

### Yasin

#### Night arrest and detention

Yasin was arrested when he was 15 years old. According to the Israeli military, he was suspected of throwing stones at the soldiers who patrol his village. Yasin was released in August 2017, having served three years in prison. An ecumenical accompanier went to see Yasin to hear his story.

On 18 October 2014, at 2am, the Israeli military came to Yasin's family home. The soldiers told Yasin's family that they were going to take him away for half an hour and bring him back. They gave no reasons and did not allow his family to accompany him. They took him to an interrogation centre in Gush Etzion settlement, Israel. Yasin described how soldiers blindfolded him, "shouted continuously", tied his hands behind his back and beat him.

**"They beat me badly all over my body. I do not know if they were using their hands or weapons, I could not see."**

While in Gush Etzion, Yasin was given only one bread roll and two cups of water each day. He continued to be treated badly and was made to stand for almost the full two days he was there, with his hands tied to the wall. Yasin shared his cell with other boys, and when they were being noisy the soldiers sprayed tear gas inside.

After this, he was taken to a prison but was not told where he was. After 27 days he found out that he was in a youth prison in Ramallah. When Yasin was moved to Ramallah, he was given food every day, though he describes this as "very basic and unhealthy". His parents sent him money each month to buy food from the market in the prison. Yasin says that his cell was cold and damp in the winter and hot in the summer, causing him to develop chest and breathing problems. Yasin was promised appropriate medical care, but it never came.

He spent 34 months in prison without trial. He explained that 72 court cases were scheduled

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REPORTS**



**A Palestinian boy, aged 12, is photographed by an EA as he is arrested at night. This is not a photo of Yasin's arrest, but it captures what many night arrests are like.**

during this time, but each was cancelled at the last minute. The 73rd court case went ahead, and Yasin was sentenced to two further months in prison and fined 8,000 New Israeli Shekels (approximately £1,700). Yasin's parents told the EA that he still experiences "nervousness, asthma and headaches". Despite this, Yasin is trying hard to move on with his life and told the EA he had started his studies again and hoped to get into university.

**"The arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child... shall only be used as a measure of last resort."**

**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**

Around 700 Palestinian children are detained each year.

**Defence for Children International, 2016**

**"Palestinian children [in Israeli military detention] continue to experience widespread ill-treatment and torture and the systematic denial of due process rights."**

**Defence for Children International, 2016**

**"unlawfully detained within Israel thousands of Palestinians" and "torture and other ill-treatment of detainees, including children, remained pervasive and was committed with impunity".**

**Amnesty International, 2017**