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## **TESTIMONY OF F.B.**

Prior detentions: none

Date of detention: 1 February 2002

Place of detention: Alzahara St., Ramallah

Time: about 5:00 P.M.

1. The building was surrounded by three tanks, at least 30 soldiers, and dogs.
2. Using loudspeakers, the soldiers called on the occupants to come out of the apartments. There was a group of Italians in the building, and the soldiers ordered them to knock on the doors of the apartments and tell the occupants to leave their apartments within ten minutes. There were four families in the building, a total of 12 people, seven of them children (from ten days old to ten years old). After the occupants left the building, the soldiers fired at the apartments for 15 minutes and then went into the apartments and searched them. The occupants were not allowed to take anything with them. It was very cold outside. People without ID cards were not allowed to go to their apartments to get their ID cards.
3. The soldiers stood the men against the wall with their arms raised, searched them, and five minutes later took them to a nearby garden. The women and children remained in the street, in the cold, among them a mother with her nine-day-old newborn. The mother and her daughter stayed in the street for about four hours. An ambulance came to the site, and the two of them went inside the ambulance to sit down. The mother breast-fed her child every two hours, but she couldn't feed her while they were outside. The infant is still sick with the flu. Because of the curfew, it took ten days before she could be examined by a pediatrician. Before that, a general practitioner treated her.
4. The infant's father was arrested and her mother was very nervous and tense, which affected the infant, who screams and does not sleep at night. The infant has a four-year-old brother who is very aggressive towards others, even towards his mother.
5. A tank shell was fired before the occupants were told to come outside. The shell hit one of the apartments, causing damage.

6. While the soldiers were searching the apartments, the occupants waited in the street, women and children together, and the men together. As I said, the soldiers searched the men and then took them to a garden not far away. Then they took them to the main road, which was full of armored personnel carriers and another 30 soldiers and dogs. The men were again ordered to stand facing a wall with their hands raised, and soldiers searched them again and bound their hands very tightly, but did not blindfold them because the Italians who were with them asked the soldiers not to blindfold them. The soldiers put the men into a jeep, pushing them into a corner of the jeep, where the spare tires were. The jeep was parked near the building, the tank shells that hit the apartment set it aflame, and the heat from the fire reached the jeep. The detainees started to shout and asked the soldiers to move the jeep. A soldier moved it. Another soldier, who was guarding the detainees, told them that they could get out and go back home with their hands still bound and the street full of soldiers. One of the men asked the soldier how we would get home, and that he should call an officer to come over and tell us. The detainees understood there was a trick here: a soldier seeing them get out of the jeep with handcuffs would think they were escaping and would shoot them.
7. Shortly after that, the jeep drove straight to Ofer via the Qalandiya airport and the Atarot bypass road. The detainees stayed in the jeep for 35-40 minutes after reaching Ofer Camp, while the soldiers switched shifts. The detainees were taken into a room where the other detainees were sitting. The soldiers blindfolded them and removed the contents from their pockets. There were some 30 detainees in the room. Then they were taken to interrogation in a different room. In the interrogation room was an interrogator. The soldiers sat F.B. on a chair, removed his blindfold, and gave him back his ID card. But they did not remove the handcuffs. The interrogation lasted five minutes. The interrogator asked F.B. questions about his family: what they do, their names, how many people there are in the family, about his in-laws, their occupations, etc. When his interrogation ended, soldiers blindfolded him and took him into a room where policemen in blue uniforms were seated. A policeman asked him his full name and date of birth, and if he had been arrested on security matters previously. F.B. answered "no." The policeman had him sign a document that was written entirely in Hebrew. F.B. said that he does not know what is written in the document because he does not know Hebrew. He could not refuse to sign it, because it was clear that he would be beaten if he did not. F.B. signed. They again blindfolded him and took him out of the room. As he left, he heard the voice of one of his brothers (two of his brothers had also been arrested). He and other detainees were taken to the barracks,

their hands tightly cuffed behind them and their eyes covered. They walked in lines of ten men, with each grasping with his teeth the shirt of the person in front of him.

8. F.B. was taken to Barracks 1, which had around 400 men. A soldier removed his blindfold, but he remained handcuffed. It was around 11:00 P.M. There were lots of soldiers. The barracks were open on three sides. The two barracks were next to each other, with a net separating them.
9. Barracks 1- the ground is full of sand and the oil of cars and trucks, there are no bathroom facilities or water, and no blankets for the detainees despite the very cold weather. Around 1:00 A.M., F.B. and the other detainees were transferred to Barracks 2. At 1:30 A.M., the soldiers served food to the detainees (until then, F.B. and the others had not received anything, nor even water, and were not allowed to go to the bathroom). The food they were given included a cucumber, apple, tomato, three matzos for each detainee. The food was hardly enough for the 200 detainees. F.B. and his brothers did not receive any food. Around 4:00 A.M., the 200 detainees, F.B. among them, were taken to another barracks (Barracks 3). It was very cold, and the detainees did not have blankets. The move took about 45 minutes, although the barracks were only a three-minute walk away. The detainees were taken in groups of five. About 6:00 A.M., more detainees were taken to Barracks 3, this time in groups of ten. The number of detainees in the barracks had reached 320. The transfer of detainees into Barracks 3 lasted until 11:00 A.M. Around 3:00 P.M. [2 April], the detainees received food that was not enough to feed half of them (a cucumber for every three detainees). At 8:00 P.M., the soldiers distributed blankets: one for every three detainees. The hands of all the detainees in the barracks were bound behind them very tightly. There was no drinking water and no bathrooms. As for eating the bit of food they were given, the detainees had to put the food on their knees and bend over to eat it.
10. On 3 April, soldiers brought cases of food to the barracks around 7:30, but until ten o'clock nobody got to touch the food because their hands were still cuffed and they could not take the little bit of food that the soldiers had brought into the barracks. Later, the "director" came and the detainees asked that the cuffs be removed, and the "director" agreed. The soldiers brought two 20-gallon containers of water. When they were empty, the soldiers refilled them. The "director" promised to give them blankets and mattresses. The "director" claimed that he was new [on the job] and was interested in improving the detainees' conditions. After the handcuffs were removed, one of the detainees who spoke Hebrew (he was the detainees' spokesman)

distributed the food in groups of five detainees, each receiving a cucumber, tomato, apple, matzos and a container of white cheese (one container for five detainees).

11. Barracks 3 did not have a bathroom. The detainees were allowed one at a time to leave the barracks to go to the bathroom.
12. Around 3:00 P.M., the each detainee received two blankets. They used one to sleep on and the other to cover themselves. Before that, the detainees slept on the muddy ground. Around 9:00 P.M., the detainees received supper: a cucumber and tomato (and one apple for two detainees).
13. Around 10:00 P.M., the soldiers counted the detainees. They sat the detainees in rows of ten with their backs to the soldiers. The soldiers had clubs and tear gas, and their rifles were cocked. The soldiers aimed their weapons and shouted at any detainee who turned his head, and hit him. After the line-up, the detainees were allowed to go to sleep.
14. On 4 April, the soldiers conducted another line-up, in the same manner as previously, in lines of ten...
15. Around 7:15 A.M., the soldiers served breakfast. Each detainee received a cucumber, a tomato, an apple, **frozen schnitzel**. The soldiers served one container of white cheese for every five detainees.
16. Around 9:30 A.M., the soldiers conducted another line-up in the same manner...
17. After the line-up ended, they transferred 150 detainees to another barracks (F.B. was not transferred).
18. Around 2:00 P.M., the detainees were given wooden flats and mattresses (two flats and two mattresses for every three detainees). The mattresses were less than one centimeter thick. The barracks was open on all sides, it was raining hard, and the mattresses and blankets were waterlogged.
19. Around 5:00 P.M., there was another line-up, just like the others. Then the soldiers brought lunch: **one pepper for every seven detainees**, one container of white cheese for every five detainees, a container of sour cream for each detainee, an apple, cucumber, and tomato, and **one matzo**.
20. After the detainees arranged the barracks, around 8:00 P.M., they were transferred to another barracks (Barracks 4). F.B. was among those who were transferred. It was raining very hard and some of the detainees did not have any shoes, because they were arrested when they did not have shoes on.

21. Barracks 4, which housed 170 detainees, had wooden flats (two for every three detainees).
22. Around 9:00 P.M., the soldiers conducted another line-up, using the same method as before.
23. The soldiers then brought supper: a cucumber, tomato, apple for each detainee, a container of white cheese for every five detainees, and a pepper for every seven. Of course, the main course was **frozen schnitzel**.
24. The detainees were then allowed to go to sleep.
25. At around 3:30 A.M. on 5 April, there was another line-up. The soldiers woke up the detainees and had them stand up. The soldiers called the names of 35 detainees, stood them outside in a line, and told them that they were released. Then they told them to go back.
26. Around 7:30 P.M., the soldiers called the names of 35 more men, and took them to a barrack behind Barracks 4. They did not release them, but took them to be interrogated there.
27. Another 70 detainees were brought to Barracks 4, raising the number to 230 detainees.
28. At 8:00 P.M., the soldiers conducted another line-up.
29. Around 10:00 A.M., the detainees received breakfast. The menu was the same as before. The detainees gave the food back and went on strike. The soldiers took the food back. Until 3:00 P.M., the detainees did not receive any food. The detainees began to yell and scream. The soldiers reported the matter to the officer, and two Border Police jeeps came as reinforcement. The Border Policemen put on masks and had tear gas. They took two detainees from Barracks 4 and beat them. The “spokesman” promised that the detainees would not make any more noise. The Border Policemen threatened that they would open fire at the detainees.
30. The detainees ate nothing throughout the day. They only drank water. They did not have water to wash their hands after using the bathroom or before eating. The ones who could no longer go without food ate matzos and **the main course of frozen schnitzel**.
31. Around 6:00 P.M., army officers came into the barrack to register the names of people whom they said would be released.

32. Around 8:00 P.M., an officer told the detainees that within 15 minutes, a bus would arrive to take them home.
33. Seven buses came. The soldiers bound the hands of the detainees behind them very tightly, and the detainees got onto the buses. F.B. got onto a bus and was not allowed to sit in the first eight seats.
34. Around 9:00 P.M., the buses left the camp and drove to the Qalandiya checkpoint about an hour later. At the checkpoint, the detainees got off, and one after the other, the soldiers removed their handcuffs. The electric power in the street was off. Soldiers, tanks, and armored personnel carriers were in the street. Ramallah was under curfew. F.B. managed to contact his family and a relative on his mother's side, who picked him up. F.B. did not stay in the Qalandiya community center as the other men did.
35. When they were released, the detainees had to pass between the tanks.

The testimony was given by telephone to  
Georgina Saria