





Esteemed Mr. António Guterres, Secretary - General of the United Nations, United Nations Headquarter, 405 East – Street No. 42 New York, 10017 United States of America (USA)

Greetings,

We send this message to you on behalf of the undersigned Palestinian and Arab human rights organizations, to draw your attention to the issue of Palestinian and Arab martyrs whose bodies are being held by the Israeli occupation authorities.

Since before the 1967 aggression, Israel, the occupying power, has pursued a contradictory policy of detaining the bodies and remains of the dead Arab and Palestinian fighters, classifying them as infiltrators or terrorists, and denying them the procedures used to bury and collect the bodies of the enemy, where the dead are buried in what Israel calls "the cemeteries of enemy fighters", which are neglected mass graves located in areas that Israel considered closed military zones.

The Israeli authorities kept these graves to a large extent a secret that they only recognized in the mid-1990s, after the Israeli Supreme Court ordered an investigation to locate two "missing" bodies, and the subsequent investigation committee appointed by the Israeli occupation army confirmed that by July 2000 that there were three cemeteries under the administration of the Israeli military, where there are 349 bodies of Arabs and Palestinians buried in secret. The process of identifying missing persons is complicated by the humiliating and systematic negligence of burying bodies, in addition to the lack of proper documentation and registration. Later in 2020, Israel admitted that there is another cemetery in Negev dessert.

In addition to the hundreds of bodies buried in these cemeteries, the Israeli occupation authorities are detaining 70 Palestinian bodies in refrigerators

under very low temperatures, of which prisoners died due to torture and medical negligence, were one of them is a prisoner who spent 27 years in Israeli prisons. This policy is used by the Israeli Authorities for the purposes of bargaining to pressure Hamas to negotiate a possible prisoner exchange deal.

In September 2020, the Israeli Cabinet decided that the body of any Palestinian could be detained, regardless of his political affiliation or the severity of the alleged attack that he carried out and used for this purpose [bargaining and negotiation]. This was described by political analysts as "trading of corpses".

The policy of detaining the bodies inflicts great emotional pain on the families of the martyrs and deprives them of their right to mourn their sons and feel grief for them.

This policy also violates the customary IHL rules on the treatment and disposal of the war dead bodies and the obligation to facilitate their repatriation, required, inter alia, by Article 130 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

In addition, this policy also violates the rights of the dead to a dignified burial and their families' rights to family life, religious freedom, and cultural traditions, and the prohibition against inhuman or degrading treatment.

Michael Link, the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, considered in a report to the United Nations Human Rights Council that the policy of detaining bodies is a form of collective punishment.

In view of the decision of the Israeli Supreme Court in which it approves the continuation of this policy, even though it violates international law, we call on you to address this illegal policy, and call for the immediate repatriation of all the corpses of Arabs and Palestinians detained by Israel, and to call for an end to the Israeli policy of using bodies as bargaining chips.

Signatures:

No.	Name in English	Name in Arabic
1	Jerusalem Legal Aid and Hi Rights Center (JLAC)	مركز القدس للمساعدة القانونية وحقوق الإنسان

2	Amman Center for Human Rights	مركز عمان لدراسات حقوق الإنسان/الأردن
	Studies (ACHRS) The Moroccan Coordination for	of the first of the first of
3	Human Rights Organizations	التنسيقية المغاربية لمنظمات حقوق الإنسان
4	The Egyptian Organization for Human rights	المنظمة المصرية لحقوق الإنسان
5	The Moroccan Association for Human Rights	الجمعية المغربية لحقوق الإنسان
6	The Tunisian League for Defense Human Rights	الرابطة التونسية للدفاع عن حقوق الإنسان
7	The Algerian League for Defense Human Rights	الرابطة الجزائرية للدفاع عن حقوق الإنسان
8	Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture-Lebanon	مركز الخيام لتاهيل ضحايا التعذيب/لبنان
9	The Iraqi Alliance for Human Rights Organizations	التحالف العراقي لمنظمات حقوق الإنسان
10	Yemeni Organization for Defense Rights and Democratic Freedoms	منظمة يمن للدفاع عن الحقوق والحريات
_	8	الديمقراطية
1.1	Committees for the Defense of	لجان الدفاع عن حقوق الإنسان والحريات
11	Democratic Freedoms and Human Rights in Syria (LDH)	الديمقراطية في سورية
12	The Libyan Society for Human Rights and scientific Research	الجمعية الليبية لحقوق الإنسان والبحث العلمي
13	The Bahraini Society for Human Rights	الجمعية البحرينية لحقوق الإنسان
14	The Mauritanian Association for the Promotion of Rights	الجمعية الموريتانية لترقي الحقوق
15	Arab Commission for Human Rights/Paris	اللجنة العربية لحقوق الإنسان/باريس
16	Organisation Marocaine des Droits Humains	المنظمة المغربية لحقوق الإنسان
17	The Egyptian Center for Women Rights	المركز المصري لحقوق المرأة
18	The Tunisian Organization against Torture	المنظمة التونسية لمناهضة التعذيب
19	Word Center for Human rights Studies	مركز الكلمة لحقوق الإنسان/مصر
20	Arab Women Center for Training and Research- CAWTHER/Tunisia	مركز المرأة العربية للتدريب والبحوث "كوثر"- تونس
21	The Moroccan League for the Defense of Human Rights	العصبة المغربية للدفاع عن حقوق الإنسان
22	Centre de Tunisie Pour la Liberté de la Presse (CTLP)	مركز تونس لحرية الصحافة
23	Organizations Pour Les Libertes Expression OLIE/Hatim Information Et D'D - Morocco	منظمة حريات الإعلام والتعبير – حاتم/المغرب

Vigilance for Democracy and the Civic State/Tunisia — علي الديمقراطية والدولة المدنية — الله State/Tunisia — الله
The Syrian Federation for Human rights Organization 26 Forum Tunisien pour les Droits Economiques et Sociaux The International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights/Geneva 27 Human Rights Organization in Syria- Maf 28 Comité National Solidarité Laïque Tunisie Amitiés The Syrian Federation for Human Rights Organization f
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The International Center for supporting الدولي لدعم الحقوق والحريات - جمعية 31 Rights and Freedoms-Swiss
Association
المتابعة لدعم قضية المعتقلين في السجون Follow-up Committee to Support the
32 issue of detainees in Israeli prisons-
Lebanon اوليلية/ لبنان
عامل الدولية/ لبنان Amel Association International- لينان Lebanon
The Arab Organization for Human Rights in Syria
مع الأكاديمي في لبنان لدعم فلسطين/لبنان support of Palestine-Lebanon
26 Damascus Center for Theoretical and Civil Studies
37 Friends of the Disabled Association- اصدقاء المعوقين/ لبنان Lebanon
I am a Human Right for Disabled الأردن People-Jordan
39 AL Miezan Association for Human Rights and Development- Iraq
The Jordan Federation of the independent Trade Unions
اديمية السويسرية لحقوق الإنسان/ جنيف Swiss Academy for Human Rights- اديمية السويسرية لحقوق الإنسان/ جنيف
42 Archives & Human Rights Center for Memory - Morocco المغرب المغرب المغرب
المغرب المغرب المغرب Initiative pour La Protection des Droits des Femmes - IPDF
ع المغربي من أجل الحقيقة والإنصاف Moroccan Forum for Truth and Equity
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له الدولي لتوثيق انتهاكات حقوق الانسان/ International Observatory for
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46	Rasid Association for Human Rights- Lebanon	جمعية راصد لحقوق الانسان / لبنان
47	Sawah Organization for Human Rights -Iraq	منظمة ساوة لحقوق الانسان / العراق
48	The Network for the Defense of Women in Syria	الشبكة السورية للدفاع عن المرأة
49	The National Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking (Yemen)	المؤسسة الوطنية لمكافحة الإتجار بالبشر/ اليمن
50	The Jordan Society for Human Rights	الجمعية الأردنية لحقوق الإنسان
51	Amman Society Forum for Human Rights	جمعية منتدى عملن لحقوق الإنسان/ الأردن
52	Arab Women Organization-Jordan	جمعية النساء العربيات/الأردن
53	Roaa Women Association-Jordan	جمعية رؤى نسائية/ الأردن
54	Association of the Economic and Social Forum for Women / Jordan	جمعية المنتدى الاقتصادي الاجتماعي للنساء/ الأردن
55	Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights (Yemen)	منتدى الشقائق العربي لحقوق الإنسان/ اليمن
56	Elhaq Center for Democracy and Human Rights/Egypt	مركز الحق للديمقراطية وحقوق الإنسان/ مصر
57	Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue/Egypt	مؤسسة ملتقى الحوار للتنمية وحقوق الإنسان/ مصر
58	The Arab Foundation to support Civil Society and Human Rights/Egypt	المؤسسة العربية لدعم المجتمع المدني وحقوق الإنسان/ مصر
59	The Egyptian Foundation for the Advancement of Childhood Conditions (EFACC)	المؤسسة المصرية للنهوض باوضاع الطفولة
60	The AFRICA Human Rights WATCH/Morocco	المنظمة الإفريقية لمراقبة حقوق الإنسان/ المغرب
61	Electronic Press Syndicate (Mauritania)	نقابة الصحافة الالكترونية/ موريتانيا
62	Women's Peace and Security Network (Yemen)	شبكة المرأة للسلام والأمن/ اليمن
63	The Middle East Foundation for Development and Human Rights (Yemen)	مؤسسة الشرق الأوسط للتنمية وحقوق الإنسان/اليمن
64	The Arab Coalition against the Death Penalty	التحالف العربي لمناهضة عقوبة الإعدام
65	The Arab Human Rights Trainers Network	الشبكة العربية لمدربي حقوق الإنسان
66	League for Human Rights Trainers in Iraqi Kurdistan Region	رابطة مدربي حقوق الإنسان في كردستان العراق
67	Tunisian Coalition Against the Death Penalty	الإئتلاف التونسي لمناهضة عقوبة الإعدام

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68	l'Association de Défense des Droits de	جمعية الدفاع عن حقوق الإنسان بالمغرب (فرنسا)
- 30	l'Homme au Maroc (basée en France)	
	The Moroccan Coalition for Human	الإئتلاف المغربي لهيئات حقوق الإنسان
69	Rights Bodies (includes 20 Moroccan	
	human rights organizations)	
70	Commission Marocaine des droits de	الهيئة المغربية لحقوق الإنسان
	l'homme	, - J
71	Al-Haq Organization	مؤسسة الحق
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72	Al DAMEER - Association for Human	مؤسسة الضمير لحقوق الانسان
12	Rights	
73	Defense for Children International- DCI	الحركة العالمية للدفاع عن الاطفال
74	Ramallah Center for Human Rights	٠. ا الله ا ١ الان ا
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	Human Rights Association	
76	Al Mezan Center for Human Rights -	مركز الميزان لحقوق الانسان
	Gaza	
77	Human Rights & Democracy Media	مركز إعلام حقوق الإنسان والديمقراطية "شمس"
	Center "SHAMS"	
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