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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 7 JERUSALEM 3239

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CVIS, IS, JO

SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF SECURITY SUSPECTS ON WEST BANK

REF: (A) JERUSALEM 1500, (B) JERUSALEM A-13, (C) JERUSALEM A-19

1. THE FOLLOWING REPORT PREPARED BY VISA OFFICER ALEXANDRA JOHNSON IS BASED ON HER INVESTIGATION INTO THE QUESTION OF MISTREATMENT OF ARAB SECURITY SUSPECTS ARRESTED BY ISRAELI MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN THE WEST BANK. THE THOROUGH AND PAINSTAKING RESEARCH AND WRITE-UP (CONDUCTED IN PART ON THE OFFICER'S OWN TIME) IS LARGELY BASED ON HER QUESTIONING OF FORMER SECURITY PRISONERS WHO, SOMETIME AFTER THEIR RELEASE, HAVE APPLIED FOR VISAS TO THE UNITED STATES. IN THE COURSE OF MS. JOHN'S OBLIGATORY INQUIRY INTO THE REASONS FOR THEIR SECURITY CONVICTIONS, SHE WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN MOST OF THE BASIC DATA FOR THIS REPORT.

2. ALTHOUGH THE POST DOES NOT NECESSARILY AGREE WITH ALL OF THE DEDUCTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT, THE WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE POINTS TO THE VALIDITY OF HER GENERAL

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CONCLUSION THAT PHYSICAL MISTREATMENT IS SYSTEMATICALLY USED ON MANY ARAB SECURITY SUSPECTS INTERROGATED IN THE WEST BANK. THIS MISTREATMENT IS USED TO OBTAIN A CONFESSION TO SECURITY OFFENSES AND TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON OTHER PALESTINIANS WHO

MAY ALSO BE INVOLVED IN SECURITY OFFENSES. THE NUMBER OF CASES AND THE CONTENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL STORIES REVEAL A CERTAIN CONSISTENCY. OF COURSE, THE POST CANNOT CORROBORATE FIRSTHAND THE STORIES OF THE PERSONS WHO TALKED TO MS. JOHNSON. HOWEVER, THIS A PROBLEM GENERAL IN HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING.

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3. THE POST FULLY UNDERSTANDS ISRAEL'S LEGITIMATE CONCERN OVER SECURITY ON THE WEST BANK AND ACCEPTS THE PREMISE THAT A MILITARY OCCUPATION REGIME MAY NECESSARILY SUPERCEDE THE BASIC CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH ARE EXPECTED IN A FREE DEMOCRATIC STATE LIVING IN A STATE OF PEACE. NEVERTHELESS, SERIOUS MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS IS A CAUSE OF HUM RIGHTS CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WHENEVER IT OCCURS. IT SEEMS CLEAR FROM THE RESEARCH OF MS. JOHNSON THAT, BY ANY US OR WESTERN STANDAR OF POLICE PRACTICE AND INTERROGATION, ISRAELI PRACTICES ON THE WEST BANK GO BEYOND ACCEPTABLE CIVILIAN NORMS.

5. RELATIVE TO TREATMENT OF SECURITY SUSPECTS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, WE ARE, OF COURSE, NOT ABLE FULLY TO JUDGE BUT SUSPECT THAT ISRAELI ACTIONS ARE NO WORSE THAT WHAT MIGHT BE APPLIED TO, FOR EXAMPLE, AN ISRAELI SECURITY SUSPECT IN JORDAN, SYRIA OR EVEN EGYPT. SUCH JUDGMENTS, HOWEVER, ARE BEYOND OUR KEN AND IN ANY EVENT, NOT EXPECTED OF US. WE MENTION THIS TO ATTEMPT TO APPLY A PERSPECTIVE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY SEE.

6. MATERIAL IN THE SECTION OF THE REPORT BY MS. JOHNSON

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REGARDING USE OF COERCED CONFESSIONS AS THE SOLE MEANS OF CONVICTION ON SECURITY OFFENSES IS CORROBORATED BY JERUSALEM A-19. IN JERUSALEM A-19, TWO OTHER CONSULAR OFFICERS AT THE POST OBSERVED THE DISREGARD BY AN ISRAELI MILITARY JUDGE OF A REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES THAT THE CONFESSIONS WERE OBTAINED UNDER COERCION. OUR OFFICERS IN THAT CASE REPORTED THAT THE JUDGE DID NOT SERIOUSLY INVESTIGATE THE CHARGES AND THAT HE CONSIDERED THE ISSUE OF ALLEGED COERCION AND MISTREATMENT TO BE IRRELEVANT.

7. THE POST BELIEVES THAT CONTENTS OF THIS CABLE ALONG WITH REFERENCES SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN PREPARING FOR CONGRESS THE REQUIRED ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION ON ISRAEL.

8. BEGIN TEXT OF REPORT:

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 7 JERUSALEM 3239

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EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (STADIS ADDED)

SUMMARY: DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN MARCH 1977 AND NOVEMBER 1978, THE POST HAS ASSEMBLED A BODY OF FIRST-HAND TESTIMONY INDICATING THAT ISRAELI TORTURE OF ARAB PRISONERS MAY BE A SYSTEMATIC PRACTICE. IN CONTRAST TO GOI AVOWALS THAT ANY INCIDENTS OF BRUTALITY ARE RARE, ABERRANT, AND UNUSUAL, THESE REPORTS DEPICT A GRADED SYSTEM OF PHYSICAL PRESSURES APPLIED IN CONFORMITY WITH CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL CRITERIA -- A SYSTEM REQUIRING FAR-REACHING ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION. FURTHERMORE, THE INFORMATION CASTS CONSIDERABLE DOUBT ON GOI'S CONTENTION THAT CLAIMS OF BRUTALITY ARE CAREFULLY INVESTIGATED, INSTEAD PORTRAYING THE MILITARY COURTS AND MILITARY ADMINISTRATION AS SUPPRESSING SUCH CLAIMS AND ACTING TO PREVENT THEIR INVESTIGATION. THIS MATERIAL SUBSTANTIALLY GOES BEYOND THE FINDINGS OF LAST YEAR'S HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON ISRAELI PRACTICES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND IS SUBMITTED AS PART OF THE POST'S EFFORT TO KEEP THE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY TEL AVIV INFORMED OF HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES IN THE WEST BANK. END SUMMARY.

1. THE DRAFTER OF THIS REPORT IS ALEXANDRA JOHNSON, VICE  
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CONSUL, POST VISA OFFICER, AND IS BASED ON HER INTERVIEWS WITH VISA APPLICANTS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 1977 TO NOVEMBER 1978.

2. THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION. BETWEEN MARCH 1977 AND NOVEMBER 1978, JERUSALEM HAS PROCESSED TWENTY-NINE VISA CASES IN WHICH THE APPLICANT HAS BEEN ARRESTED FOR A "SECURITY OFFENSE," I.E. AN ACT WHICH THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES DEEM RESISTANCE TO THE OCCUPATION. THE CONSULAR OFFICER INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED IN CONNECTION WITH THESE CASES PRODUCED CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION BEARING ON THE ISSUE OF TORTURE OF ARAB PRISONERS. THE FIRST FIFTEEN CASES WERE BRIEFLY SYNTHESIZED IN REFTEL A, AND THE WRITTEN STATEMENTS PREPARED BY THIS INITIAL GROUP OF APPLICANTS, TOGETHER WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUE, WERE PRESENT IN REFTEL B. POST IS SENDING BY ACCOMPANYING AIRGRAM A DETAILED REPORT OF CONSULAR OFFICER INTERVIEWS WITH THE REMAINING FOURTEEN APPLICANTS. TAKEN TOGETHER, THE TWENTY-NINE CASES PROVIDE A SUFFICIENT BASE TO ATTEMPT AN EVALUATION OF THE WIDER IMPLICATIONS OF THE ABUSES WHICH THE APPLICANTS REPORT -- PARTICULARLY THE POSSIBLE ROLE OF GOI IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE WIDESPREAD PRACTICE OF BRUTALITY IN THE INTERROGATION OF ARAB POLICAL PRISONERS.

3. INTERROGATION AS A SYSTEM. ALL TWENTY-NINE APPLICANTS CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD BEEN BEATEN OR OTHERWISE TORTURED DURING THE INTERROGATION SESSIONS WHICH FOLLOWED THEIR ARREST. ALTHOUGH THEIR STATEMENTS ARE VIVID AND INDIVIDUAL IN CHARACTER, THERE ARE CERTAIN BASIC UNIFORMITIES AND PATTERNS WHICH CHARACTERIZE THESE DESCRIPTIONS OF INTERROGATIONS. IT IS POSSIBLE TO DISCERN A GRADED SYSTEM OF PRESSURES APPLIED IN CONFORMITY WITH CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL CRITERIA.

4. THE APPLICANTS DESCRIBE THEIR INTERROGATORS AS UNSING  
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TECHNIQUES OF VARYING SEVERITY. HOWEVER, CERTAIN TECHNIQUES SEEM TO BE ASSOCIATED, APPEARING TOGETHER IN THE INDIVIDUAL INTERROGATIONS OF A NUMBER OF APPLICANTS, AND THRE APPEAR TO BE SEVERAL SUCH SETS OF TECHNIQUES. IN SIXTEEN OF THE TWENTY-NINE STATEMENTS, THE INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES ARE DESCRIBED IN SUFFICIENT DETAIL TO DETERMIN WHICH SET OF TECHNIQUES WAS USED

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FOR THE INTERROGATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL, AND WHETHER A SHIFT FROM ONE SET OF TECHNIQUES TO ANOTHER OCCURRED. ON THE BASIS OF THESE SIXTEEN STATEMENTS, THE INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES DESCRIBED MAY BE SEPARATED INTO THREE LEVELS OF INCREASING SEVERITY:

-- LEVEL ONE: BEATING WITH FISTS, BEATING WITH STICKS ON THE HEAD AND TORSO;

-- LEVEL TWO: IMMERSION IN COLD WATER, BEATING WITH WHIPS, BEATING THE GENTIALS WITH HANDS AND STICKS; INTERROGATION WHILE NUDE, SHACKLED IN AWKWARD POSITIONS;

-- LEVEL THREE: REFRIGERATION, USE OF ELECTRICITY, HANGING BY THE HANDS OR FEET, EXTREME FORMS OF SEXUAL SADISM; INTERROGATION ACCOMPANIED BY STARVATION, ENFORCED SLEEPLESSNESS. APPLICANTS' STATEMENTS PORTRAY FIVE INDIVIDUALS INTERROGATED AT LEVEL ONE, SIX AT LEVEL TWO, AND THREE AT LEVEL THREE. IN ONE CASE IT SEEMS THAT AN INTERROGATION BEGUN AT LEVEL ONE WAS COMPLETED AT LEVEL TWO, AND IN ANOTHER, THAT AN INTERROGATION BEGUN AT LEVEL TWO WAS COMPLETED AT LEVEL THREE.

5. APPLICANTS ALSO DESCRIBE INTERROGATIONS AS VARYING IN INTENSITY. ONE APPLICAN SAID THAT ONCE EVERY SEVERAL DAYS HE HAD AN INTERROGATION SESSION LASTING LESS THAN AN HOUR. MOST OFTEN, APPLICANTS SPOKE OF BEING INTERROGATED ONCE OR TWICE DAILY, THE INTERROGATION SESSIONS EACH LASTING SEVERAL HOURS. TWO APPLICANTS SAID THAT THEY HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO CONTINUOUS INTERROGATION, NOT BEING PERMITTED TO REST OR SLEEP OVER A PERIOD OF SOME DAYS, DURING WHICH A NUMBER OF INTERROGATORS

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WERE QUESTIONING AND BEATING THEM. APPLICANTS SAID THAT THEY WERE INTERROGATED OVER PERIODS OF ONE TO FORTY DAYS. THEIR STATEMENTS SHOW FROM ONE TO SEVEN INTERROGATORS AND SOLDIERS PARTICIPATING IN ANY GIVEN INTERROGATION SESSION. (SEE PARA 12) THUS, THE MORE INTENSE THE INTERROGATION -- WITH REGARD TO THE FREQUENCY AND LENGTH OF THE SESSIONS, THE LENGTH OF THE ENTIRE INTERROGATION PERIOD, AND THE NUMBER OF INTERROGATORS AND SOLDIERS PARTICIPATING -- THE HEAVIER THE DRAIN ON PERSONNEL.

6. INTERROGATION AND CHARGES. WHY IS A GIVEN SECURITY CASE INTERROGATED AT A PARTICULAR LEVEL OF SEVERITY AND INTENSITY? WHILE THE VARIATIONS DESCRIBED BY THE APPLICANTS CANNOT BE FULLY EXPLAINED BY A SINGLE FACTOR, THERE DOES APPEAR TO EXIST A BROAD CORRELATION BETWEEN THE SEVERITY AND INTENSITY OF THE

INTERROGATION AND THE GRAVITY OF THE CHARGES WHICH THE INTERROGATORS ARE INVESTIGATING. (THE INTERROGATORS' CONCERNS MAY BE DIFFERENT FROM THE CHARGES ULTIMATELY BROUGHT AGAINST THE ACCUSED IN COURT.) THE APPLICANTS THEMSELVES PERVEIVE SUCH A CORRELATION. FOR EXAMPLE, AFTER A VISA ISSUANCE, ONE APPLICANT ADMITTED TO THE CONSULAR OFFICER THAT HIS INTERROGATION HAD RESULTED IN PERMANENT PHYSICAL DAMAGE, WHILE ANOTHER ADMITTED THAT HIS INTERROGATION HAD LAST NOT FOR EIGHT DAYS, AS HE HAD ORIGINALLY STATED, BUT FOR THIRTY-SEVEN DAYS. BOTH SAID THAT IN THEIR INITIAL CONSULAR OFFICER INTERVIEWS THEY HAD DELIBERATELY MINIMIZED THEIR SUFFERING, LEST THE CONSULAR OFFICER CONCLUDE, ON THE BASIS OF THE SEVERITY AND INTENSITY OF THE INTERROGATIONS, THAT THEY WERE GUILTY OF SERIOUS CRIMES.

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EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (STADIS ADDED)

7. OF THE FIVE LEVEL ONE CASES, FOUR APPARENTLY CONCERNED PEOPLE WHO, WHILE NOT THEMSELVES ORGANIZATION MEMBERS, FAILED TO INFORM ON THEIR POLITCALLY COMPROMISED ACQUAINTANCES. FOUR OF THESE FIVE APPLICANTS SAID THAT THEY HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO ONLY ONE OR TWO INTERROGATION SESSIONS INVOLVING BEATINGS, WHICH IN TWO CASES WERE FOLLOWED BY A SESSION IN WHICH FORCE WAS NOT USED AND WHICH WAS DEVOTED TO TAKING BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT OF THE FOUR INDIVIDUALS

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WHO FAILED TO INFORM, TWO WERE TRIED FOR ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP. LOCAL ATTORNEYS EXPLAIN -- AND THIS IS BORNE OUT BY COURT RECORDS -- THAT THIS IS OFTEN THE CASE, BECAUSE THE MILITARY COURTS TEND TO REASON THAT FAILURE TO INFORM IS SUPPORT, AND THAT SUPPORT EQUALS MEMBERSHIP.

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8. OF THE SEVEN LEVEL TWO CASES, SIX CONCERNED PASSIVE ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP. (THE SEVENTH APPLICANT, HAVING REFUSED AN OFFER BY THE ISRAELI SECURITY ORGANS TO WORK AS A DOUBLE AGENT, FOUND HIMSELF FACED WITH CHARGES OF ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP AND MILITARY TRAINING, WITHING THE FRAMEWORK OF CONTACTING AN "ENEMY ORGANIZATION" ABROAD.) FIVE OF THE CASES

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INVOLVED DAILY OR TWICE-DAILY INTERROGATION SESSIONS OVER A PERIOD OF FROM FOUR TO TEN DAYS. IN ONE CASE, THE INTERROGATION SESSIONS WERE BRIEF AND INFREQUENT, WHILE ANOTHER APPLICANT CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONTINUOUS INTERROGATION. FIVE OF THE CASES REVOLVED ABOUT SEITIOUS AND POLITICALLY INDISCREET CONVERSATIONS ALLEGED TO HAVE INCLUDED VERBAL CONSENT TO JOINING THE ORGANIZATION. SIGNIFICANTLY, TWELVE OF THE TWENTY-NINE APPLICANTS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED ON THE BASIS OF SUCH CONVERSATIONS. THE CHARGES RECORDED IN COURT WERE, HOWEVER, QUITE VARIED -- DEPENDING ON WHAT THE ACCUSED WERE UNWISE ENOUGH TO DISCUSS. FOR EXAMPLE, APPLICANTS SAID (AND COURT RECORDS CONFIRM) THAT CONVERSATIONS ABOUT WEAPONS WERE TRANSMOGRIFIED INTO CHARGES OF "ATTEMPTING TO PROCURE ARMS" OR "MILITARY TRAINING."

9. OF THE FOUR LEVEL THREE CASES, TWO INVOLVED ARMED OPERATIONS. THIS IS POSSIBLY TRUE OF A THIRD CASE, BUT THE INFORMATION ON THIS CASE IS TOO SCANTY TO MAKE A POSITIVE JUDGMENT. ONE APPLICANT SAID HE UNDERWENT CONTINUOUS INTERROGATION FOR A PERIOD OF EIGHT DAYS. TWO OTHERS SAID THEY HAD BEEN INTERROGATED DAILY FOR THIRTY-SEVEN AND FORTY DAYS, RESPECTIVELY. ONE OF THESE APPLICANTS WAS ARRESTED AFTER THROWING A DUD GRENADE AT AN ISRAELI PATROL. IN OTHER CASES, THE CONNECONNECTION WITH ARMED OPERATIONS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MORE TENUOUS. FOR EXAMPLE, ANOTHER APPLICANT, WHO WAS INTERROGATED ABOUT HIS ALLED KNOWLEDGE OF A PLANNED TERRORIST OPERATION, SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED BECAUSE THE FATHER OF HIS FIANCEE, WHO HAD A DAUGHTER REQUIRING CORRECTIVE SURGERY FOR A BIRTH DEFECT, SPOKE ENTHUSIASTICALLY -- WITH EARSHOT OF A POLICE INFORMER -- OF HIS ARRANGEMENTS FOR HER COMING OPERATION. (UNLUCKILY, THE SAME WORD IS USED IN ARABIC FOR BOTH TERRORIST AND SURGICAL OPERATIONS.) THIS APPLICANT WAS BROUGHT TO TRIAL ON OTHER LESS SERIOUS CHARGES.)

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10. IN ADDITION TO FAILURE TO INFORM, PASSIVE ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP, AND INVOLVEMENT IN ARMED OPERATIONS, THERE IS ANOTHER MAJOR TYPE OF CASE. THIS TYPE OF CASE INVOLVES OVERT POLITICAL ACTIVITY -- SUCH AS WRITING ANTI-ISRAELI SLOGANS ON WALLS, MARCHING IN DEMONSTRATION, WRITING AND DISTRIBUTING POLITICAL CIRCULARS, AND THE LIKE -- UNDERTAKEN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP. SIX OF THE TWENTY-NINE APPLICANTS WERE TRIED ON THIS TYPE OF CHARGE. UNFORTUNATELY, THE STATEMENTS OF FOUR OF THESE APPLICANTS WERE NOT SUFFICIENTLY DETAILED TO DETERMINE WHICH LEVEL OF INTERROGATION WAS CONCERNED, AND THUS ANALYSIS OF THIS TYPE OF CASE IS NOT POSSIBLE AT PRESENT. DESPITE THIS GAP IN THE AVAILABLE INFORMATION, THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE OPERATION OF SYSTEMATICA RULES FOR INTERROGATION CAN BE DISCERNED IS SIGNIFICANT, SUGGESTING BOTH THE TRAINING OF INTERROGATORS IN THE USE OF FORCE AND THE ATTENTION OF ADMINISTRATORS TO THE ALLOCATION OF INTERROGATOR TIME. THE IDEA OF INTERROGATION AS A SYSTEM IS STRENGTHENED BY A CONSIDERATION OF ANOTHER FACTOR, THE IMPORTANCE OF DENUNCIATIONS, WHICH EXPLAINS VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE FEW CASES IN WHICH THE SEVERITY AND INTENSITY OF THE INTERROGATION DO NOT SEEM TO CORRELATE WITH THE NATURE OF THE CHARGES.

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EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (STADIS AND EXDIS ADDED)

11. INTERROGATION AND DENUNCIATION. A VICIOUS CIRCLE CAN BE DISCERNED IN THE ISRAELI COURT RECORDS AND PERSONAL STATEMENTS OF MANY OF THE TWENTY-NINE APPLICANTS: THE CIRCLE BEGINS WITH ISRAELI SECURITY ORGANS ARRESTING AN INDIVIDUAL ON THE BASIS OF A DENUNCIATION OBTAINED FROM HIS FRIEND UNDER INTERROGATORS; THEN, DURING THE NEW ARRESTEE'S INTERROGATION, THE INTERROGATORS DEMAND THAT HE COOPERATE WITH THEM AND DENOUNCE HIS ASSOCIATES; AND FURTHER ARRESTS RESULT. SEVENTEEN APPLICANTS WERE APPARENTLY ARRESTED ON THE BASIS OF DENUNCIATIONS, FIVE ALMOST CERTAINLY WERE NOT DENOUNCED, AND IN SEVEN CASES THERE IS INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO MAKE A JUDGEMENT ON THIS POINT. OF THE SEVENTEEN APPLICANTS DENOUNCED, TEN WERE DENOUNCED BY THEIR FRIENDS, WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND INTERROGATED BEFORE THEM. FIVE SAID THAT THEY HAD BEEN DENOUNCED BY INFORMERS, PROBABLY FOR A MONETARY REWARD, AND IN TWO CASES THE ORIGIN OF THE DENUNCIATION IS UNCLEAR. IN THIRTEEN CASES, THE DENUNCIATION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN THE SOLE FACTOR PROMPTING ARREST. NOT SURPRISINGLY, FOURTEEN APPLICANTS SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT DURING THEIR OWN INTERROGATIONS, THEIR INTERROGATORS HAD DEMANDED THAT THEY DENOUNCE ALLEGED ASSOCIATES. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT OF THE FIVE

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APPLICANTS WHO WERE NOT DENOUNCED, THREE WERE RELEASED WITHOUT TRIAL AT THE CONCLUSION OF THEIR INTERROGATION, WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND, ALL SEVENTEEN OF THE APPLICANTS WHO WERE DENOUNCED WERE TRIED, CONVICTED, AND IMPRISONED. APPARENTLY, THE SECURING OF DENUNCIATIONS IS A KEY POINT TO BE GAINED IN INTERROGATION. IN FACT, SOME APPLICANTS MENTIONED THAT WHILE THEY QUICKLY AGREED TO INCRIMINATE THEMSELVES, CONFESSING TO REAL OR IMAGINARY CRIMES, THEY CONSIDERED IT A POINT OF HONOR NOT TO NAME OTHER INDIVIDUALS -- AND THEI INTERROGATIONS DRAGGED ON FOR DAYS OR EVEN WEEKS AFTER THEIR OWN FATE HAD BEEN DECIDED, SOLEY ON THE ISSUE OF OBTAINING THE DENUNCIATIONS. IT APPEARS THAT AN INDIVIDUAL'S WILLINGNESS OR UNWILLINGNESS TO DENOUNCE ASSOCIATES MAY BE A CRUCIAL FACTOR IN DETERMINING THE SEVERITY AND INTENSITY OF THE INTERROGATION. FOR EXAMPLE, AN APPLICANT INTERROGATED AT NABLUS APPEARS TO HAVEEN SUBJECTED TO LEVEL THREE INTERROGATION, ALTHOUGH HE WAS CHARGE ONLY WITH HAVING GIVEN VERBAL CONSENT TO JOIN FATAH. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT HE

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HAD STEADFASTLY REFUSED TO DENOUNCE ASSOCIATES. ANOTHER APPLICANT, WHO WAS INTERROGATED FOR FIVE DAYS, DURING WHICH HE WAS NOT PERMITTED TO SLEEP, AND SPENT MOST OF THE TIME STANDING UP. ARRESTED SHORTLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT AND TAKEN IMMEDIATELY FOR INTERROGATION, HE WROTE A CONFESSION INCRIMINATING ONLY HIMSELF BY MORNING. THE REMAINDER OF THE CONTINUOUS INTERROGATION, THE APPLICANT SAID, WAS DIRECTED TOWARD OBTAINING A DENUNCIATION, AND WHEN THIS WAS EXTRACTED ON THE FIFTH DAY, THE INTERROGATION ENDED. A THIRD APPLICANT, ARRESTED AS A MEMBER OF A GROUP WHICH POSSESSED ARMS AND WHICH HAD ALREADY COMMITTED AT LEAST ONE ARMED OPERATION, DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS UNDERGOING LEVEL ONE INTERROGATION. HIMSELF ARRESTED ON BASIS OF INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY FRIENDS UNDER INTERROGATION, HE IMMEDIATELY FURNISHED HIS INTERROGATORS WITH A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL NAMES.

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12. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS: PERSONNEL. THEN APPLICANTS  
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SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THAT MORE THAN ONE INTERROGATOR PARTICIPATED IN THEIR INTERROGATION SESSIONS. TWO APPLICANTS STATED THAT IN ANY GIVEN INTERROGATING SESSION, THEY WERE CONFRONTED WITH ONLY ONE INTERROGATOR AT A TIME, BUT THAT THE INTERROGATOR WAS CHANGED FROM SESSION TO SESSION. THESE APPLICANTS STATED THAT ALL OF THEIR INTERROGATORS BEAT OR OTHERWISE TORTURED THEM, THE INTERROGATION SESSIONS PROGRESSIVELY INCREASING IN SEVERITY. FOR EXAMPLE, AN APPLICANT WHO WAS INTERROGATED AT TAMALLAH SAID THAT FIVE DIFFERENT INTERROGATORS PARTICIPATED SEQUENTIALLY IN HIS CASE, SO THAT HE HAD SAMPLED "A COCKTAIL OF BEATINGS." FIVE APPLICANTS SAID THAT THEY WERE EACH BEATEN BY TWO OR MORE INTERROGATORS SIMULTANEOUSLY. MOST OFTEN, THESE APPLICANTS SAID THAT TWO OR THREE INTERROGATORS PARTICIPATED. HOWEVER, AN INDIVIDUAL INTERROGATED IN RAMALLAH SAID THAT ONE SUPERVISING INTERROGATOR DIRECTED A TEAM OF FIVE SOLDIERS WHO WERE BEATING HIM, WHILE ANOTHER SECURITY OFFICER TOOK NOTES. IN SOME INSTANCES, APPLICANTS DESCRIBED HOW ONE OF THE GROUP OF INTERROGATORS WOULD PROTEST THAT THE ACCUSED WAS A GOOD PERSON WHO WOULD CONFESS WITHOUT BEATING; HOWEVER, IF THE ACCUSED CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN HIS INNOCENCE, THE "KIND" INTERROGATOR WOULD JOIN THE OTHERS IN STRIKING. ONE APPLICANT SAID THAT THREE INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN HIS INTERROGATION -- ONE BEATING, ONE TAKING NOTES, AND ONE WATCHING. (AS THE VALIDITY OF THE CONFESSION IN THIS CASE WAS APPARENTLY NEVER QUESTIONED, IT IS LIKELY THAT BOTH THE NOTE-TAKER AND THE OBSERVER VIEWED THE BEATING AS A MATTER OF COURSE.) TWO APPLICANTS STATED THAT SEVERAL INTERROGATORS HAD PARTICIPATED IN THEIR INTERROGATIONS, BUT DID NOT MAKE CLEAR THE PRECISE

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13. THE PRACTICES DESCRIBED BY THE TEN APPLICANTS RUN STRONGLY COUNTER TO ANY EXPLANATION OF PHYSICAL ABUSE DURING INTERROGATION AS MERELY THE ABERRANT BEHAVIOR OF AN OCCASIONAL "ROGUE COP." IF SEVERAL INTERROGATORS ARE TO QUESTION AND BEAT AN ARRESTEE SIMULTANEOUSLY, IT WOULD SURELY BE NECESSARY FOR THESE INTERROGATORS TO MEET BRIEFLY BEFORE THE SESSION TO COORDINATE THEIR TACTICS.

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IF SEVERAL INTERROGATORS ARE TO QUESTION AND BEAT AN ARRESTEE SEQUENTIALLY, SO THAT THE INTERROGATION SESSIONS INCREASE IN SEVERITY, EACH INTERROGATOR WOULD SURELY HAVE TO MAKE A REPORT TO THE INTERROGATOR FOLLOWING HIM. AND WHAT OF THE ADMINISTRATORS ASSIGNING INTERROGATORS TO INDIVIDUAL CASES? ARE WE SIMPLY TO ASSUME THAT ALL OF THIS CONFERRING AND COORDINATING AND REPORTING AMONG SUBORDINATES COULD GO ON WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR DIRECT SUPERIORS?

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14. THE PROBLEM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN VARIOUS COMMANDS AND

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ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTIONS, RAISED IN TWO CASES, THROWS FURTHER LIGHT ON THIS QUESTION. IN THE CASE OF THOSE FIVE SOLDIERS DETAILED TO ASSIST THE INTERROGATOR, FOR INSTANCE, ONE MAY WELL ASK WHAT JUSTIFICATION TH INTERROGATOR (OR HIS SUPERIORS) PROVIDED TO THE UNIT COMMANDER FOR THE DETAILS. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD SEEM TO HAVE BEEN QUITE IMPOSSIBLE TO BE OTHER THAN FACTUAL. IN ANOTHER CASE, THE APPLICANT, A RESIDENT OF JERICHO MILITARY GOVERNORATE, SAID THAT A GROUP OF SEVERAL INTERROGATORS FROM RAMALLAH, WHICH IS A SEPARATE MILITARY GOVERNORATE, CAME TO JERICHO AND ARRESTED A NUMBER OF STUDENTS, INCLUDING HIMSELF, IN THE STREET. THE INTERROGATIONS OF THESE ARRESTEES, WHICH THE APPLICANT SAID INCLUDED SEVERE BEATINGS, WERE BEGUN BY THE RAMALLAH INTERROGATORS UNDER MAKESHIFT CONDITIONS IN SOME ROOMS AND CORRIDORS OF A MILITARY GOVERNMENT BUILDING IN JERICHO OVER MOST OF A DAY AND A NIGHT, WHEREUPON THE ARRESTEES WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE INTERROGATION CENTER ATTACHED TO RAMALLAH MILITARY PRISON. IT IS DIFFICULT TO CONEIVE HOW THE RAMALLAH INTERROGATORS COULD HAVE BORROWED PART OF AN OFFICIAL BUILDING IN JERICHO IN THIS WAY UNLESS SOME ADMINISTRATOR IN THE JERICHO MILITARY GOVERNORATE HAD GIVEN HIS APPROVAL -- AND THAT, WITH SOME KNOWLEDGE OF

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THE USE TO WHICH HIS BUILDING WOULD BE PUT.

15. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS: INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT. WHILE MOST OF THE BEATING AND TORTURE DESCRIBED BY APPLICANTS APPARENTLY INVOLVED FISTS OR MAKESHIFT INSTRUMENTS, THERE ARE ALSO INDICATIONS OF THE PRESENCE OF ELABORATE INSTALLATIONS IN THE INTERROGATION CENTERS, APPARENTLY DESIGNED FOR ABUSING THE ARRESTEES. AN APPLICANT INTERROGATED IN NABLUS CENTRAL PRISON, FOR INSTANCE, SAID THAT THERE IS A ROW OF SEVERAL SMALL "REFRIGERATOR" CELLS IN THE PRISON COMPLEX, WHICH ARE VERY COLD EVEN IN THE HEAT OF SUMMER. DURING HIS INTERROGATION, HE STATED, HE WAS FLUND NAKED INTO ONE OF THESE CELLS AFTER COLD WATER HAD BEEN POURED OVER HIS BODY AND INTO THE INTERIOD OF THE CELL. ANOTHER APPLICANT, WHO WAS INTERROGATED IN HEBRON, SAID THAT A SPECIAL ROOM HAD HIGH-FREQUENCY AND LOUD IRRITATING SOUNDS PIPED INTO IT, AND HE DESCRIBED HIS STAY IN THIS ROOM AS THE MOST DIFFICULT STAGE OF THE INTERROGATION. DUREAU-CRATICALLY, THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH REFRIGERATOR CELLS AND SOUND ROOMS WOULD BE A FORMIDABLE ENTERPRISE. ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS INVOLVED WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE INCLUDED THE MAKING OF PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL, FOLLOWED BY THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS, THE SIGNING OF REQUISITIONS FOR MATERIALS, AND SO FORTH. BOTH OF THESE INSTALLATIONS WOULD ALSO REQUIRE

16. THE EXPERIENCES OF ANOTHER APPLICANT, WHO WAS INTERROGATED AND IMPRISONED IN NABLUS CENTRAL PRISON, AND WHO HAD WORKED AS AN ELECTRICIAN BEFORE HIS ARREST, SUGGEST ONE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF MAINTENANCE. THIS APPLICANT SAID THAT SEVERAL ASSOCIATES ARRESTED WITH HIM WERE TORTURED WITH ELECTRICITY. A FEW MONTHS AFTER HIS OWN TRIAL AND SENTENCING, AN ISRAELI SECURITY OFFICER CAME TO THE COMMON PRISON ROOM AND ASKED HIS HIS PROFESSION. LATER, THE PRISON ADMINISTRATION OFFERED HIM

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A JOB AS AN ELECTRICIAN -- MAINTAINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS USED IN INTERROGATIONS. HE DID THIS WORK FOR OVER FOUR YEARS UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF AN ISRAELI SECURITY OFFICER WITH THE RANK OF CAPTAIN, WHO WORKED ON THE ELECTRICAL DEVICES WITH HIM. THIS APPLICANT'S STATEMENT EXPLICITLY PORTRAYS THE PRISON ADMINISTRATION AS ACTIVELY COOPERATING WITH THE INTERROGATORS IN MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRICAL TORTURE INSTALLATIONS. AND ONE WONDERS WHO ASSIGNED THE ISRAELI CAPTAIN TO THIS TASK.

17. THE BUREAUCRATIC CONSIDERATIONS DISCUSSED ABOVE APPLY TO A LESSER EXTENT TO SMALLER AND SIMPLER INSTRUMENTS OF TORTURE. TWO APPLICANTS WHO WERE INTERROGATED AT HEBRON, FOR INSTANCE, DESCRIBED BEING HUNG FROM PERMANENTLY INSTALLED HOOKS -- ONE BY HIS HANDS, AND ONE BY BOTH HANDS AND FEET. IT MAY WELL BE ASKED WHAT JUSTIFICATION (OTHER THAN THE TRUE ONE) COULD CONCEIVABLY HAVE BEEN OFFERED TO SUPERIORS OR TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF HOOKS SUNK STRONGLY ENOUGH INTO CEILINGS OF INTERROGATION AREAS TO BEAR THE WEIGHT OF A MAN. TO CITE ANOTHER EXAMPLE, MOST APPLICANTS (WHETHER INTERROGATED AT RAMALLAH, NABLUS, HEBRON, OR THE RUSSIAN COMPOUND OF JERUSALEM) STATED THAT THEY HAD BEEN BEATEN WITH STICKS, AND MANY DESCRIBED THESE INSTRUMENTS. THEY SPOKE OF A SHORT WOODEN ROD ABOUT THE LENGTH OF A RULER, USED FOR BEATING THE HEAD AND GENITALS, AND A SOMEWHAT THICKER STAVE, ABOUT THE LENGTH OF A YARDSTICK, USED FOR BEATING THE LIMBS AND TORSO. THE UNIFORMITY OF APPLICANTS' DESCRIPTIONS OF THESE INSTRUMENTS AND OF THEIR USE SUGGESTS STANDARD-ISSUE EQUIPMENT. OF COURSE, THESE STICKS COULD WELL FORM PART OF THE NORMAL RIOT-CONTROL EQUIPMENT OF POLICE WHO MUST DEAL WITH STREET DEMONSTRATIONS. HOWEVER, ONE WONDERS UPON WHAT JUSTIFICATION SUCH EQUIPMENT COULD BE REQUISITIONED BY INTERROGATORS BELONGING TO FOUR DIFFERENT ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTIONS.

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18. COMPLAINTS AND CHALLENGES. MANY APPLICANTS INTERROGATED AT TAMALLAH AND HEBRON STATED THAT THEY SIGNED TWO CONFESSIONS: THE FIRST, BEFORE THEIR ACTUAL INTERROGATORS, MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY ORGANS, AND THE SECOND (A DUPLICATE OF THE FIRST) BEFORE AN ORDINARY POLICEMAN. WHEN THE CONSULAR OFFICER ASKED SEVERAL APPLICANTS WHO HAD OMITTED TO MENTION THE SECOND CONFESSION WHETHER THEY HAD SIGNED ONLY ONE, THEY REPLIED THAT OF COURSE THEY HAD SIGNED A SECOND DOCUMENT -- BUT THOUGHT THIS WAS NOT WORTH MENTIONING BECAUSE IT WAS A STANDARD PROCEDURE. ACCORDING TO THE APPLICANTS, THE PROCEDURE BEGINS WITH THEIR INTERROGATION UNDER TORTURE BY MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY ORGANS, WHO EITHER DO NOT IDENTIFY THEMSELVES TO THE ARRESTEE OR WHO USE ARABIC (OR SOMETIMES AMERICAN) PSEUDONYMS, AT AN INTERROGATION CENTER USED FOR DEALING WITH POLITICAL CASES. WHEN THE ARRESTEE BREAKS DOWN, AN INTERROGATOR DICTATES A CONFESSION OR WRITES IT FOR HIM. FOLLOWING THE SIGNATURE OF THIS FIRST CONFESSION, THE ARRESTEE IS TOLD THAT HE WILL BE TAKEN TO THE LOCAL POLICE STATION, WHERE HE MUST CONFESS AGAIN, REPRODUCING THE CONTENT OF THE FIRST CONFESSION -- AND THAT IF HE REFUSES, HE WILL BE RETURNED TO INTERROGATION UNDER TORTURE. AT THE POLICE STATION, ORDINARY POLICEMEN QUESTION HIM WITHOUT THE USE OF FORCE, AND HE SIGNS THE SECOND CONFESSION. (ONE

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APPLICANT, WHO WAS INTERROGATED AT NABLUS, TOLD OF A VARIANT OF THIS PROCESS, IN WHICH, INSTEAD OF HIS BEING TAKEN TO THE POLICE STATION TO SIGN A SECOND CONFESSION, THE POLICEMAN WAS BROUGHT TO THE INTERROGATION ROOM FOR A MINUTE OR TWO JUST TO WITNESS THE SIGNATURE OF A CONFESSION, THE INTERROGATORS HAVING LEFT THE ROOM BY ANOTHER DOOR.) COURT RECORDS INDICATE THAT AT MANY OF THE TRIALS THE ONLY WITNESS WAS A LOCAL POLICEMAN, AND APPLICANTS WHO UNDERSTOOD THE LANGUAGE OF THEIR TRIALS RELATE THAT THIS POLICEMAN WAS THE ONE WHO HAD WITNESSED THE SIGNATURE OF THEIR SECOND CONFESSION, AND WAS BROUGHT FORWARD IN ORDER TO TESTIFY THAT THE CONFESSION HAD BEEN MADE FREELY, NOT UNDER DURESS. SUCH A PROCEDURE, WHICH WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT FAR-REACHING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE SECURITY ORGANS, COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN CHALLENGES TO THE VALIDITY OF THE CONFESSIONS.

19. AT THEIR TRIALS, THREE APPLICANTS CHALLENGED THE VALIDITY OF THEIR CONFESSIONS. THE REACTION OF THE COURT, AS DESCRIBED BY THESE APPLICANTS, STANDS IN MARKED CONTRAST TO GOI'S CONTENTION THAT ALLEGATIONS OF MISTREATMENT ARE CAREFULLY INVESTIGATED. ONE APPLICANT SAID THAT AN ISRAELI SECURITY OFFICER SENT HIM TO SYRIA TO CONTACT HIS BROTHER, A KNOWN FATAH OFFICER, BUT THAT WNE HE RETURNED, HE WAS ARRESTED AND, AS A RESULT OF PHYSICAL PRESSURES DURING INTERROGATION, HE CONFESSED TO THE CHARGE OF "CONTACTING AN ENEMY ORGANIZATION." AT THE FIRST SESSION OF HIS TRIAL IN JANUARY 1977, HE REQUESTED THAT THE ISRAELI SECURITY OFFICER, WHOM HE NAMED, BE PRODUCED AS A DEFENSE WITNESS. THE TRIAL WAS POSTPONED UNTIL APRIL 1977, THE OFFICER DID NOT ATTEND, AND THE ACCUSED WAS CONVICTED ON THE BASIS OF HIS CONFESSION AND SENTENCED TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS IMPRISONMENT. ANOTHER APPLICANT, WHO WAS TRIED IN APRIL 1976, STATED, IN RESPONSE TO THE JUDGE'S QUERRY AS TO WHETHER HE AFFIRMED HIS CONFESSION, THAT HE REPUDIATED IT BECAUSE IT

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WAS FALSE AND HAD BEEN OBTAINED BY TOTURE. THIS APPLICANT SAID THAT THE JUDGE TOLD HIM TO BE SILENT, THEN HURRIEDLY SENTENCED HIM TO SIX YEARS IMPRISONMENT. THE CONFESSION WAS THE ONLY EVIDENCE PRESENTED. A THIRD APPLICANT, WHOSE TRIAL DRAGGED ON FOR FOURTEEN SESSIONS OVER A PERIOD OF ALMOST TWO YEARS, ENDING IN AGUST 1972, WAS REPRESENTED BY AN ISRAELI ATTORNEY WHO MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO HAVE THE CONFESSION INVALIDATED. THE PROSECUTION CONTENDED THAT THE CONFESSION

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HAD BEEN TAKEN WITHOUT FORCE BY ORDINARY POLICEMEN. AN OPENING FOR THE DEFENSE CAME, THE APPLICANT SAID, WHEN HIS ACTUAL INTERROGATORS, WHO HAD EXTRACTED A CONFESSION THROUGH THE USE OF SEXUAL SADISM, HAPPENED TO VISIT THE COURTROOM. THE DEFENSE ATTORNEY CALLED THE JUDGE'S ATTENTION TO THE PRESENCE OF THESE INTERROGATORS. THE JUDGE ASKED THE ACCUSED THE NAMES OF HIS INTERROGATORS, AND HE GAVE THE ARABIC PSEUDONYMS WHICH THEY HAD USED. THE APPLICANT SAID THAT THE JUDGE THEREUPON LAUGHED AND CUT OFF THIS LINE OF INQUIRY ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE MEN WHOM THE ACCUSED HAD POINTED OUT IN COURT WERE ISRAELIS AND NOT ARABS.

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20. THE REMAINING TWENTY-TWO WHO WERE BROUGHT TO TRIAL APPARENTLY DID NOT ATTEMPT TO CONTEST THE VALIDITY OF THEIR CONFESSIONS. ON THE CONTRARY, MOST OF THESE INDIVIDUALS SEEM TO HAVE AFFIRMED THEIR CONFESSIONS AT THEIR TRIALS AT THE ADVICE OF THEIR ATTORNEYS. WASFI AL-MASRI OF NABLUS, THE LOCAL ATTORNEY MOST SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING INVALIDATIONS OF CONFESSIONS IN THE MILITARY COURTS ON THE GROUND THAT THESE CONFESSIONS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED BY TORTURE, EXPLAINED THIS TO THE CONSULAR OFFICER IN TERMS OF LEGAL TACTICS. HE SAID THAT HE CONTESTED THE VALIDITY OF THE CONFESSION ONLY IN CASES WHERE THE ACCUSED MIGHT BE SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT FOR LIFE OR A VERY LONG TERM OF YEARS. (IN THIS REGARD, AL-MASRI CHARACTERIZED A PRISON SENTENCE OF THREE YEARS AS "NOT SERIOUS"). IN ALL OTHER CASES, SAID AL-MASRI, HE ADVISED HIS CLIENTS TO AFFIRM THEIR CONFESSIONS IN COURT, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY HAD BEEN EXTRACTED BY FORCE. FURTHERMORE, IN THOSE CASES WHERE HE CHALLENGED THE VALIDITY OF A CONFESSION SUCCESSFULLY

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ON THE GROUND THAT IT HAD BEEN OBTAINED BY TORTURE, AL-MASRI SAID THAT HE ALWAYS TOOK CARE TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE JUDGE THAT IF HIS CLIENT WERE GIVEN A REDUCED SENTENCE THERE WOULD BE NO PUBLICITY OF THE CASE AND NO INSISTENCE THAT THE ACTUAL REASON FOR THE NON-ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONFESSION EVEN BE ENTERED IN THE COURT RECORD. THIS APPROACH WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE UNWORKABLE IF APPLIED TO A LARGE NUMBER OF CASES.

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21. SOME APPLICANTS, WHO SAID THAT THEY BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PRISON ADMINISTRATION OR THE ICRC EVIDENCE OF THE USE OF TORTURE IN INTERROGATION, PORTRAY ISRAELI OFFICIALS AS ACTIVELY SUPPRESSING COMPLAINTS AND ACTING TO PREVENT THEIR INVESTIGATION. FIVE APPLICANTS, FOR EXAMPLE, SAID THAT THEIR INTERROGATIONS RESULTED IN LASTING PHYSICAL DAMAGE. FOUR OF THESE INDIVIDUALS APPEAR TO HAVE MADE NO ATTEMPT TO INTRODUCE EVIDENCE OF THIS AT THEIR TRIALS, BUT THEY STATE THAT AT THE CONCLUSION OF THEIR INTERROGATION, THEY DID TRY TO OBTAIN MEDICAL TREATMENT. AN APPLICANT INTERROGATED AT THE RUSSIAN COMPOUND OF JERUSALEM (BACK INJURIES) AND TWO APPLICANTS INTERROGATED AT HEBRON (HEAD INJURIES, AND INJURIES TO LEG JOINTS AND BACK) APPARENTLY WERE DENIED ACCESS TO THE PRISON DOCTOR, AND SAID THAT THE ONLY RESPONSE TO THEIR REPEATED REQUESTS FOR TREATMENT WAS THE DAILY PROVISION OF AN ASPIRIN THROUGH THE GUARD. THE FOURTH APPLICANT, A NABLUS PRISONER WHO COMPLAINED OF DAMAGE TO THE SAID THAT AFTER HE WAS DENIED MEDICAL TREATMENT OTHER THAN BEING DOSED WITH VALIUM SO THAT HE SLEPT CONTINUALLY, HE WENT ON A FOUR-DAY HUNGER STRIKE, AND SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING ACCESS TO A DOCTOR AND APPROPRIATE TREATMENT. THE FIFTH APPLICANT, WHO WAS INTERROGATED AT NABLUS, SAID THAT HE ATTEMPTED TO ARRANGE A FORMAL COMPLAINT CONCERNING DAMAGE TO HIS GENITALS,

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INJURIES WHICH HAD BEEN SEEN BY AN ICRC EMPLOYEE. THIS APPLICANT, WHO HAD INTENDED TO PRESENT IN COURT A DOCTOR'S TESTIMONY AS TO THE MATTER, SAID THAT HE CHANGED HIS MIND, REFUSING THE DOCTOR'S VISIT, BECAUSE HIS INTERROGATORS HAD THREATENED TO RETURN HIM

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TO TORTURE IF HE PERSISTED. ANOTHER INCIDENT WAS INDEPENDENTLY DESCRIBED BY TWO APPLICANTS -- ONE INTERROGATED AT HEBRON, THE OTHER AT RAMALLAH -- WHO APPARENTLY DID NOT SEE EACH OTHER SINCE EARLY 1976, WHEN THEY HAPPENED TO SERVE SEVERAL MONTHS TOGETHER IN NABLU CENTRAL PRISON. THEY RECOUNTED HOW A GROUP OF NABLUS PRISONERS, USING AS A SPOKESMAN ONE OF THE APPLICANTS, CONVEYED TO ICRC VISITORS THEIR COMPLAINTS ABOUT BEATINGS AND OTHER GRIEVANCES. SHORTLY AFTER THE ICRC DEPARTED, THE DEPUTY MILGOV ENTERED THE ROOM, TOLD THE PRISONERS THAT SUCH COMPLAINTS WOULD NOT BE MADE IN THE FUTURE, AND ORDERED GUARDS TO FALL ON THE PRISONERS AND BEAT THEM WITH STICKS. BOTH APPLICANTS COMMENTED THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE BEATING, THE PRISONERS ASSURED SUBSEQUENT ICRC VISITORS THAT EVERYTHING WAS FINE.

2. CONCLUSION. THE PICTURE PRESENTED BY THE STATEMENTS OF THE TWENTY-NINE APPLICANTS FORMS A SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO GOI CLAIMS THAT INSTANCES OF BRUTALITY ARE ISOLATED, ABERRENT, AND CAREFULLY INVESTIGATED WHEN REPORTED. PATTERNS RECURRING IN THESE STATEMENTS OF TWENTY-NINE INDIVIDUALS INTERROGATED IN FOUR DIFFERENT ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTIONS AT VARIOUS TIMES OVER A PERIOD OF TEN YEARS CANNOT BE DISMISSED AS MERE COINCIDENCE OR THE PRODUCT OF ACTIONS OF A FEW ISOLATED LOW-LEVEL PERSONNEL. ON THE CONTRARY, ONE IS FACED WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE USE OF BRUTALITY IN THE INTERROGATION OF ARAB POLITICAL PRISONERS IS A SYSTEMATIC PRACTICE, INVOLVING THE USE OF TRAINED PERSONNEL, BACKED UP BY FAR-REACHING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, AND PROTECTED BY STANDARD METHODS OF SUPPRESSING COMPLAINTS AND BLOCKING THEIR INVESTIGATION. INDEED, ONE MAY WELL QUESTION THE MOTIVE BEHIND GOI CLAIMS.

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