



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

Palestinian Women in the Israeli Prison System

Dr. Suad Joseph, General Editor

Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Women and Gender Studies, University of California, Davis

EWIC Staff: Datasheet

- ❖ Over the last 45 years, more than 10,000 Palestinian women have been arrested and/or detained under Israeli military orders. Generally, Palestinian women are sent to the Hasharon and Damon prison that are both located outside of the 1967 occupied territory.¹
- ❖ According to *Muftah*, an online foreign policy magazine that focuses on the Middle East and North Africa and shifting from a U.S.-centric perspective on the regions, an average of five to eight Palestinian women and girls are detained by Israeli security forces each month.²
- ❖ As of January 2016, there were 55 Palestinian female prisoners in Israeli prisons and detention centers. The number of female prisoners has increased since the mass arrest campaigns that began in October 2015.¹
- ❖ Palestinian women are held mainly in Hasharon and Damon prisons which are both located outside the 1967 occupied territory. This violates Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which states that an Occupying Power must detain residents of occupied territory in prisons inside the occupied territory.¹
- ❖ A 2008 study conducted by Addameer Prisoner's Rights and Human Rights Association reported that the majority of Palestinian female prisoners were subjected to forms of mental pressure and torture by Israeli negotiators through beatings, insults, threats, sexual harassment and humiliation.³
- ❖ In 2007-2008, 56% of female prisoners were between the ages of 20 and 30 at the time of their arrest, while 13% were under the age of 18, most of them were high school students.²
- ❖ A study conducted by Addameer in September 2008 showed that approximately 38% of Palestinian female prisoners suffer from treatable diseases that go untreated.¹
- ❖ The Addameer Prisoner's Rights and Human Rights Association stated that women prisoners have been detained in old jails that have not been improved since the British Mandate period of 1922-48.⁴
- ❖ In 2013, the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI) submitted a petition to the Israeli High Court of Justice on behalf of six Palestinian female prisoners whose allegations suggested systematic, gender-specific torture and/or ill-treatment in Israeli prisons.²
- ❖ Released in 2004, "Women in Struggle" is a documentary that exhibits the stories and perspectives of four female Palestinian ex-detainees. The documentary was filmed by Buthaina Canaan Khoury, a Palestinian independent filmmaker who established the Majd Production Company in Ramallah in 2000.⁵
- ❖ Formed by the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, the Palestinian Women Prisoners Project works to raise awareness of the conditions that Palestinian females face within Israeli prisons.⁶

¹ http://www.addameer.org/the_prisoners/women

² <http://muftah.org/trapped-between-prisons-palestinian-women-in-detention/#.VmIiO3arRaR>

³ <http://www.addameer.org/files/Reports/in-need-of-protection-palestinian-female-prisoners.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.addameer.org/files/Brochures/palestinian-women-political-prisoners-december-2010.pdf>

⁵ http://www.wmm.com/filmcatalog/press/wstrugg_presskit.pdf

⁶ <http://euromedrights.org/members/the-public-committee-against-torture-in-israel-pcati/>

The EWIC Public Outreach Project is funded by the generous support of the Henry Luce Foundation

EWIC is available from BRILL online: <http://brillonline.com/>

<http://sjoeph.ucdavis.edu/>

February 16, 2016, 2016 L.A.