

“Kitchen of Crime”. Anonymous Manuscript. Palestine, n/d. Translated by The Palestinian Revolution, 2016.¹

Some of the brothers studied and wrote, during the years of detention, about all the issues of organisation, imprisonment, and day-to-day life. They worked hard to cover all aspects of these issues, each one approaching them from a different angle. This contributed to the formulation of a comprehensive experience, covering all the important issues regarding life inside prison. However, the libraries of our organisations lacked a study addressing a very important aspect of life in prison, which remained in the dark. This aspect is related to the structure and mechanisms of operation of prison administration apparatuses, their relationship to one another, and their relationship to the prisoners, as well as the way they operate. I came to realise the importance of conducting this modest study. I relied on information I gathered from various sources, as well as the conclusions I made during direct contact, over the course of many years, with the apparatuses of prison administration. I intend for this study to shed light on the apparatuses of prison administration, to aid the prisoners in their struggle behind the walls. Knowing one’s enemy is considered a prerequisite for any successful and organised action. I also want to provide the brothers with the opportunity to read about and visualise the apparatuses of the prisons administration as direct knowledge isn’t available for everyone. I pray to god that I will be successful in presenting an accurate and comprehensive study that achieves its intended goals.

Preface

The rich history of the experience the prisoners’ movement during its long struggle depended mainly on trial and error and some adventure. The struggle steps taken at the beginning of the prisoners’ movement organised action depended on a degree of spontaneity. This is why the prisoners suffered many setbacks in their struggle. Many of these setbacks were the result of not knowing the enemy and its apparatuses well and therefore an inability to connect the circles of the struggle plans they adopted. This lack of knowledge constituted a gap in the plans and action programmes. With the passage of time and through practical experience the prisoners’ experience grew gradually until they were able to connect the circles together making their plans more mature and more subjective. This enabled them to achieve many things and take wide steps towards a dignified life for the strugglers in prison.

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Our need to know the foundations of this institution (the Israel Prison Service) is built on and its relationship to other Zionist institutions is great. This knowledge will save us a lot of pain and allow us to avoid many setbacks and diversions as well as paving the way towards our humane goals in the prisoners community. It is time to complement the prisoners' experience with knowledge built on facts addressed in a mature scientific way. It is no longer acceptable to stumble after we have created this history of struggle and after all these long years of dealing with this institution.

People who follow the methods that countries resort to in combating its enemies will find that they exert great efforts and energy and dedicate special and considerable budgets to studying the life, work foundations and the level of development of the other side. The struggle between us and the prisons administration can be considered as an image of the struggle between two states. In fact, it is such a struggle. Our struggle against the administration is a struggle between two sets of law, two perceptions and two differing logics. It is a struggle between two opposites with each side aiming to achieve goals that contradict the goals of the other. The enemy exerted and still exerts great efforts to keep up with the developments among the prisoners. The enemy follows closely, using all methods and tools, the prisoners' programmes and plans in order to make its decisions accurate and respond to the requirements of its goals and aims. They dedicated to such issues apparatuses that gather information, including important and unimportant information, to organise and study it and make conclusions that reflect the reality of the prisoners' situation which would enable it to stand between the prisoners and their goals as well as achieving the goals of this institution. In this situation we need to take the initiative, as groups and as leading institutions, to understand the basics of the way this oppressive apparatus that oversees the prisons' affairs operates. We need to exert a certain amount of effort to reach a degree of knowledge. I hope that this study will be a small step towards a more comprehensive and accurate knowledge. The information included in this study weren't considered as secrets by the enemy. The information included here weren't readily available and collecting them needed a lot of effort.