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TESTIMONY OF B.M.

1. B.M. was arrested on 2 April 2002 at 7:45 A.M. Soldiers came to the building he was in, squeezed about 40 people into one apartment, and took their ID cards. Later, the ID cards were returned, except for that of B.M. Rather, they took him outside, his hands tightly bound behind his back and his eyes covered with a piece a cloth.
2. Outside, they forced him to kneel on his knees. He stayed in that position for 1.5 – 2 hours.
3. Then they took him to an armored personnel carrier, his eyes still blindfolded. The vehicle weaved its way between the tanks, until it came to a spot where the soldiers transferred him into a jeep along with five other people.
4. While in the jeep, he managed to bend his head down to his knee and to remove a bit of the white cloth that covered his eyes. He saw cartons in the jeep. Inside the cartons were a variety of things that had been stolen by the soldiers. Later on, the soldiers divided among themselves the items they had stolen.
5. They sat in the jeep. On the floor was a small chair, on which they put their feet, i.e., their feet were not on the floor of the jeep, but on the chair.
6. The soldiers allowed the detainees to get out of the jeep from time to time and stand in the rain and cold. Sometimes, they sat the detainees down on the ground, which thoroughly drenched their clothes.
7. They reached Ofer Camp at about 7:30 P.M.
8. When they reached the camp, the soldiers only removed the blindfolds. Their hands had been tightly bound behind their backs since the morning, which caused their hands to swell.
9. They entered the camp. The soldiers had them stand in the rain. They forced each detainee to place his head onto the back of the person standing in front of his, and to walk (like a flock of sheep).
10. They took them into a large barracks. Around it was a barbed-wire fence. It was cold and rainy. It was open on all sides, and the top had holes, so the rain came in.

11. There were some 150-170 people in the barracks. The detainees demanded blankets. Following negotiations, the soldiers brought blankets, one for every two detainees, so some did not get a blanket.
12. The detainees sat on the ground. Their hands were always bound behind them. The ground was dirt, water, and gravel. It was dirty. There were no mattresses. They slept – if they managed to sleep at all – on the ground. Some used this technique: one slept along the width, and four along the length, in that way using the body of the first as a pillow. They would alternate positions.
13. They complained about the handcuffs. Then the soldiers bound their hands in front to enable them, for example, to go to the bathroom. But the soldiers bound their hands tighter than before.
14. The detainees complained about the food. There were some who had not eaten for three or four days. Then the soldiers brought about 50 tomatoes plus *frozen* schnitzel plus cucumbers that were inedible. They ate the schnitzel frozen.
15. They stayed [in the barracks] until the next day. At 6:30 A.M., soldiers came and took 15 men to interrogation. B.M. was one of them. They took them out of the barracks and blindfolded them. It was raining.
16. Like a flock of sheep, the soldiers took them to interrogation. They divided them into two groups. There were five people in B.M.'s group. They went into a room with a Shabak officer. The soldiers removed the blindfolds, sat them down on chairs, tied their hands behind them and then blindfolded them again.
17. They waited for a long time. A soldier came and took them one after the other. B. M. was taken outside. They removed the handcuffs and ordered him to raise his hands. A soldier searched him carefully and then again with a detector.
18. They bound his hands in front of him. Then he was taken with a group of people into the interrogation rooms. They removed the blindfold. There were four interrogation rooms. There were two interrogators and a computer in each room. Two detainees went into each room – one interrogator for each detainee.
19. B. M. did not have an ID card because they took it from him when he was arrested and did not return it (he mentioned that some detainees were given back their ID cards). In the interrogation room, he gave them his four-part name. They found out the identity card number by means of the computer. One of the interrogators questioned him for about an hour, hour and a half. After that, the interrogator ordered

him to stay outside and not to go [apparently, he means that he was told to stay in the waiting room – T.I.].

20. After that, they brought him a small piece of cardboard on which his name and ID number were written. He raised his hands. They hung the cardboard from his neck, and took his picture (for the first time). He was not blindfolded when the picture was taken.
21. Then they put his blindfold back on and sat him down on a chair. He was so tired that he nodded off to asleep. When he did that, a soldier came over and asked him why he was sleeping.
22. B.M. managed to remove some of the blindfold (using his nose to do it). He saw other detainees in the room who also were not allowed to sleep. The soldiers had ordered one guy to stand and spread his legs. His hands were bound and his head had to be lifted up. If he let his head drop, the soldier raised it.
23. B.M. stayed on the chair for about 2-3 hours. One soldier told another soldier that B.M. was to be released. He took him outside with another group of detainees, their eyes covered and hands bound.
24. The soldiers brought them into a large corridor. They took off the blindfold, and he then saw they were in a room with a policeman and policewoman. They copied onto a piece of paper what was written on the cardboard around his neck.
25. Then they took them outside into the rain and cold, put them in a room, removed the handcuffs and blindfolds, and took his fingerprints (of two fingers) and a palm print.
26. Then they took him into another room, which had 30-40 people. Then they took him into another room. There were two small rooms containing detainees with their hands cuffed behind them and their eyes covered and who were sitting on the floor. On the left side of the two rooms was a bathroom which had a *foul and filthy* leak, which flowed into the two rooms in which the detainees were sitting.
27. They waited. Soldiers brought their ID cards and told them that they were free to go. B.M. told a soldier that he was unable to go home because he did not have an ID card. The same happened to a number of other detainees. One of the soldiers told them to go to the Police room and take their cardboard nameplate with them. B.M. asked for his ID card and not the cardboard. The soldier said, “Do you want to stay in the camp until they bring your ID card?” B.M. accepted the “offer” about the cardboard nameplate.

28. It was almost evening. Their hands were bound and their eyes were blindfolded. The soldiers removed the cuffs and put the detainees on the bus. There were at least 60 detainees. They were left at the Beituniya junction. The soldiers told them to walk together. The detainees asked how they could be sure that the [other] soldiers will not shoot them. The soldiers said that the matter is coordinated.
29. They walked together. B.M. and three others walked in the front. After walking for some distance, they saw an armored personnel carrier with soldiers. The soldiers got out and wanted to fire. An officer prevented the shooting. The officer told the detainees to change the direction they were walking in, and that is what they did.
30. When they changed direction, they saw that on the side of the road, on the hills, were snipers aiming their rifles at them.
31. They walked until the entrance to Beituniya. They went to a school. Soldiers were [on the hill] behind the school and began to fire at them.
32. B.M. has relatives in Beituniya and he went to them. The other detainees (50-60 men) called the hotel in Beituniya to open the doors of hotel and let them in. They went to the hotel and stayed there until the curfew ended. B.M. did not know what happened to them.
33. As mentioned above, they slept, if at all, on the ground, which was a combination of dirt, water, and gravel. The soldiers gave them blankets but no mattresses.
34. Some of them managed to take the cardboard boxes that the blankets and food were brought in to sleep on.
35. It was very crowded. There was no room between the detainees. One detainee used the body of another to keep himself warm.
36. Being allowed to go to the bathroom depended on the temperament of the soldiers: if the soldier wanted them to go, they were allowed to go. If the soldier did not want them to go, he did not allow it.
37. The only time they were given water to drink was just before their release.
38. They were fed only once.
39. The detainees' situation was extremely poor.
40. The soldiers did not even let them stand under the barracks – all the time, they were sitting down, and if someone tried to get up, the soldiers would sit him down again.
41. There was no torture – but there were some instances in which the soldiers frightened them and slapped them in the face.

42. No medical care was provided.
43. They were no prayers.
44. Depending on how the soldiers felt, they would slap the detainees on the face and neck. Soldiers also verbally humiliated detainees.
45. B.M. tells about a fellow who was about 50 years old who had trouble breathing. The soldiers squeezed him into a small room (two meters long and 1.3 meters wide) with other detainees. The detainees demanded that the soldiers bind his hands in front of him so that he could take his medicine. The situation between the soldiers and the detainees turned violent. Then ‘Captain Shaher’ came. The detainees explained what was happening, and he told the soldiers to bind his hands in front of him and to take him to another room (from which B.M. was released). “Captain Shaher” left. One soldier came over and said that the fellow would be taken to another room. Another soldier intervened, and they did not transfer the fellow. Rather, they covered his eyes and tightened the cuffs even more.

The testimony was given by telephone to Attorney Tarek N. Ibrahim