

Human Rights Violations In the “Oasis of Democracy”

“... Again, the special forces began firing rubber bullets and stun grenades at us, and once again I got shot in the head with a rubber bullet which led to a head injury and hemorrhage..”

Published by Meezaan Association for Human
Rights - Nazareth



May 2014 - Rajab 1435 AH

A week in al-Aqsa Mosque's life

Human rights violations in the «oasis of democracy»

A special report on the Israeli attacks and
violations against al-Aqsa Mosque and its visitors

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Meezaan Association for Human Rights - Nazareth

“Meezaan Association for human rights - Nazareth” was established in early 2005 as an independent and non-profit organization, by a group of Arab lawyers active in the Palestinian territories for human rights. They came together to establish this organization and focused on reducing the gap between the concepts and the theoretical values of human rights and their actual application on the ground, and promoting these principles by applying and respecting them, and raising awareness among people that these are basic, legal, natural and indispensable rights.

Our vision

Because we believe that power lies in knowledge and organized teamwork, and considering the recurrent violations of rights and freedoms by the state and its institutions, we - in Meezaan Association- hope to improve the legal and human rights conditions of the Palestinian society in the 48 territories, by securing their natural rights and freedoms, on both the collective and individual levels, and to ensure full equality before the law, regardless of nationality, race, religion, or political orientation.

Thus, our program includes:

- Creating an informative, comprehensive, legal and consultative entity for non-profit organizations and for the institutions and individuals working to serve the Palestinians in the 48 territories; so as to be a source of information and a legal support. The role played by such an entity is essential for a societal change consisting of reform, development. and construction.
- Raising awareness in the Arab society of the rights and freedoms, through lectures, seminars, conferences and workshops aimed

at different segments of society, in addition to periodical and non-periodical publications, studies and printed books.

- Documenting violations in the field of rights and freedoms and publishing acknowledged reports of high credibility; so as to be evidence for these violations.
- Seeking to give voice to the oppressed and the discriminated to be heard by those with influence, including: media, local and international human rights organizations, parliament committees, research centers and universities, international forums and Arab and foreign embassies.
- Legal representation in cases related to the political, cultural, social, and religious rights of the Palestinians in the 48 territories, by directly addressing the official institutions and decision-makers, and through petitions, lawsuits and appeals to the various local and international courts.





Introduction

Why are human rights blatantly violated on the gates of al-Aqsa Mosque?!

Are international standards futile and meaningless when it comes to freedom of worship in al-Aqsa?!

In the following pages, we offer you, dear readers, a report which includes examples of flagrant violations of human rights and freedoms that occurred in only one week, from 04/14/2014 to 21/04/2014, during which events took place at the gates of al-Aqsa Mosque and in its squares and surrounding alleys in the Old City of Jerusalem. That week reflects the permanent reality in which Israeli police forces violate the freedom of worship, freedom of movement and freedom of expression, and trample on human dignity, whether inside al-Aqsa Mosque, at its gates or on the streets leading to it, or even in police stations and detention centers to which the Israeli police lead anyone who speaks up against these violations or attempts to reach al-Aqsa mosque for prayer.

We, in Meezaan Association, are determined to defend the rights and freedoms of the visitors of Jerusalem and al-Aqsa. This is a humble step in a series of continuous and various steps, to which we will commit ourselves, God willing.

We appeal to all local and international human rights organizations, associations and committees to cooperate and work together, in order to lift the injustice and stop these violations - in Jerusalem and al-Aqsa. And we extend our hand and are willing to collaborate and support any effort that serves this noble purpose.

Adv. Mustafa Sohail Mahamed
Director of Meezaan Association for Human Rights

Preface

**On the eve of the Jewish holiday of Passover:
"The Temple organizations" announce
a week for breaking into al-Aqsa Mosque**



On Wednesday (09/04/2014) on the eve of the Jewish holiday of Passover which started on the 14th of April and lasted until the 20th, and as in every year, the so-called "Temple organizations" called for a festive week and for increasing activities, events and raids targeting al-Aqsa mosque that constituted flagrant violations as explained in detail in the following pages.

On Thursday evening 10/04/2014, the so-called "Association of Temple Organizations" organized a training workshop and guided tour in West Jerusalem whose topic was giving "offerings of the Temple" in al-Aqsa Mosque and it was in two parts. The first phase covered questions and answers about the "Jewish decrees" regarding the necessity of giving offerings, while the second part covered practical training on how to do the offerings. The mentioned association called for donations and participation in these rituals and for the contribution to the costs of the offerings. It also called for Jewish



of the Attorney General of the Ministry of Religions, who said, "The Chief Rabbinate would not mind going up to the Temple Mount for every Jew whose rabbi allows him to do so."

And it was also a call by the vice president of the Israeli Knesset, Moshe Feiglin, who announced his intention to break into al-Aqsa Mosque on the morning of Sunday, 20/04/2014, and also called on his supporters to accompany him when storming al-Aqsa. Feiglin has published on his personal page on the social networking site Facebook that since his last storming of al-Aqsa —i.e. about three weeks before this announcement— he decided to break into al-Aqsa Mosque once every Jewish month. It is noteworthy here that Feiglin usually tries to break into the Dome of the Rock, which is what happened more than once, guarded by Israeli police.

The chairperson of the Parliamentary Interior Committee in the Israeli Knesset, Miri Regev, had demanded in a statement, published on her personal page on Facebook, on Sunday 04/13/2014, to close the doors of al-Aqsa to Muslims. Her statement came after she failed to break into al-Aqsa because of the human wall formed by worshipers and the clashes that happened that day that followed the Jewish attempts to enter al-Aqsa by force.

But Moshe Feiglin, who entered al-Aqsa Mosque on 4/20/2014 under a huge protection of police and occupation troops, said afterwards: "The Temple Mount is occupied by Hamas and the Islamic Movement, and the police did not allow me to enter al-Aqsa except through a very narrow passage and for three minutes. This was not normal for me, and yet I accepted these conditions in order to cooperate with the police, but next time I will not answer to these conditions at all", he said, adding, "The Islamic endowments are the ones controlling and operating al-Aqsa, **and it is a must to fully transfer the sovereignty over it to the Israeli government.**"

Also, the Likud Rabbi Yehuda Glick said, "We cannot accept in any way the status quo in al-Aqsa **and the Muslim control over it. This reality must be changed quickly.**"



The Knesset member of the party “The Jewish Home”, Shuli Mualem, demanded that the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu intervene immediately to impose a new different reality in al-Aqsa Mosque.”



The Israeli Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, Eli Ben-Dahan, said in an audio recording, “My office finished writing down legal regulations for organizing Jewish prayers at al-Aqsa. What is only left is for Netanyahu to sign it in order to be valid”, adding, “I wish it to be as soon as possible, and I support going up to the Temple Mount and holding prayers there.”

The flyer that was distributed by the “Trustees of the Temple” organization as part of the Passover celebrations, inviting Jewish citizens to the “Freedom March” from al-Khalil gate in Jerusalem to the al-Aqsa mosque. The organization called on people to enter the mosque, pray in it, and offer sacrifice there “to stop this unprecedented disgrace against our Temple Mount, and to stop the demolition of what’s left of our temple by the Arabs”.

The flyer circulated inviting people to take part in offering sacrifices in the Passover, reads: “this year we will not celebrate the holiday in our homes but in the yards of al-Aqsa mosque – the sacred place for us Jews. We will gather near the Maghariba gate, we must fulfil the sacrifice commandment as we were ordered”.

Blockade, storming of al-Aqsa, and dozens of injuries and arrests

The calls mentioned above to enter al-Aqsa Mosque by Jewish groups escorted by the Israeli police were the cause of the mobilization of Muslims in the Palestinian territories, by a number of movements and organizations that called for the mobilization and sit-in at al-Aqsa, the foremost of which were the Aqsa Foundation for Heritage and Waqf (Islamic endowment), The Bayareq Foundation, and al-Aqsa Revival Foundation (*‘Imarat al-Aqsa*), and the Quds Foundation for Development, which constantly monitors the developments at al-Aqsa Mosque. These organizations called for mobilization and marches to al-Aqsa mosque to make prayers in it, which may deter the Jewish raiders, aggressors and occupiers, and so it was. Throughout the whole week from Monday 14/04/2014—the first day of the Passover holiday—until its seventh and last day on 04.21.2014, the Israeli occupation forces admitted for the first time that this year had the least number of Jews entering al-Aqsa Mosque during the Jewish holiday of Passover. That provoked the Jewish groups’ anger since the Muslim presence aborted their plans throughout the whole week and around the clock, inside and outside al-Aqsa mosque.





Because of their failure, Sunday morning 4/20/2014 was different from the other days. That day a tight blockade was imposed on al-Aqsa compound by thousands of the Israeli occupation police forces, including special units and border guards. They firmly blocked al-Aqsa Mosque and closed all the gates to



Muhammad Owais, from Jerusalem

al-Aqsa except for three, prevented anyone younger than 50 years old from entering through these gates leading into the al-Aqsa yards, including school students who study in school located inside the gates, as well as adult students in the Study Circles project. These forces started attacking the worshipers who gathered at the gates of al-Aqsa, especially at Bab Hutta and Bab Al Asbat (Lions` Gate). They brutally and aggressively attacked them, with no warning and for no apparent reason, twice; once at 4:00 in the morning before the Fajr prayer, and the second time at 8:00 AM. They attacked a number of worshipers who wanted to go into al-Aqsa for prayers, with no regards to whether they were men or women, elderly or children, which led to tens of arrests and tens of injuries, and many of those who were arrested were notified about their banning from entering al-Aqsa or the Old City of Jerusalem, in addition to large fines that they had to pay. It should be made clear that the attackers fired rubber-covered bullets and stun grenades, and used batons for beating. Furthermore, those who were allowed to enter were forced to hand in their ID cards at the police checkpoints located by the gates of al-Aqsa Mosque. The cards



were kept at Qishleh police station, and after the prayer, their owners had walk to this remote police station and wait for long hours before getting subjected to interrogation about their personal details. For most people, this interrogation ended in returning without the ID cards, and having to try again the next day, as the Israeli police does not allow entrance to al-Aqsa without showing the identity cards.

Testimonies of some of the detainees and those who suffered injuries at the hand of the Israeli police

The events at al-Aqsa compound on 20/04/2014



The following are testimonies and statements of a number of the injured and detainees who had been arrested or assaulted during the events that took place specifically on 04/20/2014, the bloodiest and most violent day, by Israeli police forces. It is important to note that the testimonies of some of the detainees and wounded we decided not to publish in this report for various reasons.

Abdullah Tibi -Taybeh city - Southern Triangle - school student

On Sunday 04/20/2014, we had the Fajr (dawn) prayer inside al-Aqsa Mosque. Two young men from al- Taybeh and I went to the bathrooms to



renew ablutions and use the toilet. I finished before the other young men and went out of the bathroom, only to find the special forces of the Israeli police stopping me – although I did not do anything but go to the bathroom - and they started beating me and told me, “Sit down on the ground, put your hands over your head”. They stormed the bathrooms, held the two young men and beat them as well. They took us to Bab Hutta (Hutta gate), and over there they tied our hands with plastic cuffs and started to beat me and the other guys. Then they took us in the car to a police station next to the *Buraq Wall* (Wailing Wall), and during all that we did not know what was our guilt. They started beating us, and took me inside a small bathroom and started beating me and telling me: “Admit that you threw stones!” And I did not throw any stones! When I told them I did not, he said that he had seen me in the camera. I told him, “No, you did not see me,” so, he hit my feet, and it was so severe that I dropped to the ground. Then he held me from the plastic cuffs and started throwing me around, and then he got me out and brought in the other young men. I saw the two other guys from Taybeh, Wessam Yassin whose head was bleeding, and Muhammad Gomaa. After this torment, they took us to the interrogation, and until that moment I did not know what the charge against me was. When the interrogation officer started questioning me, I understood what the charge was, and they were so ridiculous that I started laughing. Then they took me to court and the judge decided to that I remain under house arrest. **Also when they took us to the police station at the Wailing Wall, they were cursing us personally and cursing our religion and Allah and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), and they took my phone password against my will and wrote on my Facebook page “Happy Holiday for all the people of Israel.”**



Firas Omari from Sandala Village –Al Marg region- Director of Yusuf Foundation for the Defense of Prisoners.



I arrived in Jerusalem on Sunday the 20th of April 2014 at 4:20 am to attend dawn prayers in al-Aqsa mosque, but I was surprised that the occupation police forces was preventing people from entering the mosque, so we performed the prayers in a square next to Al Asbat Gate outside the mosque. After prayers I headed towards Hutta Gate hoping that the police officers may let me enter the mosque but they refused, so I stopped nearby waiting for the moment they allow my entry. In the main while people started coming towards the gate demanding the occupation police force to let them enter the mosque, but that demand was met by refusal as well, and they stayed around waiting. **Suddenly I spotted an Israeli police commander running towards one of the officers and ordered him to throw a stun**



grenade at the crowds waiting to enter the mosque. The officer was confused and hesitated to throw the grenade, simply because there was no sign of riot or disruption. The commander pushed him and ordered him to do as he was asked; but again the police officer hesitated and didn't throw the grenade. For the third time the police officer pushed his soldier and yelled at him to throw the stun grenade. The confused officer obeyed the order and threw the stun grenade at the crowd of people waiting to enter the mosque which created a state of panic and rush towards Al Asbat Gate. After that the police officers started a violent and brutal attack on the crowd and threw stun grenades heavily. One of the officers fired rubber bullets at people from a close range and aimed especially at the upper part of the body. The police officers, who were from different units, started beating women and old people with their batons and pushing them towards Al Asbat Gate. I was standing close to the occupation forces before they launched their brutal and violent attack. I was leaning on the wall of the church, and next to me stood a group of women and students who were trying to enter the mosque or go to work at the old town schools as teachers or students. **At the moment of the attack, and without a warning, the police officers threw the stun grenades where the women were standing and started beating us with their batons and pushing us violently. The women panicked and ran in different directions crushing into each other and falling to the ground.** I started helping them up, and asked the police officers not to beat us with the batons and to give us space to leave the place peacefully since we are not against the order of evacuation, and that the young students are in a state of panic and fear. The police officers however did not care about our demands and continued beating us and throwing grenades.

During my attempt to help women and students, I was beaten several times with the batons and received many punches and kicks, even though all I did was helping women to leave the place.

When I was under the bridge of Al Asbat gate making my way out of the place, a police officer hit me on my right hand with the baton which caused severe pain, my hand swollen, and it was temporarily paralyzed, and I wasn't able to move my fingers. what I want to say is that I was attacked brutally and beaten on various parts of my body, my back, my leg, and my hand even though I haven't done anything wrong.

Mahmoud Aql – from ‘Arara - Northern Triangle - works in high-tech - 37 years old

We arrived to the city of Jerusalem for the Fajr prayer at al-Aqsa Mosque on Sunday, 20/04/2014. The doors leading to al-Aqsa were closed, and so all we could do was pray in groups outside al-Aqsa. After the prayer, we all sat down and recited the morning prayer in groups, we read the Koran, and chanted takbir (glorifying of Allah) in protest over preventing us from going into al-Aqsa—with no reason—by the Israeli police. At exactly 6:30 in the morning, the border guards began assaulting us. I was in the front row, and they started harassing Muslim passersby, but non-Muslims were passing normally without anyone stopping them.



Then one of the police officers started pushing us back, and he pushed me hard; so I asked him not to push, and said that he could speak to us without resorting to violence. He said to me, “You are shameless”, to which I replied, “I am not. Watch your words”. Then he grabbed me trying to drag me to the police checkpoint, but then two young men pulled me away from him. They asked me to stay away from the place and so I did. Shortly after, someone came and told me that he heard a police officer asking them to capture me, and asked me to stay further away.



At 7:00 in the morning the police began throwing grenades and rubber bullets, which caused several casualties between the protesters. It took about half an hour until we were surrounded near the Lions' Gate between the parking lot and the police checkpoint. We tried to get out of the area altogether in order to avoid being hit or injured. When I tried to get out, six of the policemen attacked me **and began beating me with sticks and fists. They cursed and humiliated me so many times, they insulted my honor and my religion and cursed my Arab nationality.** After beating me, a policeman put his hands in my pocket and said, "You're carrying stones?!" I told him, "No", then he said: "And what is this?!" I told him, "You have just put these stones now." He said, "**I'll show you, you disgusting Arab.**" He called for the others who were beating me during the arrest, then they attacked and assaulted the other young men. When the other policemen came, that policeman told them, "Look what I found in his pocket". **They began laughing and insulting and beating me, and then they took me inside the room while I was restrained and they continued the insults and beatings.** One policeman said to me, "**I hate you, Arabs**". So I told him: This is your problem, not mine.. and continued, "What is the charge against the children?!" He said, "I wish every Arab child would die, I hate you. And you will see what we will do to you. Now you'll know the real meaning of beating". They took turns beating and insulting me while I was handcuffed. They took the stone out of my pocket and put it in my hands so my fingerprints would be on it. I tried to resist, and I do not know for sure if they were able to take fingerprints or not.

After less than 20 minutes, a police officer came and put the t-shirt's hood that I was wearing on my face and pulled it down so I would not see anything, and told me: "**Now we will go out to the police car to take you to the police station. I warn you if you raise your hands with victory sign or shahada, I will break your fingers.**"

We went out of the room to the area of cemeteries, and I barely could see my feet, but I managed to recognize the place. During our walk to the police car, one of them hit me on my face and forehead

and insulted me using very obscene language. When we got to the police station, they took me inside a room and continued insulting and beating me, and this time with punches and kicks while my hands and legs were cuffed. This treatment continued until the lawyer turned up and informed me of my rights.

Muhammad Jom'aa- al-Tiba city - Southern Triangle - 30 years old

I prayed the Fajr at al-Aqsa Mosque on Sunday 04/20/2014. At 6:00 in the morning I went to the bathrooms at Bab Hutta. After I went to the toilet, policemen from the special units broke into it by force, and they severely beat me and took me out of the toilet naked and did not even give me a chance to finish my needs. I got dressed outside the toilet, and then they handcuffed me. They brought us out to Bab Hutta and sat us down on the ground, our faces to the wall. After a while, they



sent for a police car. They treated us in a barbaric way; in the car they sat down on our bodies to insult us, and then they took us to the police station at The Chain Gate, walking amid crowds of Jews.

At The Chain Gate, they subjected me to all kinds of beatings, insults and curses. They beat me on my head, which led to a bleeding. And they hit our hands, shoulders and waists with their legs, and throughout this time —for about four hours— **a lot of policemen from the special unit attacked and beat me while I was restrained on the ground, legs and hands in cuffs, and my face on the floor. During this time, three policemen of the special unit took me by force to a narrow toilet, and I was subjected to beatings on every part of my body, and then they brought me back to where I was. Every time I wanted to talk, they started**



beating me again and insulting my family and religion. At 11:00 o'clock, lawyer Khaled Zabariqah, from the Jerusalem Foundation for Development, came to The Chain Gate. Then, they got us out of there amid the Jewish settlers insulting and beating us until we reached al-Qishleh police station where we waited until they interrogated us.

Sheikh Hussam Abu-Leil - the village of Ein Mahil - North Area - Vice-President of the Islamic movement in the Palestinian territories and an Imam



We got to al-Aqsa Mosque at dawn on Sunday, 04.20.2014, half an hour before the Adhan (prayer call), around 4:00 in the morning. We gathered in front of Bab Hutta and it was closed until 4:15 when a police force from the border guards told us that only people over 50 years old were allowed to enter al-Aqsa. Then, they backed off, and police forces from the special units, which are called the “Yassam”, came in forces and started assaulting young men who gathered at the

gate without any reason, who then started chanting and takbir (*Allahu Akbar*). At this point the police forces began beating more violently and pushed us towards the Lions` Gate at the big arch. During all that, I was pushed from behind and I fell on my face where I had a surgery in my nose a month ago. I also got a fracture in my left wrist, and the young people around me took me in a private car to the Maqased hospital in al-Mokbbir Mount in Jerusalem with other injured people. We arrived at the hospital in the early morning, where doctors and paramedics provided us with the required treatment and put an orthopedic cast around my broken hand.

Sheikh Ali Abu Sheikha - village of 'Ara - Northern Triangle - the Islamic Movement's Coordinator of Jerusalem Affairs

I was at al-Aqsa at 6:00 in the morning on Sunday 04/20/2014, with a friend from my village 'Ara in the Northern Triangle, because of a surgery in my left leg; as I use a crutches for support when walking. That morning I prayed outside at Bab Hutta, and I couldn't get in because of the long stairway to al-Aqsa from Bab Hutta, and then I went to al-Aqsa's squares and prayed there on a chair with my friend. At 8:30 in the morning, the police forces attacked the worshipers inside al-Aqsa. I was near the Dome of the Rock, away from these events, sitting on my chair





with my friend when suddenly a police officer and an intelligence officer came to me along with police forces, they were around 20 people. They told me I was arrested, and when I asked for a cot to carry me because I couldn't walk with them, they refused. Staff from the Red Crescent tried to help and carry me on a cot, but the police officer refused, and I walked outside, during that I stopped several times to get rest. I asked the officer about the length of the distance, he told me it was four kilometers. Then, they took me to the police station at the Chain Gate, and then they transferred me to the police station at the Wailing Wall. There, I was interrogated by the intelligence unit in the infamous Room 4. The interrogation lasted for about 15 minutes, and the questions mainly focused on me coming at al-Aqsa and questions on how I came. The charge was that I incited riots. They offered me a deal; not to come to al-Aqsa only in the days of Jewish holidays and in return they would release me unconditionally, which means banning me from entering al-Aqsa Mosque for three months. I, of course, refused and they transferred me to court. The court decided to disallow me from entering al-Aqsa for 45 days and from the Old City of Jerusalem for 14 days.

Mohammed Melawi - al-Makr Village - the Galilee region - 21 years old - a college student for the subject of Occupational Therapy

I arrived at al-Aqsa Mosque on Sunday 04/20/2014 at almost 7:00 o'clock in the morning. I joined the people who were grouping at Bab Hutta, and the sit-in was peaceful, encompassed with chants and takbir. During that, a policeman made an aggressive move and violently threw a gas bomb towards the protesters, injuring one of them. The other policemen began firing stun grenades at random and without consideration, whether there were old men, women or children. Like the rest of protesters, of course I ran towards the Lions'



Gate to take cover, and then I heard the sound of an explosion and something crashing near my ears. I felt a sharp pain in my right shoulder. At first I was about to fall on the ground, but then a someone came to me and helped to sit me down on the side of the road. But that was not enough for the police. They continued firing rubber bullets at us; so, I rushed to the Lion`s Gate, despite my injury. I was transferred to the Maqased hospital, and they found I was shot at close range with a rubber bullet in my right shoulder. I stayed for treatment in the hospital for about an hour. I was treated, yet the pain is still persistent to this day. The bullet has caused an injury in the shoulder joint and muscle tissue.



Muhammad Mansour - the village of Majd al-Krum - Shaghour area in the north - a student of the Study Circles

I was arrested in last February. They took me inside the police station at the Chain Gate. On that day they completely undressed me, in addition to severe beatings, **especially on my left leg, which suffers from disability, and when they found out about that, they started beating on it even harder.** I stayed a whole night there and they issued an order banning me from entering al-Aqsa for 15 days.

On Sunday morning 20/04/2014, I went with some students of the Study Circles to Bab Hutta, and when the young men started chanting and takbir in protest over preventing us from going into al-Aqsa to pray, the Israeli police called for the special units. They came from Bab Hutta and the



Lions` Gate, started firing stun grenades and beating us with batons. **I could not run to avoid stun grenades because of my disability in my left leg. I fell on the ground and they started kicking my legs and yelling at me to get up and leave.** The ambulance came and the paramedic gave me the treatment, ice and did the necessary checkups.

Mohammed Yousef Jabareen - the city of Umm al-Fahm - Northern Triangle - a student of the Study Circles

We arrived on Sunday, 04/20/2014, to Bab Hutta at around 8:00 o`clock. The Israeli police had placed many barriers in the way that blocked our way to al-Aqsa mosque— and suddenly without warning, they attacked us with batons and fired rubber bullets and stun grenades. As we were running away from them, a policeman fired a stun grenade directly at me which hit my elbow. The pain was so severe that I felt it in my bones, and I suffered from it for a whole week. Two young men took me in a private car to get treatment at a local clinic in the Old Town where they gave me the necessary first aid.

Wessam Yassin - al-Tiba city - Southern Triangle - a school teacher

On Sunday, 04/20/2014, shortly after the Fajr prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque —at about 5:30 o`clock— I went out of the mosque towards the bathrooms at Bab Hutta to use the toilet and renew ablutions. One minute after I entered the bathroom, a large number of Israeli special police forces stormed the place, attacked us and did not even let us attend to our needs.

They continued the assault, and took us to Bab Hutta where they insulted us and our Islamic religion. They sat us down on our knees, our faces to the wall and sturdily handcuffed us with plastic cuffs.

In the meantime, policemen from the special forces insulted and threatened us, and gave us unattainable commands. Then they forced us to wear caps, and they talked of how this was to insult us and accuse us of wearing masks. Then we were transferred to a police station, which turned out to be next to the Chain Gate, and then we were transferred in a police vehicle where **we got attacked again — and a policeman of the special forces sat down on my body all the way to insult and humiliate me.**



From right to left: Wessam Yassin, Muhammad Jom'aah , Mahmoud 'Aql

The police vehicle stopped at the entrance of the Wailing Wall from the western side. They lowered our heads and we heard their commander saying “humiliate them” תשפילו אותם— we were dragged in front of the tourists in the Wailing Wall plaza till we reached the police station.

At the police station, they severely beat every part of our bodies; I got seriously injured in my right eye and my head was smacked against a metal door twice and against a marble staircase that caused my head to bleed severely, which forced me to lie on my stomach and my head covered in blood for about half an hour, and a policeman kept stepping on me with his feet.

During that time I remember that one of the police officers came to me and said, “Are you dead?!” I said “No”, to which he replied, “what a bad luck!”



This unbearable situation continued, where my knees on the floor, my hands firmly cuffed from behind, and my back lowered to the ground and I can't even raise my head a little bit, and during all that they would keep putting the cap over my wounded head to intensify the pain.

Before letting us out of the police station for interrogation, I was took to the bathrooms twice: In the first time I was beaten again, and in the second time they forced me to wash the blood on my face. Then we were attacked yet again when they were driving us to the interrogation by car.



Abdulkarim Aghbarieh - 23 years old - The city of Umm al-Fahm - Northern Triangle area - Iqraa Institution for Academic Development

I reached the city of Jerusalem on Saturday 19/4/2014 during the Maghrib (evening) prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque. The Israeli police did not allow me to enter the mosque, so I remained outside al-Aqsa until next morning before the Fajr (dawn) prayers. Because I was chanting takbir with the others, so the policemen arrested and severely beat me,

and took me to the police station. After hours of arrest, they put me on the floor while I was handcuffed and for four hours they prevented me from standing up. They accused me that I came from the West Bank and forged my identity. They took me to Qishleh police station where I got to meet the lawyers who offered me legal advice, and then I went to the interrogation, and my charge was that I attacked a policeman at Bab Hutta. I denied these accusations, but then they banned me from entering all areas of Jerusalem for 15 days, and in case I go there, I will pay a fine in addition to court.

Misbah Sabih - Silwan district - Jerusalem

I was heading to Jerusalem from my place of residence in Silwan. I passed by the Lions` Gate and I saw a gathering of people while I was there. The special police forces were brutally attacking the people to evacuate the place. I looked behind me to find a policeman pushing me, "Why are you pushing me like that?" He and five others began beating me; they handcuffed me from behind, threw me to the ground, hit me, and took me to the Qishleh police station. Along the way they were insulting and battering me, and when I arrived to the Qishleh police station, my hands had been swollen due to the tight





plastic cuffs. They started the interrogation with me, during which one of them came in, beat me and insulted me. After the interrogation, they released me on the condition that I will not come near the Old City in Jerusalem 15 days.

Shaikh Bilal Atif Mansour from Majd Al-Karoum village- Chaghour region- Mosque preacher .

We arrived on Sunday morning twenty minutes before dawn prayers at Hutta gate. A group of police officers came and one of them said that entry is permitted only to those who are fifty years or older. Everyone who came started glorifying God in a protest to this decision. Immediately and without second thought police officers called a special unit and started an against everyone. We ran towards Bab Al Asbat (lions' gate) and regrouped next to a car parking where we performed dawn prayers. After performing the prayers we went back and stood in the way between Hutta Gate and Al Asbat Gate, and there was a barrier between us and the police forces. We started reciting and reading Qur'an and listening to sermons and continued like this till half past eight. We felt that the police and the special unit were so irritated since the morning, and they were planning to do something, and indeed, I saw from a distance a police officer assaulting an old man when the voices went loud in a condemnation and rejection of this behavior. Immediately the police force started throwing stun grenades, beating people with batons, and firing rubber-covered bullets until we left the place through the gate next to the police station. At that moment I was standing on the stairs on the northern side of the cemetery. I looked at the policemen and saw one of them pointing his gun at me. I tried to avoid the bullet but I was shot in my back. I endured the pain and reached Al Asbat Gate down the street where the people who were there transported me to the Maqasid Hospital to receive treatment. The bullet left marks and swellings on my back.

Karam Kanana from Oraba Village- Batouf region- 23 years old.



On Sunday the 20th of April 2014 we went for Dawn prayers in al-Aqsa mosque and arrived at Hutta Gate before the prayers. We stood there and the police officers informed us that only people of age fifty or older are allowed to enter. We started chanting takbir in protest against this decision, an act which seemed to have irritated the officers when they called the Special Forces and started beating us with batons and throwing stun grenades at us to force us to leave the place. In the middle of all that one of the officers beat me with his baton on my head which caused a serious injury. The wound was deep and I bled profusely. I was transported to the Maqasid hospital where they treated my injury, stitched the wound and bandaged my head. Around eight o'clock I went back to the place where people from my region were gathering, and I found them at Hutta Gate. We approached the mosque to enter and once again the police forces unleashed another assault on us with rubber bullets and stun grenades. For the second time I was injured in my head, with a rubber bullet this time, which caused another heavy bleeding. I was taken again to the hospital where they stitched the wound on my head again, and then I went back for the third time to al-Aqsa mosque.



Muhammad Said from Kafar Kanna village- north region

On Sunday the 20th of April 2014 we arrived at Hutta Gate by Dawn. There were many people who wanted to enter al-Aqsa mosque to perform dawn prayers, but we were surprised that the gates were closed and we were prevented from entering the mosque by the occupation police force, then they called a special unit with batons and started beating us with no mercy and pushing us out through the gates.

Around 8:15, and all of a sudden, the police forces started once again firing rubber bullets and throwing stun grenades at the protesters, and above that they started pushing the people, young and elders, knocking them down and stomping on them for no reason. I was documenting and filming these events with my phone and I saw an officer pointing and firing his weapon at children and old people. I went to him personally; the thing which made him realize that what he was doing was dangerous and unnecessary called for, and that there was no need to use fire force. During the conversation with him he pointed his rifle at a young man and fired a rubber bullet which hit him in the face and broke his teeth. Mamoun Rachid Taha, a young man from my Village, was injured as well with a rubber bullet in his stomach while he was standing. I went to the officer once again to ask him to cease fire, but I didn't expect him to come at me, punch me and slap me on the face for no reason. The officer with two of his partners took advantage that I was alone and completely defenseless against them and started beating me, so I started screaming and asking them to stop and leave me alone for I haven't done anything wrong. They were pushing and beating me with their steely boots and helmets until I passed out and lost conscious of my surroundings. Moments before that, I heard an officer addressing them in Hebrew saying "leave him alone; what do you want from him? He hasn't done anything." So they left me. Afterwards I was transported to Al Maqasid hospital where I received treatment praise be to Allah.

Mamoun Rachid Taha from KafarKanna Village- north region.

We arrived at Hutta Gate around seven thirty in the morning on Sunday the 20th of April 2014, and the gates were closed by the Israeli occupation police forces. Around twenty to eight we heard the sound of stun grenades exploding from inside the yards of al-Aqsa while we were outside. Then we started



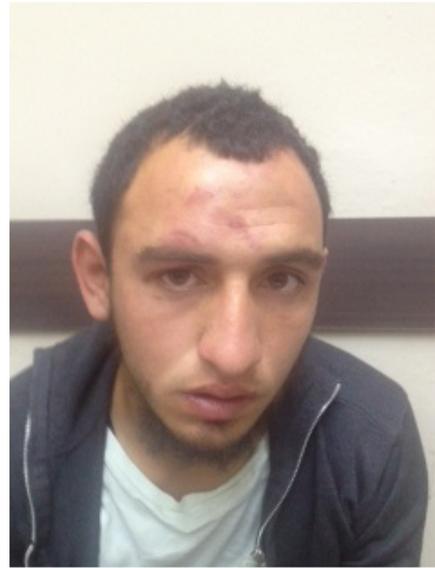
glorifying God, and the police force responded by firing rubber bullets and throwing stun grenades at us without any previous warning or reason for that. We stepped back, and I was standing very close to the police members. We let out another loud glorification and instantly they shot me with a rubber bullet in my stomach. **I saw the officer who shot me aiming at me through his rifle's scope and pointing the laser dot at my stomach, the exact place where the bullet hit me.** At first, I did not feel any pain, but after a couple of minutes, I could not endure the growing pain anymore until the ambulance arrived and the paramedics gave me the appropriate treatment in place.

Ihab Aghbariya from Mushirfe village- Northern triangle region- 24 years old- truck driver

We arrived in Jerusalem on Saturday night the 19th of April 2014 At Hutta Gate to perform night prayers in al-Aqsa mosque, but the occupation police force prevented us from entering the mosque. We came back again around four o'clock in the morning for dawn prayers. We reached Hutta Gate and there was nothing. Suddenly the police force attacked us and started



beating us with batons. Fifteen or so of the occupation police officers, attacked me personally. **When they beat me I fell on the ground and then they hit my head against the floor which left my head deeply wounded with swollen browses. After being attacked I was arrested and put in the arrest car where they continued beating me while my hands were tied to the back in a very distressing way with plastic hand cuffs which left marks on my wrists till the present day.**



I remained under arrest, tied and sitting on my knees with my head folded until twenty minutes to eight, and then I was transported from one place to another until nine o'clock to end up in Al Qisheah police station for interrogation. Once they finished the interrogation I was transported to the court. The verdict was my deportation from the old town of Jerusalem for sixty days, and I was bailed 5000 Israeli Shekels.

Muhammad Khalid Aghbariya from Mushirfe village- Northern triangle region- employee at a High-Tech company

We arrived at Hutta Gate on Sunday the 20th of April 2014 around quarter to four in the morning. Many people were heading towards al-Aqsa for dawn prayers. As usual we headed towards Hutta Gate because it was the only gate in the northern east side that the Israeli occupation police forces open for people to enter, but we were surprised when we found no barriers or members of the occupation forces standing at the gate, and that was unusual. We went forward until we reached the mosque's gate (Bab Hutta) and waited there hoping that we might be allowed to enter the mosque, but soon enough we realized that it was a set up by the occupation force planned during the night. We waited for a couple of minutes. At the call for dawn prayer which was around 4:05 am., **six or seven police officers came and started making their way through the lines while the first one of them was speaking out loud in Arabic saying "Entry is allowed for those who are fifty years old, or older, anyone below the age of fifty must step back"**. Spontaneously we, the ones staying at Hutta Gate, started glorifying God until the police members retreated. Few minutes later those police members came back with a special police force unit and started beating everyone in their way, children, old people men and women and separated the crowds brutally.

In the process of the brutal breaking up of the crowd, I saw two old men lying down on the ground (the first was in his fifties while the second was in his sixties), **one of them was injured and the other was being kicked and beaten with batons by two police officers**. I tried to help them, along with some people, but when I stepped in to help the first man to stand up, one of the officers struck me on my left hand with a baton which was extremely painful, while the other one pointed a gun at us and ordered us to back off. Afterwards I was transported to the Maqasid hospital to receive treatment.



Amjad Arafa from Jerusalem - 34 years old - journalist

On Saturday night the 19th of April 2014 I was going to perform night prayers in al-Aqsa mosque, but we were stopped at Hutta Gate and we performed the night prayers there outside. After prayer was finished I stayed for about five minutes to take some pictures for work since I am a journalist. After that I took the way home through Al Asbat Gate. At the Yusufiya cemetery gate I heard, with some people who were there, loud voices. I turned back to realize that two of the police officers from the Israeli borders police division were running towards us. The two police officers attacked us and ordered us to stop; they were holding their batons and rifles in their hands. I gave them my identity card, they took it and also everyone else`s, then started provoking us. I asked them to calm down and behave in a decent way so that we understand the situation and why they stopped us. Suddenly five more officers from the borders police division arrived at the scene and beat one of the people who were there. I asked the officer immediately about what they want from us. The same officer who was beating the kids silenced me when I asked, and they told us that we were under arrest. They tied our hands and searched us at Al Asbat gate station and then transported us to Al Qishleh police station. In the interrogation we were accused of disrupting the police work, and we stayed there till morning when we were transported to the court in Almaskoubia. There I was bailed to pay 5000 shekel along with a sentence banning me from entering the old town for fifteen days.

Wael Faour- Sha`ab Village- Al Jalil region- a student in al-Aqsa Knowledge Circles.

On Saturday the 19th of April 2014, I decided, with some friends of mine from the village, to travel to Jerusalem to stay in the blessed Aqsa mosque for worship. When we arrived in the afternoon we tried to enter through Hutta Gate, when afternoon prayers were called for,

but the police officers prevented us from entering and allowed people who were fifty years and older to enter. We stood next to the police barrier until night prayers and we prayed in the street in front of the police barrier, and then went to another mosque in Jerusalem where we



stayed until four o'clock in the morning, roughly thirty minutes before dawn prayers. We headed back to al-Aqsa mosque where the police forces had planned an ambush for us at the entrance of Hutta Gate. The Special Forces took us by surprise and started beating and kicking us out of the place for no obvious reason or previous warning. I was beaten twice on my head and I was transported to Al Maqasid hospital to receive treatment with three injured friends, the first was from Mushirfa village, the second was from Arraba village, and the third was Shaikh Houssam Abou Lail from Ain-Mahel village. After that we went back to join the lines of the protesters whose number was increasing. Once again the police members from the special unit started attacking the people. Several colleagues and friends of mine were injured while some others were arrested.

Hamed Tamimi- 13 years old from Jerusalem- student

On Sunday morning the 20th of April 2014, and while I was in al-Aqsa backyards after I prayed, I went to the ablution rooms. When I came out I was arrested by several police officers although I did absolutely nothing wrong, and was transported to the police station in Qishleh where I met a lawyer called Omar Khamaisi who works at the Meezaan Association for Human Rights. The lawyer gave me legal advice, and then the police



interrogated me under the suspicion of disrupting the order and the work of the police while performing their duties. After the interrogation was finished, they released me.

Malek Chouiki- 16 years old from Jerusalem- student

I was arrested in the early hours of Sunday morning the 20th of April 2014 while I was coming out of the ablution rooms inside al-Aqsa yards, and I was transported to Qishleh police station in a police car with handcuffs around my wrists. In the police station I met Mr. Omar Khamaisi from Meezaan Association who informed me of my rights. Later on the police interrogated me on the bases of assaulting police officers, the charges which I denied, and then I was released from custody under the condition of exile from al-Aqsa for several days.

Other injured and arrested people we didn't get the chance to take their statements, and all of them are from Jerusalem.

Muhammad Arafa / Muhammad Sidr / Motasim Sidr / Muhammad Zain / Malek Showaiki / Mahdi Atia / Mohammad Owais / Nariman Shaloudi / Abderaouf Zaatary / Ahmed Tarwa / Zina Amro / Maroua Idriss / Khadija Kowaiss / Rawan Abou Hadwan / Izeddine Shaloudi.







The legal scene of a week of al-Aqsa`s history.

By Advocate Omar Khamaisi

the Israeli police`s acts of depriving people of their right in performing their religious rituals and prayers in al-Aqsa mosque, and attacking them in Jerusalem are indisputably violations of human rights according to the international principles. These are rights that are supposed to be protected by the international courts (the international court of justice in Hague – ICJ), and the committees of the united nations, like the human rights council in Geneva.



However, the reality in Israel hasn`t changed, and the successive governments ignore and turn a blind eye to every decision or recommendation or legal opinion that condemns the various Israeli violations. These violations contradict with the customary international law, and the fourth agreement of Geneva about protecting civilians in periods of war which was approved in 1949 , which applied to the Palestinian soil before the armed conflict started in 1967. These violations also contradict with the principle of nations` right to self-determination according to the international treaties, and the international covenant on the civil and political rights, the international covenant on economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In light of the legal impairment where law is not being enforced due to the passiveness of the international community in dealing with these Israeli violations, we must not stop trying to expose these crimes and reveal them to the international congregations, and in any place that could help putting an end to the Israeli violation

and ending the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem and the al-Aqsa mosque. Through our legal work and follow-up during the Jewish holidays week (from 04/14/2014 to 21/04/2014) in which Jewish citizens voiced serious threats to break into the al-Aqsa mosque, we witnessed clear legal violations like offending religious sensibilities of others, contempt of another religion, offending the public, and incitement to violence, racism, and disruption of order and other kinds of violations and desecrations.

but we are sure that the police didn't and will not investigate these irregularities (violations) because it doesn't look at them as violations in first place, so they don't correspond the legal term (violation) but rather it sees these violations from the political prospective that al-Quds case is a conflict about the Legitimacy of sovereignty, and they are convinced that despite all the local Legislations, even the ones specific for al-Quds city, hasn't given them that Legitimacy yet, and this is the reason of their worry which is manifested through more rights and freedoms violations. During this week, the Israeli police force arrested more than thirty Palestinian young men from within the squares of the al-Aqsa mosque, and some of them were arrested outside the walls, and dozens were attacked and beaten which resulted in different mild and serious injuries. What distinguishes this week from the rest of the weeks is the violent, brutal and barbaric ways the police handled the situation. Since the early hours of the morning the forces started a violent unjustified assault upon the Muslims who were deprived of their right of exercising their religion by performing dawn prayers inside al-Aqsa mosque. The police forces committed crimes against the law that it is supposed to protect and maintains and punish those who goes against it. more than that the police officers attacked the worshippers with no right in under the claim that they were just breaking up an illegal gathering. The police decided that only those above fifty years old are allowed to enter the mosque, and prevented women of all ages from entering to perform prayers. Later on the police resorted to the annexation of identification cards from people who wanted to enter the mosque. All these actions of the police are clear violations of law; therefore we will not hesitate in accusing the Israeli police forces of being criminals who commit crimes against al-Aqsa and its visitors.



On the 20th of April 2014 we met as lawyers from the Meezaan Association for Human Rights, and from al-Quds Foundation for Development, with the detained young men in Qishleh police station next to Bab Al-khalil (Al Khalil Gate). We saw with our own eyes the awfulness and brutality of the assault on the detainees. We informed the police chief that we demand a necessary health care for the detainees and to transport them to a hospital for treatment. We also demanded a documentation of their statements and complaints against the police officers who attacked them. Then we gave the detainees legal advice in this station. The number of the detainees was, until the late hours of the noon, about eighteen detainee. What was more shocking is that seven of them were minors between the age of thirteen and sixteen. All the detainees were accused of attacking the police members and disrupting its work during the performance of its duties, starting a riot, and disrupting the order. All the detainees denied the accusations, rather they pointed the fingers against the police officers for overuse of power and attacking them brutally. At a certain point, the chief of police decided to transfer the first group of detainees to the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court for an extension of their detention. At this moment a group of lawyers went to the magistrate's Court to defend the detainees, while the other group stayed at the police station to provide legal assistance to the rest of the detainees. Late afternoon, five of the minor detainees were released from the police station without being transported to the court. As for the rest of the detainees who were being held in all police stations, they were transferred to the court whose verdicts varied. For some detainees the detention was extended one to two days; some were released with the banning them from entering al-Aqsa mosque and the whole Old City of Jerusalem for one to two months; and some were received orders banning them from entering the larger Jerusalem City for a specific period of time.

We , in the Meezaan Association for Human Rights, have submitted complains on behalf of the victims to the department of investigation with the police to prosecute its members for the barbaric attacks and violent actions they committed against the detainees. We will submit these statements of the detainees and the injured people to the



committees in the council of the human rights in Geneva in order to reveal the violations against the sanctity of al-Aqsa mosque and its visitors, and to shed light on the continuous Israeli crimes and violations.

The children of al-Aqsa had their share



“ I was very relieved when I heard from my fellow lawyers who defended the detainees about what happened inside the police stations where detainees were held. Among the detainees was a boy from Jerusalem aged 13 whose name was Hamed Al-tamimi, a boy who struck the occupation police by his speech and attitude. The speech he gave in front of the chief of the police reflected an early manhood and a rare courage, he spoke with courage and pride about the injustice of the Israeli occupation and the right of the Muslims alone in al-Aqsa mosque. This attitude made the chief of the police irritated when he said to the lawyer justifying the arrest of the little man: “listen to him! He speaks as if he is sixty years old”. Truthfully, blessed be the womb that held you within Hamid, a MAN before your time, a Man in a time when men are so rare. Bless you child of Jerusalem whose care for al-Quds and al-Aqsa made you grow up before time. If children were playing with their gun toys and video games, then you are living the action in the streets of al-Quds and the yards of the blessed Aqsa mosque.

Bless you men of al-Quds, bless you women of al-Quds, and bless you children of al-Quds. I'm sure that Allah Almighty brought you in this most appropriate time to disgrace the faces of those who believe the lie that they are the owners of the Promised Land”.

(excerpt from an article by Shaikh Kamal Khatib, Vice-President of the Islamic Movement in the Palestinian 48 lands).

Appeared in the Sawt al-Haq Wal-Horriya newspaper on Friday the 25th of April 2014.



HIGHER FOLLOW-UP Committee for Arab Citizens condemns attacks on al-Aqsa

The secretary of the HIGHER FOLLOW-UP Committee for Arab Citizens, an umbrella organization representing all Arab parties and movements in Israel, held an exceptional meeting on Thursday the 24th of April 2014 in the committee offices in Nasser city. The Committee studied a number of cases and important developments, especially the increasing and repeatable attempts by the Israeli settlers to infiltrate and desecrate al-Aqsa mosque under the protection and care of the Israeli government, and the assault on the worshippers inside the mosque.





After reviewing these cases, the secretary of the HIGHER FOLLOW-UP committee released a statement saying the following:

“The Committee strongly condemns the repeated and continuous assaults and abuses on al-Aqsa mosque and its worshippers, and warns the Israeli government of the consequences of continuing to put its plans into actions, which target al-Aqsa mosque as one of the most prominent national and religious headstones in the Arab world in general and in Jerusalem and Palestine in particular. The committee decided to arrange a special visit to al-Aqsa mosque to hold meetings with the national and endowment committees in Jerusalem during the upcoming days. From this time on the secretary of the HIGHER FOLLOW-UP committee and its chairman will be devoted to the monitoring and dealing with the developments in this regard.”

The Islamic movement in palatine: we must intensify the camp to al-Aqsa.



The Islamic movement in the Palestinian 48 territories (Israel) issued a statement in response to the repeated flagrant Israeli violations in al-Aqsa mosque and Jerusalem, stating the following:

“Let us intensify our visits to the blessed al-Aqsa, because first and foremost it is a worship through which we seek nearness to Allah Almighty, knowing for sure that the good deeds will be generously rewarded as the prophet Muhammad peace be upon him told us.

al-Aqsa mosque is undergoing a very dangerous and sensitive phase, for it is conquered, and this alone counts as a calamity. Even the futile and suspicious negotiations some of meetings of which are being held in Jerusalem deepens the sense that the Mosque is in grave danger. Let those



know that Jerusalem was and will remain the “hard number” that turns the tables against anyone who attempts to neglect or nullify any of the fundamentals of the Palestinian cause.

Let us bolster our connection with the blessed al-Aqsa mosque and leave it not alone for the plots of the Israeli settlers that are constantly attempting to storm and desecrate our mosque under official guard and protection of the Israeli authorities.

This is an occasion to remind the Muslim nation and the Arab world once again that al-Quds - Jerusalem is the concern of all of us, and that each and every one of us will be asked by Allah Almighty about what he did to defend al-Aqsa. We are all going to be asked about this collective obligation weather we managed to fulfill it or neglect it.”

