

- 1- Regarding the Cantina, it was the Israeli authorities which asked for this arrangement, and we signed an agreement with the Israeli Prisons' Service (IPS) to provide money for the prisoners, in order for them to get their needs. The reason for that was that the occupation authorities claimed that the source of the money which would be provided individually to the prisoners would be unknown, and they wanted the payments to be done through an official body. A payment of NIS 300 is made for each prisoner through an Israeli company (Dadash) which was chosen by the occupation authority, through a bid. We transfer the money to the Dadash company account in the Israeli "Hapoalim Bank". In order to know the number of detainees, and subsequently know the amount of money to be transferred, we get a monthly letter from the IPS through our lawyer stating the total number of detainees (including common law prisoners), and the needed amount of money, by simple math.

The designated company (Dadash) issues a tax bill concerning the amounts paid for security detainees and the tax returns are then claimed by the Palestinian Ministry of Finance. Common law prisoners are excluded from this arrangement, meaning that no tax returns/ refunds are made for the money paid for them. This is a routine which takes place permanently.

- 2- Concerning the change of terms (Ratib-allowances vs. social security payments). The terminology in the Palestinian society was very delicate concerning this issue. The government tried its best to avoid the sensitivities among the Palestinian population concerning this issue. Your concerns and sensitivities were taken into consideration while changing the term used, but uproar in the Palestinian society, where detainees are perceived as freedom fighters (going inline with international laws), forced the Palestinian government to change the term used back to the old term.

Regarding the questions:

- a. Payments for prisoners are listed under the "social benefits-subsidies" in the Palestinian budget.
- b. Those payments definitely are not equivalent to civil servants salaries, and follow a different scale.

- c. No other benefits are included in those allowances (pensions, special health care, etc...)
 - d. Regarding the term used, it was answered above
- 3- Since in most cases, detainees are the principle breadwinners of the family, money is transferred to the bank accounts of first degree relatives, based on the detainee's social status. The detainee's dependents get the payment. If a detainee were married, his wife and children are the beneficiaries, whereas if a detainee is not married, his elderly parents would be the beneficiaries.
- 4- Despite the fact that the inquiry was directed to the Ministry of Finance, in the aforementioned meeting, we will gladly tackle the issue of the amount of money paid to dependents. There is a scale for the amounts paid depending on the number of years "spent" in prison (not the sentence itself) and the number of dependents. This stems from the fact that needs of those dependents change along the years. Children grow up, families have more needs as time goes by, and children in kindergartens need more money for school and then university. Elderly parents tend to need more money as they grow older. Clothing, food, and all other needs tend to increase over the years, not to mention the depreciating value of money, and the ever increasing cost of living.
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 - a. The total number of detainees in Israeli occupation prisons is around 4900 at the time of writing this letter; among them are 134 detainees under Administrative Detention. 3153 are sentenced detainees, 1203 are pending trial. Other detainees who are not yet registered would not show in the ministry's database, and this makes for the number difference.
 - b. The total number of detainees' families receiving payments is 3330 households.
 - c. Yes, this is the case for example when the detainee is a government employee, in this case the ministry does not pay any money. Private sector employees, who have a source of income while in prison, are also not paid.
 - d. All payments are made to dependents. As mentioned before, these are individual cases, depending on the marital status, people who depend solely on the detainee (being the principle breadwinner).
 - e. The payments vary according to the scale mentioned earlier

f. Detainees are enrolled in the Ex-Detainees Rehabilitation Program (EDRP), administered by the ministry, including university fees' subsidies, micro projects initial financing, loans, vocational training, as well as a release grant administered by a special law.

g. Again, the payments vary according to the scale mentioned earlier.

Most Respectfully,