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STATEMENT GIVEN BY M.A.

1. I give this statement anonymously because I am afraid to identify myself.
2. I was born in 1979 and live in Tulkarm. I am a policeman in the Palestinian Police.
3. On 29 March 2002, the IDF arrested me when I was at a friend's house in Ramallah. When they arrested me, the soldiers took my cellular phone and NIS 1,500. The soldiers then tied my hands behind my back with plastic handcuffs and blindfolded me.
4. They took me and another 35 men to the army base in Beit El, where they held me for two days. During this time, they made us sit on the ground. Over this entire 48-hour period, they did not give us food or water and barely allowed us to go to the bathroom.
5. One time that I asked to go to the bathroom, one of the soldiers took me. I thought he was taking me to the bathroom. He pushed me into a military vehicle that was parked on the side and banged my head against the vehicle.
6. Then the soldier hit me in the head with his rifle butt. My head started to bleed, and I asked for medical treatment.
7. Also, the soldiers cursed us and called us "terrorists" and other names.
8. After those two days, we were taken to Ofer Camp, which is near Beituniya, Ramallah District. They held me there for about ten days.
9. They transferred us by bus. When I got off the bus, one of the soldiers grabbed my genitals and squeezed them hard. I learned from others in the camp that soldiers also did that to other detainees.
10. We reached Ofer Camp about 3:00 A.M. I had several bruises from the beatings I had received. I showed them to the doctor when we entered the camp, but he did not respond.
11. We were then ordered to sit on the ground for three hours. It was raining hard and was very cold. We asked for blankets to cover ourselves, but the soldiers completely ignored us.

12. Then they took us into tents. Shortly after that, soldiers brought us breakfast. It was comprised of one regular-size container of white cheese for eight detainees, and a matzo for each of us. In addition, we received one and a half cucumbers, which also were shared by eight of us.
13. Of course, we were still hungry, particularly because it was our first meal for two days. We complained to the soldiers that we were still hungry, but they ignored us.
14. In the afternoon, they brought us lunch: half a piece of frozen chicken breast (schnitzel), a piece of tomato or cucumber, and matzo. In the evening, we were given supper, which was the same as breakfast and lunch, i.e., a container of white cheese for eight detainees, or a piece of frozen schnitzel for each of us together with a piece of tomato or cucumber.
15. The food was served in small bowls without eating utensils, so we had to eat with our fingers. This was our menu throughout our detention. The schnitzel was always served frozen with nothing on the side, except what I mentioned above.
16. Regarding water, there was one faucet, which the soldiers shut off six hours a day.
17. Hygiene was also a great problem. There were five bathroom cubicles for more than two hundred people. There was no toilet paper, nor anything like it, in the cubicles, which were filthy and had a horrible stench. There was usually a long line.
18. There were also five shower rooms. There was no hot water, meaning that we had to shower in cold water. We were not given a change of clothes, so we stayed in the same clothes throughout the detention. Each tent had one towel, that had to be shared by 45 detainees.
19. Sleeping was also a nightmare. The tent was extremely overcrowded (45 in a tent). We did not receive enough blankets, and we were always cold. Besides, in our tent, there were three mattresses for every five detainees, so that we had to sleep along the width of the mattresses, which meant that half of our bodies were on the ground. We complained several times about the lack of blankets and mattresses, but it was in vain.
20. The Shabak interrogated us. There were no suspicions against me, and I was not suspected of having committed any offense. About ten days after our arrest, we were taken to a site near the Qalandiya refugee camp and released.
21. Since then, I have been in the Qalandiya refugee camp. With the security situation being as it is, I am unable to get back to my home in Tulkarm.

22. I should note that I feel very frustrated, humiliated, and confounded. I shall recall this period as days of cold, hunger, and degradation. I do not know why I was arrested, and I do not understand why they treated me like an animal.

I, Attorney Hisham Shabaita, Lic. No , confirm that I met with the aforesaid in Qalandiya refugee camp and took his above statement.

[signed]
Hisham Shabaita