement for ten days without

**"THEY USED A LOT OF EMOTIONAL PRESSURE DURING THE INTERROGATIONS, LIKE 'YOUR MUM MUST BE CRYING NOW, YOU'LL STAY HERE FOREVER' AND THREATS LIKE 'IT ONLY TAKES ONE PHONE CALL FOR US TO GET YOU HERE. WE CAN TAKE YOU ANY TIME'"**

further investigation. She had to pay 7000 Israeli shekels bail and for two months she had bail conditions which meant she had to go and report to Beit El settlement every Sunday. When they finally relaxed the conditions they kept half of her bail money as a fine.

#### **Prison conditions**

Like other prisoners Corporate Watch has interviewed, Ghada reported bad food being served in the prisons, with the portions being too small to sustain the prisoners. When she was kept in Ofer prison during her last week of detention, her cell was really dirty, and the air conditioning was on 24 hours a day despite the weather being cold outside, making the cells freezing. They were not turned off despite repeated requests. During the night the psychological torture continued, with guards knocking on her cell door to 'check if she was ok' up to every half hour, making it impossible for her to get unbroken sleep.

**Ghada supports the boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign against Israel, and wants solidarity activists from around the world to join the campaign against G4S and its services to the Israeli prison system.**

The perimeter fence of Ofer prison and the military court close to Ramallah in the West Bank. Photo taken by Corporate Watch, March 2013.





# "YOU DON'T LOOK FOR JUSTICE IN A

**This is the testimony of Salah, a 27 year old French-Palestinian man from Jerusalem who has spent a total of seven years and ten months in Israeli prisons since he was 16 years old.**

When Salah was first arrested he was sentenced to six months in prison. The second time was when he was 18. This time he was held for four months in administrative detention.

Salah's most recent arrest was in 2005. He was sentenced to seven years in prison and he was not released until the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange in 2011. Corporate Watch asked him to tell us what it is like being held in Israeli custody.

On 31 August 2001, when Salah was only 16, soldiers came to his house looking for him in the middle of the night, accusing him of fly-posting martyr posters (posters of people killed by Israeli forces) around the city. After being taken to the Russian compound interrogation facility (also known as Al Moskobiyyeh) in Jerusalem, he experienced 60 days of interrogation where the investigators accused him of being 'close to the PFLP' and involved in its youth movement. Israel considers the PFLP to be an illegal terrorist organisation.

While he was in the Russian Compound he often spent 20 hours a day with his arms tied behind his back to the chair and he was also tied up with leg shackles. He was allowed contact with the Red Cross after three days, but did not have any contact with his family during this time. He was held for 20 days before he had access to a lawyer.

During his first time in prison, there were around 80 other juvenile prisoners held with him who had been taken to Israel from both the West Bank and Gaza. They had been convicted in military courts, and most never received visits as their families did not have permits to visit Jerusalem, increasing the young people's sense of isolation. "You don't look for justice in a military court", Salah said. "The military courts are part of the occupation. In those courts you are condemned from the start". The conviction rate of Palestinians in Israeli military courts is above 99.7%. Despite their age, the 18



prisoners only had one teacher between them in the prison and that teacher only came once a week to teach Arabic.

Salah's second arrest was in 2004, whilst he was a student at Bethlehem university. He was sleeping in a house with five friends when soldiers entered the building. They said that one of the people in the house was wanted by the Israelis, then arrested all five of them. They all spent four to nine months in administrative detention, with the wanted man going to prison for five years. The whole case was based on secret evidence and even the lawyers for Salah and his friends did not get to see the case against them. "Administrative detention is a kind of psychological torture where you never know if you are going to be released at the end of each detention period", Salah said. "Sometimes they only tell you on the same day as the possible release if they are extending it or not. It is torture for you and for your family". There is no upper time limit for administrative detention in Israeli prisons so this circle can be repeated indefinitely.

In March 2005 Salah was arrested for a third time. He was detained at Qalandia checkpoint between Jerusalem and Ramallah, where he was told that he was wanted by the Israelis, then blindfolded, handcuffed and shackled before he was put into a military vehicle and driven to the Russian compound. Once there he was body searched.

For his first month in detention he was kept completely isolated in a dark cell with a thin mattress and a thin blanket and endured 22 hour long interrogations.

# MILITARY COURT"

He was not allowed access to his lawyer for 65 days. This time the accusation was that he had intended to assassinate Ovadia Yosef, the 'spiritual leader' of Shas, an ultra-orthodox religious party in Israel. The evidence presented for this allegation was that Salah had passed Yosef's house in a car and was thought to have 'observed' him. "If you are an activist in Jerusalem that is all you have to do for them to say that you are planning an assassination", Salah commented.

During his lengthy interrogations, the interrogators used psychological pressure to make Salah talk:

"They use the idea of threats against your family to make you talk. Just before my arrest I had dropped my dad off at the hospital as he needed to have a heart operation. One day, after I had been interrogated for around a week, the Israelis came to my cell and told me to come and look through a peephole. On the other side was my dad, looking weak, being interrogated by them".

After his interrogation period Salah was moved to Be'er Sheva prison in the Naqab (Negev).

## **Prison conditions**

We asked Salah to tell us more about the conditions that he witnessed and experienced throughout his more than seven years in Israeli prisons.

For many prisoners one of the hardest things about prison is the separation from their families. Although in theory most prisoners should be allowed one visit every two weeks for 45 minutes, this is not the reality for most. People being held under administrative detention are often denied visits altogether, and other Palestinian prisoners fall into three categories: Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. As most prisoners from the West Bank and Gaza are imprisoned inside Israel, in breach of the Geneva convention, their families have to apply through the Red Cross to get a permit to enter Israel for prison visits. These applications are often denied. As a result many prisoners spend four to five years in prison without a visit. The Israeli security services often take advantage of families in this situation, Salah told us, and ask families for some level of cooperation with the Israeli state in exchange for a permit to visit their loved ones. The people lucky enough to receive visits

are still denied any physical contact with their families, as all communication takes place separated by a glass screen.

Between 2007 and 2011 prisoners were denied books or educational materials as a form of collective punishment for the capture of Gilad Shalit. This only ended after a prolonged hunger-strike by prisoners demanding improved conditions. At the moment one of the biggest issues is the access to medicines.

According to Salah, prisoners can spend months trying to get medicines for a particular illness and when they finally get some it is hardly ever the right one.

## **Prison transportation**

One frequent complaint by prisoners is the harsh conditions during prisoner transportation. Although the Israeli occupation forces illegally transfer Palestinians to Israel for imprisonment, their cases are heard in a military court, so every time they have a hearing they are transported back to the West Bank where Salem and Ofer military courts are located. Salah told us about his experience of this transfer:

"When you have a hearing you have to get up at five o'clock in the morning or so. You get put in a small room and have to wait for hours until the buses come. The buses that do the transportation look fine from the outside, but when you get inside they are horrible. Sometimes you can be in this bus for twelve hours without a break. Inside they are all made of steel. When it is hot outside it is boiling and when it is cold it is very, very cold. The bus takes around 50 prisoners and you are handcuffed and shackled during transportation. You are not allowed a toilet break, food or water during the journey".

In 2008, Adalah Legal Centre for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, and Physicians for Human Rights Israel petitioned the Israeli Supreme Court for better prisoner transport conditions, but according to prisoner evidence, improvements have yet to materialise.

"The Israeli prisons refuse any investigation by international bodies about their prisons", Salah said, "This is because they know that their prisons are in breach of international standards."



# G4S COMPLICIT IN THE JAILING OF

**Sireen Khudairy, who is active in the non-violent campaign for human rights in Palestine, was arrested on 14 May 2013 by the Israeli army. Statements by Israeli prosecutors indicate that she was being held because of internet activism. Sireen was released after an international campaign was launched against her arrest.**

**The security systems in Al Jalameh interrogation centre (also known as 'Kishon') were provided by British/Danish company G4S.**



**Reprinted below is a statement written by Sireen's family and friends at the time:**

Last Tuesday Sireen, a 24 year old woman from Tubas, was detained by the Israeli occupation forces. She is currently being held in Al Jalameh, an Israeli prison. Her family and friends fear for her safety.

She has been denied access to a lawyer and she has not been allowed to make any contact with her loved ones since her abduction. At around 3pm last Tuesday Sireen's car was stopped at a temporary check point on the road between Nablus and Tubas in the West Bank. After brief questioning by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) she was detained. The second person in the car was also detained. In the early hours on Wednesday, the IOF raided Sireen's family home whilst her father Khalid Sawafteh, her mother, three brothers, sisters in law and their two young children were sleeping. 25 IOF army jeeps entered the town of Tubas. 20 officers entered the home and over 100 remained in the street cornering off the house. The family and young children were all taken into one room whilst their home was ransacked. The IOF took all the computers in the house leaving Sireen's relatives in shock.

Tubas is located in Area A as designated under the Oslo Accords, an agreement drawn up between the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government. 'Legally' it is under total Palestinian civil and military control. Israeli civilians and military are prohibited to enter Area A and any incursion into this area is considered a breach of this agreement. Despite this, the IOF have continued to carry out 'operations' in Area A. The illegal incursion on Wednesday morning sparked protests in Tubas. Israeli forces fired tear gas and sound grenades at local residents as they gathered. Omar Abed al-Razaq, a 20 year old local university student from Nablus, was injured. He is in a serious but stable condition in Nablus Hospital. He has lost some of his fingers and is currently unable to communicate with his visitors. The full extent of his injuries are not yet known.

The head of the Palestinian Prisoners Society in Tubas, Mahmud Sawafteh, denounced Israel's continuous raids, which he says causes "fear and panic among residents". Since her detention, Sireen has been forcibly transferred out of the Occupied Palestinian Territories to an Israeli prison in Haifa located in the north of Israel, a practice illegal under international law.

Last Thursday, lawyers acting for Sireen tried to visit the prison inside Israel where she is being held. They were refused entry. She appeared in court on Monday with her hands and legs shackled. The spurious charge was internet activism, creating a Facebook page which is considered a 'threat' to the 'security' of the region.

# INTERNET ACTIVIST

Sireen is active in the non violent campaign for human rights in Palestine. She studied computer science at the Open University in Tubas. During her studies she was actively involved in a twinning project between Tubas and the University of Sussex, England. She took part in a delegation of students which visited the UK from Palestine to strengthen links and foster friendships. Rashed Khaled, Sireen's older brother, said: "We in the family are very concerned for Sireen and we would love her to be returned to us soon. My mother is very sad and fears for Sireen, she cannot sleep. How can we be at peace? We do not know what is happening and we are not allowed to see her". Many Palestinian women prisoners suffer abuse during their detention.

Palestinian women prisoners are often kept in the same cells as Israeli female convicts. This practice often leads to female Palestinian prisoners being humiliated or suffering from threats and assault perpetrated with impunity by the Israel prisoners.

Addameer reports that Palestinian women prisoners "are subjected to some form of psychological torture and ill-treatment throughout the process of their arrest and detention, including various forms of sexual violence that occur such as beatings, insults, threats, body searches, and sexually explicit harassment. Upon arrest, women detainees are not informed where they are being taken and are rarely explained their rights during interrogation. These techniques of torture and ill-treatment are used not only as means to intimidate Palestinian women detainees, but also as tools to humiliate Palestinian women and coerce them into giving confessions."

## **Here is a report from the Solidarity Movement for a Free Palestine (SFP) on Sireen's release:**

SFP is pleased and relieved to announce that Sireen was released today at 17:15 from Salem Military Court to the safety of her family.

Sireen was brought to the Courtroom at 10:30am after being made to stand outside for an hour with her hands and feet shackled and without a jacket.

Once brought into the Courtroom Sireen endured a relentless questioning until 17:00. During this time her feet remained shackled and she was made to stand throughout with no jacket in a freezing courtroom.

An international [activist] was present throughout the proceedings and was also able to observe several other Court proceedings of kidnapped Palestinians.

Sireen was brought to Salem at 08:00am after being kept at Huwwara military camp until 12 noon on the day of her kidnapping.

At Huwwara military camp she was made to stand outside in the freezing cold with no jacket, blindfolded, shackled (hands and feet) and with no shoes for several hours.

She was then taken to another camp, the location she was uncertain of but it was 15 minutes from Huwwara, before being returned to Huwwara, and then transferred to Ha'Sharon prison overnight.

Sireen also stated that outside her home she was told by the Shabak that they would not handcuff her if she came quietly. This was in the presence of a British citizen. As soon as she was outside and out of sight of her international friend she was handcuffed, shackled and blindfolded.

**Throughout the court proceedings there was an assumption of guilt on the part of the court, with the judge heavily biased against Palestinians. The whole process is designed to be dehumanising and biased.**



# IMPRISONED WITHOUT TRIAL FOR BEING

**Suleiman Majid\* is a member of the Hamas party in his early forties. Corporate Watch met with him, and with Talib Hasan who was imprisoned during the same period, in a town in the northern West Bank to discuss their imprisonment by the Israel state.**

Suleiman was imprisoned in Megiddo prison, which G4S is known to provide services to. He was held in administrative detention, i.e. detention without charge, because of his membership of Hamas. Israel imprisons Palestinians for membership of a broad range of political organisations, student bodies and civil society organisations, including all Palestinian political parties.

Palestinian prisoners' rights group Addameer states that, "between 2007 and 2011, 8,157 administrative detention orders were issued by Israel. As of February 2013, there were 178 Palestinian administrative detainees in Israeli custody."

Both men had also been arrested in the West Bank and taken to prisons within the 1948 borders of Israel, in breach of the Geneva Conventions.

Tom Anderson: How many times have you been imprisoned?

Suleiman Majid: I have been arrested five times. The first time was in 1993, when I was 21 years old. I got seven months. Then I was imprisoned from 1994-98, 1998-2005, 2007-2009 and 2012-13. On each occasion, the main reason I was arrested was because I was a member of the Hamas party.

TA: Can you tell me about the last time you were arrested?

Palestinians pray at a demonstration in support of prisoners outside Ofer prison in March 2014. Photo taken by Corporate Watch.



# A MEMBER OF A POLITICAL PARTY

SM: My last arrest was on 9 February 2012. I was arrested at my house at 1.30 am. They knocked on the door. I went out and I was arrested. So they can't have been very scared of me seeing as they just knocked on the door. They tied my hands and my eyes. I think they were the army. They took me to the area close to Hamra checkpoint and detained me there. On the second day they took me to Meggido prison [inside the 1948 borders of Israel]. Then they took me to court in Salem. Nothing happened there in terms of a court case. They just gave me six months administrative detention. I saw the front of my file; it said that I 'endanger the Israeli state'. Two days before the end of my sentence, I received a letter saying my detention would be extended for a further six months. I had another hearing in Ofer [military court in the West Bank, near Ramallah]. My lawyer asked for my file to be sent to a higher court. In the end the court made a deal that, if my lawyer agreed not to do this, it would only be another six months of administrative detention. I spent the first six months of my imprisonment in Megiddo and the second six in Shatta prison, near Bisan [also inside the 1948 borders of Israel].

TA: Were your family able to visit you or talk to you?

SM: I was not allowed to speak on the phone. My mum was able to visit twice a month. My dad was only able to visit me twice. The family needs permission to visit and the prison asks for papers to show that they are close relatives. The trip to visit me took a long time, 12 hours, from 5am to 5pm. Women have more difficulties when visiting than men. They must take off some of their clothes and their headscarves. Sometimes people arrive at the prison to visit their relatives and the guards say the prisoners have been moved. The only way to visit is with the Red Cross, but the Red Cross works with the Israelis and accepts whatever they decide.

**"PLEASE TELL  
G4S TO COME  
AND SEE THE  
PRISONS WITH  
THEIR EYES"**

TA: Do you want to say anything else about the conditions for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails?

SM: The Israelis try to make as much money out of the prisoners as possible. The food in the prisons is provided by an organisation called Dadash. 17% of its profits are given to the prison management. The price [of food] in 1948 [Israel] is higher than in the West Bank, and the price in the prisons is higher than in '48. Most people don't eat much of the food in the canteen as it is not traditional Palestinian food. And even if we did eat the prison food, it wasn't enough. I received \$300 for food from my family. I had a single gas ring in my room, which I used for coffee and tea.

I used to buy tuna, rice and olive oil. The prison doesn't even provide basics like toothbrushes. The prisoners have to buy them. The prison hospital bills are charged to the families of the prisoners. Many of the prisoners in prisons in '48 Israel have Israeli nationality but the Palestinian Authority (PA) still has to pay for their needs. If chairs or furniture are broken inside the prisons, the cost is charged to the PA.

Talib Hasan: The guards used the prison loudspeakers all night to stop people sleeping, especially during Muslim prayer times.

TA: Do you have a message for international activists campaigning against G4S?

SM: G4S must know that they are supporting apartheid and occupation. By supporting the economy of the occupation, they are enabling the occupation to build more prisons and imprison more people. I would also ask international activists to work against the administrative detention law.

TH: Please tell the company to come and see the prisons with their eyes to see exactly what they are supporting.

\* The interviewees' names have been changed at their request.



# "ARE YOU PALESTINIAN? ARE YOU A

**Tom Woodhead is a Palestine solidarity and anti-arms trade activist, who recently volunteered with the International Solidarity Movement in Palestine. On March 1st 2013, he was arrested by Israeli border police while participating in the weekly demonstration in Kafr Qaddum in the West Bank. Two Palestinians, Belal Jomaa and Nayif Jomaa were also arrested. Tom spent 11 days in detention in Israel before being deported to the UK. Corporate Watch interviewed him about his experiences, and to get more information about companies operating in Israeli detention facilities.**

Therezia Cooper: "Can you tell me about what happened on the day you were arrested?"

Tom Woodhead: "I was on the demonstration in Kafr Qaddum [a Palestinian village]. There is a weekly Friday demonstration there to try to access the main road to Nablus. We marched down the road as we do every week. There was a quiet spell with the army holding back, so the group was going further forward when the Israelis suddenly charged from the front. There were soldiers coming from the sides as well, so we tried to run away, but we ran into a group of soldiers. This was when they pulled me and the two Palestinians away. There was some struggle and I ended up on the floor. I was beaten at the back of the head. I am not sure what I was hit with as I was face down in the dirt, but someone said it was with the

butt of a gun. We have photos of Belal being hit in the head as well.

TC: Were you taken by the army or the border police?

TW: This was the border police. When we were taken they threw stun grenades at the rest of the crowd and took us away further down the road, away from the village and towards Qedumin settlement. During this time I was in a headlock and punched in the face twice. I was bleeding from the nose. At one point my head was pushed against the side of a bulldozer on the road. Then they took all three of us into Qedumin settlement. They blindfolded us and put the hoods on our jumpers up. Every time I tried to look up they pushed my head down again. Then they loaded their rifles next to our heads. We could hear them click. It was like a mock execution. My legs started shaking, but I was thinking 'surely they would not do that?' It is all a bit of a blur, but at some point before we got blindfolded they handcuffed us. I remember because the handcuffs were Hiatt and said 'Made in England'. I remember thinking 'fucking bastards' as I saw the handcuffs. It was the first thought that came into my head. They are handcuffs that are like a solid bit of metal. All you have to do is move your hands a little bit and it hurts. [Hiatt is a now defunct British company; the Hiatt brand is now marketed by Monadnock]. It was obvious that at first they thought I was Palestinian like the others because they kept yelling "Are you Palestinian? Are you a little bit Palestinian?" at me. Then they realised that I wasn't.

TC: Where did they take you after that?

TW: We were all put in a police van. All three of us in a tiny little cage. We all had to stand up as it was not a big

Palestinian demonstrators are gassed at a demonstration outside Ofer Prison, March 2014. Photo by Corporate Watch.



# LITTLE BIT PALESTINIAN?"

enough space to sit down. I was still blindfolded so I could not see what it looked like. They took us to the police station in Ariel settlement. When there they let two of us take the blindfolds off, but Nayif had to have his one on longer. They seemed to treat him worse. He was also handcuffed with some kind of cables instead of handcuffs and his hands went blue.

TC: What was the procedure at the police station?

TW: I was taken in for questioning after a few hours. Or, I say questioning, but it was more like being read accusations. It was very soft. I was told by the police that I was getting put on a 10 year blacklist [from entering Israel] and that I had been throwing stones in the demonstration. It was more of a statement than a question and of course not true. From then on I was separated from the Palestinians. I was told that they were taken to Megiddo prison inside Israel.

TC: And what happened to you?

TW: The next day I spent in a prison I can't remember the name of. It was inside Israel. I noticed that they had Samsung monitors in the prison. I got taken to a court room on Saturday. The police said they had a video of me throwing stones. The judge said "give it to me then". The police wanted 48 hours to comply, but were given 12. During that time I got taken back to the prison and Sunday morning I got driven back to Ariel for no reason that I could see. The handcuffs they used on me had changed to Tri-Max. Just before the court was due I was driven back into '48 [ie the 1948 borders of Israel] and dropped off with the Shabak [the Israeli security agency]. I was dropped off at a service station where they were waiting for me and I was handed over to them. The Shabak drove me to a room in Ben Gurion [airport]. They had all my stuff and put it in front of me and watched me watch them. They questioned me for 3 or 4 hours in the airport. They threatened me about my family paying for me going home. It was more presumptions and statements than questions again. My answers were more pleading than answering at this stage as I wanted them to let me get on my flight. At some point I just stopped talking to them and they gave up. They took my driver's licence which they have never given back.

There were G4S alarm systems on internal walls where I was taken by the Shabak, and also at the Ben Gurion deportation lounge which I was deported from later. It was on an internal wall inside a departure room designed only for deportees and part of the Ben Gurion complex.

TC: But they did not let you get on the flight?

TW: No, they took me to the Givon immigration prison in

Ramleh. That's where I was kept for the rest of the time, just over a week.

TC: What were the conditions there like?

TW: I was kept in a cell together with around 15 other people. They have solitary cells but most cells have bunk beds for around 16 people in each cell. There are cockroaches in the walls. There was a big change-over of people all the time. The longest I heard about people having been there was 6 months. We were all allowed to have phones, but for some reason they refused to let me have pen and paper. Others were allowed this. I was held with people from Sudan, Russia, Ukraine, Egypt and from Yemen. Many people held there were had been working illegally in the country. The Sudanese had been detained on their way in or shortly after. I spoke to the UK Foreign Office and they came to see me in there. They were interested in my treatment and the mock execution which they had heard about. They said that they would take the complaint seriously but I'm not sure what they will do.

TC: What was the deportation like?

When I got deported they took me to a really grim detention centre at Ben Gurion. I was only there for two hours but one guy had been there for six days. It stinks of piss and is really grim. You can see the airport from there but it is not in the airport as such. It is for people who are getting deported soon. There are bunk beds for around 14 people in each room. There was no air and no way of getting exercise. I was only there for two hours. I can't imagine being there for longer. I think this facility is run by some special police unit but I'm not sure exactly who they are. They wore jeans and shirts but with an ID badge. I then got taken straight to the plane and deported on an El Al flight to Heathrow.

TC: And what happened at Heathrow? Were you stopped and questioned under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000?

TW: Yeah, I was stopped but they did not actually ask very much. I kept insisting that I was not going to speak and that they were misusing the powers. They were playing good cop and bad cop. There were some threats of me being in trouble etc. if I didn't talk. I made a kind of deal where I agreed to tell them things that I had already told the foreign office anyway so in the end they mainly asked about what happened in Palestine and about any mistreatment.

At the time of writing the two Palestinians arrested with Tom, Belal Jomaa and Nayif Jomaa, were still being held in Magiddo prison without a trial.



# A DECADE IN ISRAELI PRISONS

**This is the transcript of an interview with Abed\*, a member of Tubas Prisoners' Society who has been a prisoner in Israeli jails. His last term of imprisonment was from 2002-12. The interview was carried out in February 2013. It is illustrative of the conditions faced by Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.**

**The interview gives evidence of abuse and the use of human shields during arrest.** The interviewee was arrested in the West Bank under military law but transferred between dozens of prisons inside Israel, where he was tried and imprisoned.

**The interview also highlights the use of isolation in Israeli jails as well as the denial of family visits to Palestinian prisoners.** Since the beginning of the Second Palestinian Intifada [uprising, or shaking off] the IPS has obstructed family visits. These visits are made much more difficult, if not impossible, by the fact that the majority of prisoners are imprisoned within the 1948 borders. Addameer reports that "visits to Palestinian prisoners and detainees are restricted to first degree relatives – children, spouses, parents, siblings and grandparents only – thus isolating the detainee from his or her social and professional environment. Men between the ages of 16 and 35 are typically prevented from visiting prisons inside Israel and receive the special entry permits only once a year if they are the brother of the detainee, and bi-annually if they are the son of the detainee.

Prisoners from Gaza were banned from receiving family visits in 2007. Their reinstatement was a main demand of the recent hunger strike. Although it was promised that visits would resume as a result of the strike, only about half of the current Gazan prisoners have received a visit. For families who do gain permits to visit, the round trip can take 15 hours, as most prisoners are detained within Israel and visitors undergo strict security checks when leaving the West Bank. Visits are generally for no more than 45 minutes.

**The use of isolation and solitary confinement in Israeli prisons is widespread.** Addameer reports that solitary confinement is used as a punishment for bad behaviour, including making "excessive noise", whereas isolation is used as a security measure. Treaties and international agreements that address prisoners' rights prohibit the use of solitary confinement as a punitive measure or attempt to limit its use significantly.



Tom Anderson: Could you tell me a little bit about yourself?

Abed: My name is Abed. I am 45 years old from Bziq in the northern Jordan Valley. I cannot remember how many times I have been arrested. On the last occasion I was arrested on 13 June 2002. I stayed in prison for nine years and eight months. I was released through the Gilad Shalit deal.

TA: Can you tell me about your arrest?

Abed: I was arrested at my house in Tubas. The Israeli military had surrounded the town. They came to the house at 2.30am and exploded the doors, held my family in one room then they made other people from Tubas enter my room before them to check there would be no resistance – they threatened them with violence if they didn't do that – they put me in a jeep and blindfolded me. One huge soldier slapped me.

They took me with some other prisoners to an empty Palestinian house in Tubas to interrogate us. We were kept there until 8am and then they took us to Taysir [a military checkpoint]. From Taysir they took 11 of us to Al Jalameh and four to the military training area in Ma'ale Efraim. We stayed there under the sun with no food and with our feet and hands tied lying on the floor for five days. We were only given water. The soldier who was patrolling was stamping on us while we lay there.

Then we were sent to Al Jalameh [a military interrogation centre], we were each put in a single room, one times one metre. I stayed there, always tied up, for 96 days. I remember I was in the cell for between one and two hours, the rest of the time I was in the interrogation room in handcuffs, sometimes just sitting, sometimes being asked questions. When they were asking questions they were negotiating, "if you answer we will let you speak to your family on the telephone". I met my lawyer in court for the first time while I was in Al Jalameh, there was a three meter gap between me and him, we had to talk through glass over a telephone, we only had time to talk for half a minute. He had time to say "I'm your lawyer – I'm following your case," then the army took him from the court.

There were 22 charges against me. The main one was that I had planned to kill Israeli settlers and that I was part of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade. I was also charged with killing settlers in the northern Jordan Valley. Sometimes they use a trick called the 'bird's trick' during interrogation. This is where new prisoners come and join the prisoners and are friendly with them. They say, for example, that they are from Al Aqsa. They say: "The organisation wants to support you and we just need you to sign these papers saying you are an activist". The prisoners are a plant and the papers are used in the interrogation. This makes the prisoner give up and often sign a confession.

TA: And can you tell me about your court case?

Abed: In my first court case I was allowed to see my file. I was not allowed to speak. The case was adjourned and I was transferred to Ashkelon [a prison inside the 1948 borders of Israel] for one month then to Bir Al Saba [or Beer Sheva, again a prison inside 1948 Israel] for eight months, where I was kept in isolation. There were also eight other prisoners in isolation at this time. We were only allowed out for 30 minutes a day. I was transferred to another part of Bir al Saba prison, where ten prisoners were kept together in one cell.

During my first two years I was not allowed family visits. After two years I was allowed visits twice a month through glass over a telephone receiver. I think the telephone was provided by Bezeq [an Israeli telecommunications company] and the line is listened to by the prison service.

After three years I received a verdict from the court. I went to court but was not able to say anything. I was never able to say anything throughout the case. I was sentenced to another 14 years. After the first three days of interrogation the mukhabarrat [security services] had said that I would be sentenced to about 15 years so it seems that it had been decided from the start and the court process was just a sham. There was a secret file in my case and a secret Palestinian witness. One of the witnesses changed his statement during the course of the case but the court did not change the evidence. I was imprisoned, after that, in Jalboa, Shatta, Hadarim, Megiddo, Ofer, Dimon and Nafha.



# KEPT IN ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION



**This is the story of Tariq Abd al Kareem Fayyad Khaddar. Originally from Tulkarem, he now lives in Ramallah. He is a teacher at Bir Zeit University and a researcher in Israeli studies. He was first arrested in 2003, when he spent four years in prison, and again in 2011, when he spent two six month periods in administrative detention.**

The first time Tariq was arrested was in 2003. The Israelis came to his house when he was alone. They entered the house, put a blindfold on him and took him away to an interrogation facility next to Ofer, a military prison located on occupied territory in the West Bank. British-Danish company G4S provides services to Ofer. He spent 55 days in the interrogation facility: during that time they took him for interrogation only twice. During these interrogations he was accused of being a member of The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). He was told that other arrested Palestinians had mentioned that he was involved with the PFLP during their interrogations, and that was why he was arrested.

After his 55 days in the interrogation facility, Tariq was moved to Ofer prison. Once there, he was taken to the Ofer military court every few months, but he spent two full years waiting for a court decision. When it finally came, he was sentenced to four years imprisonment for membership of the PFLP, an organisation outlawed by Israel. It was argued in court that he needed to be kept in prison longer as he was a lecturer and a 'man of influence'. After his conviction he was kept in Ofer for another year and a half, then illegally moved across the Green-line into Israel to Ketziot prison in the Naqab (Negev). In Ketziot prisoners were kept in tents, with the tents separated by walls. Just like with other Israeli prisons, Ketziot has G4S security systems installed.

During his four years in prison, he was only allowed family visits once a month, but the Israelis refused a permit for his wife to visit throughout his imprisonment, so he only got to see his children. He was not allowed to talk to his loved ones on the phone either and said that the prison authorities sometimes searched the cells for hidden phones. Although writing

letters was allowed, the Israeli prison authorities read them and sometimes they kept them for a long time before they were passed on. He said that the letters were usually delivered through the Red Cross.

Tariq described the conditions in both prisons as very bad. In Ofer he described not being able to move anywhere within the prison without four soldiers around him, all carrying guns. The cells which he was held in were five and a half metres times three metres with up to ten people per cell. The cells were boiling in the summer and ice cold in the winter and very dirty. The prisoners had to endure degrading treatment such as frequent body searches. Once a week the prison guards would "attack" the cells, he said, and check all their things. "They used to mix all the prisoners' stuff up and leave a big mess. This created a lot of anxiety".

Another thing that created stress amongst the people he was held with was the prisoner counts carried out three times a day. Sirens would be let off through loudspeaker systems positioned outside the cells for no reason at all, creating fear amongst the inmates. He described this as a psychological tactic used by the prison guards to create anxiety. Like other prisoners Corporate Watch have interviewed, Tariq mentioned the bad treatment received during prisoner transportation, as well as the insufficient amount of food being supplied.

His second arrest took place in 2011. This time a special army team came to his door at 1.30am. They blew his door open with explosives to get in. He told us; "When I woke up there were 12 soldiers already inside my flat. My wife fainted when she saw the soldiers in the room."

# FOR BEING A 'MAN OF INFLUENCE'

The soldiers also went to his son's room, with one soldier putting his hands around his son's neck. They also handed his son a letter ordering him to go and meet with the Shabak (the Israeli security agency). There were three different men named Tariq living on three different floors in his building and they later found out that the Israelis had blown up the doors of two other Tariqs before they got to him.

Before the soldiers took him away they questioned him in the house, asking him who else lived in the house and details about his family. Once finished, they took him back to Ofer prison. By now, Tariq suffered from several medical conditions which required a number of medicines, including prescribed cholesterol and blood medication. The soldiers told him to take his medicines with him, but when they got to Ofer the prison doctor would not clear him for detention because of his obvious poor health. He was then driven to three different Israeli settlements to see other doctors who the army hoped would clear him for prison, but they could not find one who was willing to say that he was fit to be imprisoned. Eventually they went back to Ofer and one of the doctors there finally said it was ok and that they should take him in, overruling all other medical opinion. Throughout his detention he had problems getting sufficient medicines at the right dosage for his medical conditions.

Once inside the interrogation facility he was once again accused of being active in the PFLP, with the interrogators bringing up a TV interview which he had done about the occupation and Israeli settlers. Again, they seemed worried about the influence he could have as someone that people would listen to.

This time he stayed in prison without a charge and without a trial for two six month periods of administrative detention.

As we have seen, there are a number of different abuses taking place in Israeli prisons, but Tariq had two things he personally wanted to highlight. The first was the restriction on books. Although the blanket ban on educational materials and books was lifted in 2011 after a prolonged hunger strike with that as one of its demands, the kind of books prisoners have access to is still very selective. The second issue he wanted to draw attention to was availability of clothing. He told us that prisoners are allowed to get clothing from the outside once every two months, and often family members try to provide them with some. Despite this their gifts often get refused by the prison authorities as there are rules regulating what kind of clothes are allowed. For instance, not all colours are allowed in, and jackets with linings and wool clothes are forbidden. Tariq said that is very difficult to guarantee that clothing will be accepted as the regulations regarding colours, changes arbitrarily.

The gate to Ofer prison complex in the occupied West Bank. Photo taken by Corporate Watch, March 2013.





# **PART THREE: Companies complicit in the Israeli prison system**





# G4S' HIDDEN BUSINESS IN ISRAELI PRISONS

**As readers will be aware, we have been covering the involvement of the British-Danish company G4S in the Israeli prison system over the last years. G4S holds a contract with the Israeli Prison 'Service', whose prisons include facilities inside the West Bank. The company has come under heavy criticism for profiting from the occupation and its prison contracts have come under especially heavy fire, as their services are facilitating Israel's breaches of international law.**

Mistreatment of prisoners held by Israel is common. Prisoners have told us of the despair of being held in administrative detention with no end in sight, of weeks-long interrogations and threats, sleep deprivation and lack of family visits. Israel also detains children.

In one of the interviews we carried out, a former prisoner speaking under the name Talib Hasan asked us to "Please tell the company [G4S] to come and see the prisons with their eyes to see exactly what they are supporting." When G4S first came under scrutiny for its activities in the West Bank, the company sent Professor Hjalte Rasmussen to Israel and the West Bank to provide a legal opinion on its operations there. As Adri Nieuwhof has reported, the advice he came back with, that "G4S did not violate any national or international law", is seen as deeply flawed by campaigners. During his three day trip Rasmussen did not visit any Israeli prisons. We decided that, after talking to numerous ex-prisoners, we would attempt to see the prisons from the inside.

With the help of the prisoner support and human rights organisation Addameer, we sent in a request to visit Ofer, Ketziot, Damon, Meggido or Kishon prisons and to speak to a prison representative about the conditions in these facilities, all of which have contracts with G4S. This request was refused, with the response stating that:

**"...prisons are closed domains which are not open to all comers, and entry to them is only allowed to authorised agents as specified, and all according to the law...For example, the law regulates the entrance of "official visitors" to detention facilities for the specified ends, including checking the detention condition, caring for the needs of prisoners etc".**

This result was of course expected. It is clear that Israel wants to determine who sees their prisons and control what they see. According to Sahar Francis, lawyer for the Addameer human rights organisation, EU politicians have been refused visits to the prisons and even UK lawyers, who were representing prisoners in cases in the UK, were refused entry and unable to see their clients. Prisoners are often held incommunicado during their initial interrogation, unable to see their lawyer or a Red Cross representative.

While it is understandable that Israeli government institutions will want to refuse Corporate Watch access to their facilities, it is clear that service providers such as G4S do not face the same restrictions. The company is fully aware of what its operations in Israel entail, and it should therefore continue to be one of the primary targets for BDS action.

# G4S: A COMPANY PROFILE



**The Anglo-Danish company G4S has become one of the biggest outsourcing companies in the world. It runs prisons, policing and welfare programmes, and other previously-public services for governments worldwide.**

**The company has earned intense criticism for a litany of misdeeds including cost-cutting, over-charging for services, negligence and brutality.**

## **G4S in Palestine**

G4S' work in Palestine has attracted fierce criticism and has provoked campaigns against it in Palestine, Israel, Europe, Australia, the US and South Africa. In 2002, Group 4 Falck bought Hashmira, one of Israel's largest private security companies.<sup>1</sup> Hashmira, now known as G4S Israel,<sup>2</sup> has provided security services in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and provides services to the Israeli Prison 'Service'. The company also provides security technology used in the the apartheid wall and military checkpoints. Hashmira is also the Israeli representative of Rapiscan, a US subsidiary of OSI Systems, which supplies security scanners to several Israeli checkpoints.<sup>3</sup>

In 2010, G4S expanded its operations in Palestine with the takeover of Aminut Moked Artzi, one of the oldest private security companies in Israel, which provided its services to businesses in Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank.<sup>4</sup>

## **Prisons in Israel**

Prisons in Israel house detainees who have been arrested in the Occupied Territories and transferred into the 1948 borders of Israel. This transfer is in violation of articles 76 and 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. In addition, Israeli prisons house Palestinian child detainees from the West Bank.<sup>5</sup> Physical violence and torture is commonplace<sup>6</sup> and hundreds of Palestinians are detained without trial.<sup>7</sup> Families of detainees who have West Bank IDs find it extremely difficult to obtain permission to visit them.<sup>8</sup>

In 2007 G4S signed a contract with the Israeli Prison Authority (IPA). Prisons it provides services to include the Ketziot, Damon and Meggido prisons and the Jerusalem (Russian Compound) and Kishon (Jalameh) detention facilities. All of them are known to house prisoners transferred from the West Bank.

G4S services and products provided in these prisons include control and monitoring systems; visitation systems and CCTV systems; maintaining and supporting management systems; magnetometer gates; scanning machines; and ankle monitors.<sup>9</sup> G4S' contract with the IPS is worth tens of millions of Israeli Shekels (10 million NIS is equivalent to about £1.7m).

## **Prisons in the Occupied Palestinian Territories**

G4S has installed a central command room in Ofer Prison in the occupied West Bank. The Ofer compound also houses a trial centre where prisoners are tried under military law. Ofer Prison is located in what the Israeli military refers to as the 'Seam Zone', which means access for visiting families is highly restricted.<sup>10</sup>

## The apartheid wall and the checkpoints

G4S Israel has supplied luggage scanning equipment and full body scanners to several checkpoints in the West Bank, including the Qalandia checkpoint, the Bethlehem checkpoint and the Irtah (Sha'ar Efraim) checkpoint. Additionally, the company provides full body scanners to the Erez checkpoint in Gaza.<sup>11</sup> According to Who Profits, a joint Palestinian-Israeli research initiative, G4S is also responsible for maintenance of this equipment. All of these checkpoints form part of the Israeli state's network of walls and barriers impeding Palestinian freedom of movement.<sup>12</sup>

At the London session of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine in November 2010, Merav Amir and Dr Dalit Baum gave evidence that G4S was operating security services at checkpoints and in settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and for Israeli prisons where Palestinian prisoners were detained.<sup>13</sup>

The Russell Tribunal concluded that it may be possible to bring a civil claim and a public law action against G4S for its actions in honouring these contracts. The civil claim would be under tort law and based on G4S' supply of equipment to checkpoints that form part of the illegal route of the apartheid wall. The public law action would relate to G4S' support of settlement businesses, which would constitute alleged complicity in violations of international criminal law.<sup>14</sup>

## Police

G4S provides security equipment for the Israeli police headquarters in the occupied West Bank, which is located in the E1 area, near the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim.<sup>15</sup>

## Services to businesses in illegal Israeli settlements

G4S provides services to "major commercial customers, for instance, supermarket chains, whose operations include the West Bank".<sup>16</sup> G4S Israel is also a minority shareholder in Shalhavet, which provides security services to residential West Bank settlements.<sup>17</sup>

### Sectors

Outsourcing of government services, security.<sup>18</sup>

### Global Reach

Operations in Europe, North America, Latin America, Middle East, Asia and Africa.

### Traded on

London Stock Exchange (LSE) | Helsinki Stock Exchange (OMX)

### Revenues/Turnover

£6.848m in 2014.<sup>19</sup>

### Net profit

£152m in 2014.<sup>20</sup>

### Ownership<sup>21</sup>

Top shareholders:

Chase Nominees (28.10%), Invesco (14%), Affiliated Managers Group (5.46%), Cevian Capital (4.99%), MIPL Holdings (4.63%), Prudential (4.33%), Black Rock (4.14%)

Smaller shareholders include:

TIAA CREF (3.20%), Legal and General (2.85%), Government of Norway (2.63%), ABP Pension Fund (0.4%), HSBC (0.33%), State of California (0.28%), Barclays PLC (0.27%), Government of Singapore (0.2%), County of West Yorkshire (0.1%), Deutsche Bank (0.1%)

### Number of employees

618,000<sup>22</sup>

### Addresses

Corporate HQ:  
The Manor Royal, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 9UN  
UK

UK & Ireland Head Office:  
Southside, 105 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QT  
Tel: +44 (0) 207 963 3100



# RESISTANCE TO G4S

**G4S has faced significant resistance from Palestinians and Palestine solidarity activists in Europe, who have been urging the company to divest from Hashmira/G4S Israel and end its Israeli contracts for several years. It is not possible to list all of the campaign successes against G4S, but here are a few examples.**

In 2010 Palestine solidarity campaigners joined No Borders activists in a protest outside the G4S Annual General Meeting in London. In 2012 two activists occupied the roof of the G4S headquarters in London calling for the company to pull out of its contracts with the IPS.<sup>1</sup>

In April 2012, thousands of Palestinian detainees went on hunger strike calling for more access to their families and an end to solitary confinement and administrative detention. Twelve Palestinian civil society organisations signed a callout urging the global solidarity movement to take action “to hold to account G4S, the world’s largest international security corporation, which helps to maintain and profit from Israel’s prison system, for its complicity with Israeli violations of international law.”<sup>2</sup>

Campaigners have focused on targeting local councils, universities, public authorities and companies that have contracts with G4S, demanding that they exclude the company from bidding in future.

## **Targeting the shareholders**

Pressure has been strong in Denmark, where politicians made pronouncements and the public demonstrated against the company. Large pension funds, and even the city of Copenhagen, began to consider divesting from G4S.

The Cooperative Asset Management ditched G4S in 2012 after pressure from campaigners.<sup>3</sup>

Also in 2012, campaigners picketed the AGM of another G4S investor, West Yorkshire Pension Fund calling on them to divest from G4S. The response from pensioners and members of the WYPF to the picket and the leaflet was, according to protesters, overwhelmingly positive.

In 2014, a global campaign coinciding with the day of solidarity with Palestinian prisoners calling for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to divest ended in success.<sup>4</sup> Also that year the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBPHB) of The United Methodist Church, which manages an investment portfolio of over \$20 billion, instructed its investment manager to sell all shares in G4S, citing ethical concerns.<sup>5</sup>

## **Contracts cancelled**

Criticism of G4S’ work in Palestine and Israel has already led to the company losing many contracts. In

October 2011, for example, Edinburgh University Student Association (EUSA) passed a motion through its Student Council to block its contract with G4S, and to lobby the university to follow suit.<sup>6</sup>

In April 2012, the European Union decided not to renew a security contract with G4S after MEPs and campaign groups raised concerns over the company’s role in equipping Israeli prisons in which Palestinian political prisoners are held in violation of international law. The contract was a significant loss for G4S, which had provided security services to the European Parliament buildings since 2008.<sup>7</sup>

In 2013, after being approached by BDS South Africa, the Cape Town based ‘Trauma Centre’ terminated its ties with G4S.<sup>8</sup>

Electricity provider Good Energy cancelled its meter-reading contract with G4S in 2012 after a campaign by its customers.<sup>9</sup> Ecotricity promised to follow suit in 2014.<sup>10</sup>

Also in 2014, the BBC did not award a security contract to G4S, after an intense grassroots campaign<sup>11</sup> and the Irish government declined to award the company a contract after a campaign by the Irish Palestine Solidarity Campaign.<sup>12</sup>

## G4S' response

Worried by the mounting criticism of its work in Palestine, G4S resolved in 2002 to pull out of contracts to provide services to residential West Bank settlements.<sup>13</sup> In 2010, after further criticism from campaigners and investors, G4S commissioned Hjalte Rasmussen, an expert on international law, to investigate the legality of its contracts in the West Bank and Israel. The report concluded that G4S' contracts did not violate any national or international laws.<sup>14</sup> However, Rasmussen's suggestion that G4S is beyond legal sanction is far from certain and has been strongly challenged, particularly with regard to his comments on prison services. While conducting his investigation, Rasmussen did not visit any Israeli prisons, yet he felt qualified to argue that the Palestinians detained in Ofer prison are "common criminals", despite the widespread knowledge that Ofer houses Palestinian political prisoners and detainees. Rasmussen's verdict of innocence for G4S was also based on an insistence that there was no evidence of "systematic abuse of prisoners in Israeli jails", which directly contradicts the findings of numerous human rights groups.<sup>15</sup>

In March 2011, in the wake of Rasmussen's report, G4S announced that, "to ensure that our business practices remain in line with our own Business Ethics Policy, we will aim to exit a number of contracts which involve the servicing of security equipment at the barrier checkpoints, prisons and police stations in the West Bank. We will aim to complete this exit as soon as

possible, but also recognise that we have contractual obligations to our customers which we must take into consideration."<sup>16</sup> The company initially stated that it would continue servicing within Israel.

In 2014, after protesters disrupted the company AGM,<sup>17</sup> G4S stated that it would not renew its contracts to supply equipment and services to Israeli checkpoints, police and prisons in the Occupied Palestinian Territories when they expired. The company also stated, for the first time, that this would include not renewing their contract to provide services for prisons in Israel too. Later in 2014, the company confirmed in writing that it would not renew some of its contracts for prisons, police stations and baggage scanning after 2017. However, the statement said that G4S would continue to service their systems under the terms of the warranty but did not state how long the warranty period would last. It remains unclear whether the company intend to pull out of providing security services to companies operating in the settlements.

Campaigners have been advised to treat company statements with caution. Randa Wahbe, advocacy officer with Addameer, in a statement given to Electronic Intifada said: "The latest reports that G4S will not renew its contract with the Israeli Prison Service is a welcome step, but this has no immediate effect on those facing human rights violations inside Israel's prisons today." She added: "G4S has a long track record of saying one thing but doing another".<sup>18</sup>

Protesters being violently removed from the 2014 G4S Annual General Meeting in the Excel Centre in Docklands, London. Photo provided by Stop G4S.



# PALESTINIAN CALL FOR ACTION

**This is a joint statement, which was made by Palestinian civil society groups on 17 April 2012. First published on [www.bdsmovement.net](http://www.bdsmovement.net)**

Today, on Palestinian Prisoners' Day, we the undersigned Palestinian civil society and human rights organisations salute all Palestinian political prisoners, especially those engaging in brave civil disobedience through ongoing hunger strikes in protest to the ongoing violations of human rights and international law. Emphasising imprisonment as a critical component of Israel's system of occupation, colonialism and apartheid practiced against the Palestinian people, we call for intensifying the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign to target corporations profiting directly from the Israeli prison system. In particular, we call for action to be taken to hold to account G4S, the world's largest international security corporation, which helps to maintain and profit from Israel's prison system, for its complicity with Israeli violations of international law.

Imprisonment of Palestinians is a form of Israeli institutionalised violence encompassing all stages of the incarceration process. Palestinian political prisoners face systematic torture and ill-treatment during their arrest and detention at the hands of the Israeli military and are frequently and unjustifiably denied family and lawyer visits. Wide-ranging and collective punishments, including prolonged periods of isolation, attacks on prisoners by special military forces and denying access to education are used against Palestinian prisoners in an attempt to suppress any form of civil disobedience within the prisons. As of April 2012, there were 4,610 Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli prisons, including 203 child prisoners, six female prisoners and 27 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council. 322 Palestinians are currently held in administrative detention, without charge or trial.

The severity of injustice and abuse suffered by Palestinian political prisoners has been the drive for many prisoners to begin hunger strikes at different intervals in protest against harsh prison conditions, torture and ill treatment and Israel's arbitrary use of administrative detention. While the recent hunger strikes of Khader Adnan, who ended his hunger strike after 66 days, and Hana Shalabi, who ended her hunger strike after 43 days, resulted in individual agreements, Israel and the Israeli Prison Service's policies therein remain unchanged and are now aimed at containing the hunger strikers through punitive measures as well as cutting off

their contact with lawyers and family. Today, an estimate of over 1,000 Palestinian political prisoners are reported to have joined in an open hunger strike in addition to at least eight others already engaged in an open hunger strike, including Bilal Diab and Thaer Halahleh, on hunger strike since 29 February 2012.

In light of this increasing campaign of civil disobedience from within the prisons, we demand accountability for all corporations that both enable and directly profit from Israel's continued violations of Palestinian prisoners' rights being committed with impunity. Specifically, we call for action to hold to account G4S, the British-Danish security company whose Israeli subsidiary signed a contract in 2007 with the Israeli Prison Authority to provide security systems for major Israeli prisons. G4S provided systems for the Ketziot and Megiddo prisons, which hold Palestinian political prisoners from occupied Palestinian territory inside Israel in contravention of international law. The company also provided equipment for Ofer prison, located in the occupied West Bank, and for Kishon and Moskobiyyeh detention facilities, at which human rights organisations have documented systematic torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners, including child prisoners. G4S continues to provide equipment to Israeli prisons.

Moreover, G4S is involved in other aspects of the Israeli apartheid and occupation regime: it has provided equipment and services to Israeli checkpoints in the West Bank that form part of the route of Israel's illegal Wall and to the terminals isolating the occupied territory of Gaza. G4S has also signed contracts for equipment and services for the West Bank Israeli Police headquarters and to private businesses based in illegal Israeli settlements. A panel of legal experts concluded that G4S may be criminally liable for its activities in support of Israel's illegal Wall and other violations of international law.

We welcome the news that the European Union has announced that it has not renewed its contract for security services with G4S following pressure from groups campaigning for Palestinian rights, and salute the previous decision of the Edinburgh University Student Association to block its contract with G4S. We call upon other public and civil society institutions and also on



# AGAINST G4S

private companies to follow suit and end their relationships with this company that acts in service of Israeli apartheid and other violations of international law. We demand that the Palestinian leadership bans G4S from private and public tenders, and ask for the strict application of the boycott legislation in the Arab world against companies cooperating with the Israeli prison system.

We also note that G4S is being actively opposed by other civil society groups elsewhere in the world for its role in controversial deportation and imprisonment regimes, abuse of workers rights, violations of universal human rights standards and its involvement in the privatisation of public services. Let us work together to expose not only G4S, but also the roles of imprisonment and private security companies as political tools to silence and intimidate communities all over the world.

Amid hunger strikes and the highly publicised prisoner exchange deal in October, Palestinian prisoners' issues have gained recent attention in international spheres. However, despite this increased focus and the criticisms of these practices by United Nations bodies, there has been no institutional changes made by Israel in regard to the human rights violations being committed against Palestinian political prisoners and detainees. In an attempt to counter Israel's unwillingness to change its policies and the lack of accountability for its countless human rights violations, alternative measures such as preventing participation by companies such as the G4S proves to be one of the few remaining effective steps towards pressuring Israel to comply with international law. It is time overdue to break this chain of international complicity.

Signed by:  
Addameer Prisoners' Support and Human Rights Association: Sahar Francis - General Director

Aldameer Association for Human Rights: Khalil Abu Shammala - General Director

The Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee (BNC): Ismat Quzma - Coordinator

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights: Issam Younis - General Director

Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights: Najwa Darwish -General Director

Defence for Children International - Palestine Section: Rifat Kassis - General Director

Ensan Center for Human Rights and Democracy: Shawqi Issa - General Director

Hurryyat - Centre for Defense of Liberties and Civil Rights: Helmi Al-araj - General Director

Jerusalem Center for Legal Aid and Human Rights: Issam Aruri - General Director

Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies: Iyad Barghouti - General Director

The Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network: Allam Jarrar - Steering Committee Member

Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling: Maha Abu Dayyeh - General Director

The Grassroots Palestinian Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign: Jamal Jum'a - Coordinator

Protesters outside the 2013 Annual General Meeting of G4S. Photo provided by Stop G4S.



# PALESTINIAN PRISONERS' ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR THE PROSECUTION OF G4S

**Hussam Association, a Gaza based organisation of current and former Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails, released the following statement calling for the prosecution of G4S in November 2013:**

“Hussam, the prisoners and liberated association, has called on human rights bodies and organisations to work on the prosecution of British company G4S that oversees security systems of the prisons of the Zionist occupation in the West Bank.

The association has also confirmed that it will call for Arab and European human rights organisations and official bodies to take the necessary procedures to put officials of G4S company on trial, for the company's involvement in war crimes, and crimes against humanity against Palestinian prisoners.

The association announced that it will collaborate with local and international human rights associations to expose the company and build awareness against its involvement in torturing Palestinian prisoners by providing the Israeli occupation with security systems and central observation and control units in prisons of Negev, Megiddo, Damon, Rimon and others that imprison more than 5,000 Palestinian prisoners from the West Bank, Gaza, Jerusalem and the lands of 1948.

The association has also added that the company has installed defence systems on the walls surrounding Ofer prison in the West Bank. G4S also manages a central control unit for the centre of Ofer Military Court that trials Palestinian detainees from the West Bank, on a daily basis for arbitrary and cruel provisions.

Hussam association has also confirmed that G4S provides security systems for detention and interrogation facilities in many Israeli detention centres, where Palestinians usually face different interrogation methods that are based on physical and psychological torture; such methods has led to the death of many Palestinian prisoners since the beginning of occupation.”

The headquarters of the 'Judea and Samaria' police in the E1 area of the occupied West Bank. G4S has a contract to provide services to this police station. Photo taken by Corporate Watch, February 2013.





# HEWLETT PACKARD: A COMPANY PROFILE



**California-based Hewlett Packard is involved in the four key components of Israel's occupation: the Israeli prison service; the Israeli military; checkpoints and border crossings; and West Bank settlements. The company also operates research and development in Israel supporting the country's hi-tech industry, a vital sector of the Israeli economy and an important component in Israel's self-styled image of a progressive democracy in the hostile Middle East.**

## **Complicity in the Israeli Prison System**

Hewlett-Packard (HP) gained a contract with the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) in 2007, when it signed a NIS 43.2 million deal to establish a new computer system called Kidma.<sup>1</sup> The project aimed to digitise everything from prisoner exercise schedules to guards shifts but caused huge problems for the IPS who eventually paid NIS 144 million, some of which went on companies hired to complete work HP had failed to finish.<sup>2</sup> A project that was supposed to take just 23 months was still not finished when HP stopped working on Kidma in 2012.<sup>3</sup>

Yet HP seemingly came out with its reputation unscathed. In response to a 2013 Freedom of Information request by Who Profits, the IPS divulged that HP receives “tens of millions of shekels” to provide printers and maintain HP systems and central servers – a contract that will run until at least 2016.<sup>4</sup> It is not clear whether this refers to the contract HP secured in 2012, without tender, to provide central servers for IPS operational systems which included maintenance, or a different contract.<sup>5</sup> In addition, the company also runs a project for e-mail storage and archiving for the IPS.<sup>6</sup>

## **Contracts with the Israeli military**

HP's contracts with the Israeli military began with a 2006 tender to supply IT infrastructure for the Israeli Navy, including operational communications.<sup>7</sup> It was to be the pilot for a larger system for the entire army. The Israeli navy enforces the maritime element of the blockade of Gaza, firing on Palestinian fishermen who dare travel too far in their search for a catch. The company's stance is that it provides IT services to the

Israeli Ministry of Defence, including back-office applications and systems to the Israeli Navy, claiming, ironically, that this should not be considered as providing support to the blockade of Gaza.<sup>8</sup>

In July 2009, the company won a contract to install software products for the Israeli army in a three-year virtualisation tender worth an estimated \$15 million with an option for a two-year extension.<sup>9</sup> It beat off other well known bidders including IBM and Dell to install systems made by VMware Inc.<sup>10</sup> Within the same year HP Global won another contract to supply all computer equipment to the Israeli military. This was followed by two more deals in 2011: firstly a four-year programme to implement IT systems for the army;<sup>11</sup> and secondly a successful bid to manage the Ministry of Defence and army server farms, worth an estimated NIS 500 million.<sup>12</sup>

## **The wall and the checkpoints**

Perhaps HP's biggest role in the occupation is their operation and maintenance of the BASEL system, a biometric matrix of control used at all military checkpoints in the West Bank and the Erez checkpoint in Gaza. The company took on this role with the 2008 acquisition of EDS Israel,<sup>13</sup> which headed a consortium that had won a US \$8-10 billion contract to install BASEL in 1999. The US government provided major financing for the system as part of the Wye River Memorandum signed between Yassir Arafat and Benjamin Netanyahu in 1998. EDS merged into HP and since 2009 is called HP Enterprise Services.<sup>14</sup>

The BASEL project had two stages. The first was biometric control of Palestinians permitted into Israel



# HEWLETT PACKARD: A COMPANY PROFILE

from the Occupied Palestinian Territories. In its second stage EDS developed a similar system for migrant workers at all of Israel's international borders, a contract it won from the Israeli Border Police.<sup>15</sup> Since 2005 biometric magnetic cards have become mandatory for all Palestinians wishing to receive permits to work inside Israel.<sup>16</sup> But rather than just regulate movement into Israel, the army operates the system at a number of checkpoints throughout the West Bank, including those separating the West Bank from occupied East Jerusalem.

These cards hold information that includes biometric templates and personal data which allow BASEL to read facial dimensions and hand geometry. Whilst few Palestinians are successful in their application for a work permit, the system collects and stores the biometric information of all applicants. Who Profits estimates that the Israeli authorities hold biometric information for almost every adult in the West Bank.<sup>17</sup> Now HP has also won a contract to create a biometric ID-card system for all Israeli citizens following the passing of the 'Identification Card, Travel Papers and Biometrics Database Bill'.<sup>18</sup>

## **HP and the settlements**

Not content with merely supporting the oppression of Palestinians, HP are also involved in supporting the illegal colonisation of the West Bank. This includes a program for women, originally operated by EDS, in the settlement of Beitar Illit.<sup>19</sup> In a letter to the Presbyterian Church in the US, Hewlett-Packard's Zoe McMahon explains that a subsidiary of the company leases office space in Beitar Illit.<sup>20</sup> The company also supports the settlement municipality of Ariel by providing an electronic storage system as part of its 'Smart City' project. The company also provides services to the settlement of Modi'in Illit.<sup>21</sup>

Companies distributing HP computers and servers operate in settlements. Matrix and its subsidiary Tact Testware are located in Modi'in Illit<sup>22</sup> and Matrix staff were trained by HP to provide software and services. Tact Testware provides HP with licenses and services.<sup>23</sup>

## **From Silicon Valley to Helmand**

According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute data, Hewlett Packard made \$2.7 billion from the military sector in 2013, making them one of 20 biggest military suppliers in the US.<sup>24</sup> This represented 2% of their total sales for the year.<sup>25</sup> As well as providing IT services to the Israeli military and prison system, Hewlett Packard also has contracts with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the US Department of Homeland Security<sup>26</sup> and the Pentagon.<sup>27</sup> This includes maintaining the US Navy Marines Intranet, the largest private intranet in the world and second in size only to the internet itself.<sup>28</sup> The portion of the company's revenue derived from military contracts has been rising since 2008, and it now earns more from the US government for military contracts than for civilian contracts.<sup>29</sup>

In the UK, Hewlett Packard forms part of the ATLAS Consortium which provides the Defence Information Infrastructure (DII) for the MOD,<sup>30</sup> as well as running the Joint Deployed Inventory tracking the entire military stock, from clothing to ammunition and vehicles, used by the UK's three armed forces.<sup>31</sup> But the company goes beyond providing electronic infrastructure, with "staff frequently deployed alongside British and coalition troops overseas, working and living as members of the military, providing critical mission support".<sup>32</sup> The company's website even boasts that many of those deployed have been awarded Campaign Medals by the Queen.<sup>33</sup>

## **Hewlett Packard in Israel**

HP began operating in Israel as a part of Motorola's operations in 1957 but has grown to become the second largest investor in the country's IT sector, employing over 5,700 and running five production plants.<sup>34</sup> The HP Software division in Yehud is the company's largest R&D centre worldwide.<sup>35</sup> As well as contracts with the military it won a 2008 tender to upgrade computer and database infrastructure at 11 government hospitals.

### Basic company information

Incorporated in 1947, HP operates in 100 countries worldwide, making around 64% of its annual revenues outside the US.<sup>36</sup> In October 2014 the company announced plans to separate into two independent publicly-traded entities: Hewlett-Packard Enterprise, which will deal with technology infrastructure, software, services and financing businesses; and HP Inc, which will deal with printing and consumer products.

### Main subsidiaries (non-Israeli)

Snapfish, ArcSight, HP Autonomy, 3PAR, Indigo America Inc, Compaq Computer

### Israeli subsidiaries

HP Israel, Indigo, HP Industrial Printing, HP Software, HP Labs, EDS

**Head office** 3000 Hanover Street, Palo Alto, CA 94304-1185, USA

**London office** 88 Wood Street, London, EC2V 7QT, UK

**UK registered office** Amen Corner, Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HN, UK  
Phone 00 44 345 270 4567

### Traded on

New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)

### Sales in 2013

\$112.4 billion<sup>37</sup>

### Profits in 2013

\$5.1 billion<sup>38</sup>

### Number of employees

approx. 315, 700<sup>39</sup>

### Largest shareholders

Dodge & Cox, Blackrock Inc, State Street Corporation, Vanguard Group Inc, FMR LLC, State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, Franklin Resources Inc, Primecap Management, AXA, Bank of New York Mellon Corporation, JP Morgan Chase, Government of Norway

### Smaller shareholders

Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America, Deutsche Bank, State of California, State of New York, Royal Bank of Canada, State of Texas, Barclays PLC, HSBC

### Resistance to the Company

Divestment has been the main form of resistance against HP so far, with the majority of progress taking place in the US. Religious groups are playing a leading role. Most recently, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church voted to dump shares in the company alongside those it holds in Caterpillar and Motorola,<sup>40</sup> while two years earlier the Quaker Friends Fiduciary Corporation voted the same.<sup>41</sup> US student groups are also taking a stand, with students at DePaul University in Chicago voting in favour of a referendum on divestment from companies, including HP, who are involved in the occupation.<sup>42</sup> Students at University California in Berkeley have done the same.<sup>43</sup> Outside the realms of divestment, Jewish Voice for Peace activists have been protesting at HP's headquarters in Palo Alto, California, and there have been regular protests against HP's London HQ.<sup>44</sup> Activists in the UK have also held

occupations of stores stocking HP products, calling for a boycott of the company.

### Ideas for Future Action

There are a number of options open to people wanting to hold HP to account for their involvement in the occupation. Most obviously each of us can individually refuse to buy HP products. Another step is to investigate, through Freedom of Information requests, which local authority and public sector employers' pension funds invest in HP, and use this to initiate divestment campaigns calling for the dumping of shares. Or similar action can be taken against public service providers who have IT contracts with HP. And, of course, the various HQs of HP itself, whether in the UK, US or beyond, can be targeted. For tips on using Freedom of Information, see Corporate Watch's DIY Guide to Investigating Companies.

# COMPANIES COMPLICIT IN THE ARRESTS

**3M:** US company. Has previously partnered with G4S on an electronic ankle monitor contract for the IPS.<sup>1</sup>

**Afcon Holdings:** Israeli company with a global presence. Has a contract, due to expire sometime in 2015, with the IPS for installing and maintaining fire detection systems. The contract is worth tens of millions of Israeli Shekels.<sup>2</sup>

**Ashtrom Group:** An Israeli construction conglomerate with subsidiaries in Germany and the Netherlands. According to Who Profits, Ashtrom has supplied construction materials to the IPS for several prisons, including Ofer in the West Bank.<sup>3</sup>

**B.G. Ilanit Gates and Urban Elements:** Israeli company with a presence in Bulgaria. Has provided security gates to Ofer prison in the West Bank.<sup>4</sup>

**Canon:** Canon is a Japanese multinational company listed on the New York and Tokyo stock exchanges with outlets globally. It specialises in cameras, camcorders, photocopiers and printers. Canon camera systems are used for photographing arrestees at Ariel and Shah Binyamin settlement police stations.<sup>5</sup>

**CTS Thompson/Combined Systems Inc:** Tri-Max handcuffs are used by the Israeli police in the West Bank.<sup>6</sup> They are produced by a company called CTS Thompson, owned by the American Combined Systems Inc (CSI) since 2010. CTS produces handcuffs and other restraint equipment for police forces and army. CSI manufactures 'less lethal' crowd control devices and munitions such as tear gas. The company's spent tear gas canisters have been found after demonstrations in the West Bank, and also in Cairo during the uprising in 2011.<sup>7</sup>

**Elpam Electronics:** An Israeli company which develops 'electronic equipment for challenging security situations'. Its metal detectors were seen being used in the Givon detention centre in Ramleh. According to the company website, it also makes surveillance, alarm and control systems.<sup>8</sup>

**G4S:** See pages 32-35.

**Garrett:** A US company whose bodyscanners are used by the Israeli police in the West Bank as well as at Israeli checkpoints in the West Bank and Gaza.<sup>9</sup>

**Hewlett Packard:** See pages 39-41.

**Kanders and Co:** Private investment company based in the US. Owns the Safariland brand, which markets the Hiatt handcuffs used by the Israeli police.

**Mayer Cars and Trucks:** Israeli transportation company that has had occasional contacts with the IPS in the past. The company is the Israeli importer and distributor of Volvo, Honda, Jaguar and Mitsubishi vehicles.<sup>10</sup>

**Merkavim Transportation Technologies:** Israeli company which has developed prisoner transport vehicles for the IPS.<sup>11</sup>

**MIRS:** Israeli cellular communications company. Current contract for providing battery and wireless systems to the IPS is worth hundreds of thousands of Israeli Shekels and expires in 2016.<sup>12</sup>

**Motorola:** Communication systems in Givon prison were provided by Motorola. Motorola Israel is also heavily involved in numerous projects which support the occupation. It provides virtual fences around



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several Israeli settlements, develops and provides the specialist communication system for the Israeli army and its technology is used in the apartheid wall.<sup>13</sup>

**SAFRAN:** SAFRAN is a multi-million Euro business headquartered in Paris. It specialises in arms and biometric systems. The company's fingerprint scanners are used by Israeli police in the West Bank.<sup>14</sup>

**Samsung:** Samsung is a South Korean multinational conglomerate. The biggest part of the Samsung group is its publicly traded subsidiary Samsung Electronics, which is the world's largest mobile phone and TV manufacturer. Samsung monitors are reportedly used by the IPS.<sup>15</sup>

**Shamrad Electronics:** Has a contract, due to expire sometime in 2015, with the IPS for relocating communication infrastructure and supplying electronic equipment. The contract is worth tens of millions of Israeli Shekels.<sup>16</sup>

**Volvo Group:** A Swiss multinational company. Has had occasional contacts with the IPS in the past. Volvo Buses, a subsidiary of the Volvo Group, owns 26.5% of Merkavim (see above).<sup>17</sup>

Top left: Occupation of Curry's in Brighton, UK, in November 2014, calling for a boycott of HP products.

Bottom left: Street theatre outside Curry's in Brighton, November 2014. Photos courtesy of Brighton and Hove Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

Right: Protest outside the British Education and Training Technology conference at the Excel centre, London, January 2015, where Hewlett Packard's Vice-President was speaking. Photo courtesy of [www.inminds.com](http://www.inminds.com)



# END NOTES

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### **Companies complicit in arrests and imprisonment of Palestinians**

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**This briefing is being published on 17 April 2015 to coincide with the annual day of solidarity with Palestinian prisoners. It collects the memories of the pain, suffering and resilience of Palestinians who have been imprisoned by Israel.**

**In 2013, Corporate Watch visited the West Bank and Gaza Strip and interviewed released prisoners about their experiences.**

**The 11 accounts give a glimpse of the struggles of Palestinian prisoners. They have been collected together here to inspire readers to take action in solidarity with them and against the companies profiting from their suffering.**

**The first part of this briefing compiles interviews with prisoners from the Gaza Strip. The second part focuses on the West Bank. The final part summarises the companies providing equipment and services that aid the arrest and imprisonment of Palestinians, and gives detailed profiles of two of the biggest culprits: G4S and Hewlett Packard.**

**We dedicate this briefing to all those who remain imprisoned, and to everyone living within the open air prison that is occupied Palestine.**

**Corporate Watch**

**[www.corporatewatch.org](http://www.corporatewatch.org)**

**Corporate Watch is an independent, not-for-profit research and publishing group that investigates the social and environmental impacts of corporate power. Since 1996 Corporate Watch has been publishing corporate critical 'information for action' in the form of books, reports, investigative articles, briefings and magazines.**

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