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Written statement* submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[25 May 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Penal measures against the arrested children of Al-Qods

1. Detaining them with murderers

After investigating the children, the occupation keeps them the arrested children of Al-Qods with Jewish murderers as killers and drug addicts. The child "Obaida Amer Saed", 16 years began open food strike to protest against transporting him from Al-Maskobeye cop office into "Ofik" civil jail in January 2014. He was taken there by force since he had refused to do this, so he began his food strike.

The arrested children in the jails: Hasharon, Al-Ramlah, and Ofik are really endangered since their rooms are near the criminals' ones, so they are always subject of insults and attacks. The activist "Amjad Abo Assab" says that the child's of AlQods suffering is not limited only in arresting him, but he also suffers from psychological crises in a jail far from his parents' care, so he suffers from involuntary wetting, hair fail, isolation, and others.

He indicates that keeping these children with Israeli criminals either in Office crime jail in Natanya region or in Hasharon proposes to discharge them from their national feeling since the jailer deals with as crime prisoners as the Israeli ones, so they are given lectures from "guides" as other crime prisoners.

He ensures that after release, Al-Qods arrested children's care, attitudes, and thinking differ, so some of them become robbers and others drug addict, while some of them suffer from psychological disorders.

2- House arrest residence "Grounding at home":
According to the occupation, the beautiful and calm home may change into a jail, so the tender parents and siblings involuntary change into jailers, the matter that leads to disequilibrium of the family that lacks any stability. This is real not imagination that happens only under the Israeli occupation which imposes on Al-Qods Children this policy. Grounding the children at home may lengthen according the occupation's decision that may renew the period of grounding them as what happens with the administrative prisoners.

Abu Assab, the head of the family committee of the Al-Qods prisoners, considers that the policy of grounding children at home is the worst period the children pass through, so they are deprived from movement and even going to school. Due to isolation, they become aggressive and lack trust in others. Their arrest conditions cause for them serious psychological crises as involuntary wetting and hair fall.

The occupation used this policy in the first half of 2013 against more than 40 children and women from Al-Qods only. Some of them were kept in their homes, and others in their relatives' ones far from their residence. This second type is more difficult than the first since the children is forced to live directly with unfamiliar people, so this really led to some social and psychological problems mainly when the period of grounding is long.

The occupation proposes Al-Qods Children since their early age does allow the occupation to keep them in the jails, the alternative is grounding them at homes.

The consequences of house arrest residence on the children show after ending this period which affects them negatively; they have to play with their mates outside house and pursue their education, but this never happens since they have no freedom to move. The child becomes stressful and aggressive mainly when he is unable to share fun and play with his peers who change as his enemies since he considers them his jailers. The family then start to insult and punish him due to his stubbornness, arguments, and some bad actions. This causes negative effects on the social relation and makes a wall between the child and his family. Educationally, being far from the school atmosphere, the child's performance becomes back, and he may be fired out from school due continuous absence.

In 30-6-2013, the Israeli police imposed house arrest residence on the child Saif Ghaleb Rowaidi, 11 years old, in his home in Salwan after detaining him for hours in Sallah Din cop office in Al-Qods. Accompanying his brother, this child was arrested during his back from school since the occupation accused him of throwing empty bottles on the settlers in Salwan .

This policy is applied also on the Al-Qods child "Moslim Mohammad Awada," 13 years old. He was detained for 2 days, and then grounded home for a month, but he was allowed to go to school with a fellow. His family had also to pay a bail – 1000 Shekel. He was arrested in 13-2-2013 from his home and accused of throwing the burning bottles and stones towards the settlements in Salwan. It is the 14th time of arresting him.

In 10-3-2015, the reconciliation court in Al-Qods imposed house arrest residence for a week on 6 children from Al-Thawri neighbourhood ; they are: Ashraf Hani Gheith (14 years old), Mohammad Younis Abdel-Razzak (14), Mohammad Khaled Abdel-Razzak (12), Moatazz Shwaiki (13), Marwan Alawat (14), and Mohammad Al-Telhami (15) in addition to paying a bail of 500 Shekel and a bait of third side -5000 Shekel. They were arrested and accused of throwing stones and burning bottles on settlements. Alas, they were summoned in the next morning.

3- Exclusion from house

The house arrest residence was not enough, but the occupation also added another punishment on the Al-Qods children; it is the "exclusion from house" which means spending the arrest period in driving away the child from his home to another far one. This punishment which is applied by a decree from the occupation court multiplies the suffering of the child and his family. It is really a burden on the family who have to stay this period with their child, so he doesn't feel strange and lonely, and to satisfy his needs. The family sign a pledge to pay sum of money the decree is not carried out.
Driving the children away from their homes opposes the world declaration of child rights, 1959, and child right agreements issued in 1989. The two articles 37 and 38 declare that the child must not be subject to any torture, or any kind of inhuman hard treatment. Also, the child must not be deprived of his freedom under any illegal or oppressing law. They declare that the child is arrested or detained in a jail according the law, and in a shelter for shorter suitable time.

In 3-7-2014 the occupation forces arrested the child Tarek Abu Khdair- cousin of the martyr Mohammad Abu Khdair- and aggressively assaulted him, so he had breaks in the jaw and wounds in the face. In 6-7-2014, the judge decided to release him and drive him away his house in Shaafat in the middle of Al-Qods to Beit Hanina – nearby- for 15 days. He was also sentenced to house arrest residence for 9 days and pay 3000 Shekel, and addition to 10000 Shekel paid by a third side.

Since this child has the American nationality, the exterior ministry on the tongue of Jean Bssaki- the official speaker- invited for a fast and fair investigation as well as punished who use excessive force.

He said: "We can ensure that Tarek Abu Khdair is an American citizen, and he is detained by the authorities in Al-Qods, and a leader from the American consulate visited him in Al-Qods yesterday."

He added: "We feel deeply worried about the reports which show that Tarek Abu Khdair was severely beaten in the cop office, and we condemn vehemently any use of excessive force. We invite for a fast and fair investigation that punishes who uses the excessive force."

He complete: "We assure our worried feeling about the increase of violent actions, and call all sides to take serious steps to settle down the conditions and protect the innocents.

4- Imposing a financial bail:

In addition to the judgments, the occupation imposes high financial bails. It forced the family of Sohaib Al-Awar, from Al-Qods, to pay 18000 Shekel as cash, and sign a pledge to pay 65000 if their son breaks the decree of "home arrest residence" which was imposed on him after releasing him and keeping him in his grandma's home in AL-Mokabber Mount in Al-Qods for 4 months, while his home lies in Selwan.
The central court in Al-Qods imposed exclusion and arrest house residence on the child Mahran Al-Jaabari, 12 years old from Al-Qods. The same thing happened with a sixteen year child, Shadi Al-Awar, who excluded to Al-Mokabber Mount till judging him and this of course after paying 3000 Shekel.
Amjad Abo Asab , the head of the family committee of the Al-Qods prisoners, assures that paying such bails is considered a savage economical policy that aims to oppress and suffocate Al-Qods people. He clarified that the Israeli

attorney general prosecution has demanded lately the indictment which was framed against the arrested children for the purpose of increasing the financial bail to reach 1000000 Shekel. Doesn't this deserve a serious stand from all legislation and right institutes, as well as United Nation and its organization to deter this occupation's policy?