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A F F I D A V I T

I, the undersigned, H.A., from the Nahar Barod refugee camp (Trablus), after being warned that I must tell the truth and that I am subject to statutory punishment if I fail to do so, hereby declare as follows:

1. This affidavit relates to what befell me when I was taken to some unknown location after I was arrested along with A. K. (who was the owner of the launch), M. B., M. G., and four other persons whose full names I do not know.
2. The army stopped our launch off the coast of Port Said, in Egypt, in international water beyond Egyptian territorial waters. We were on our way from Egypt to Lebanon.
3. We were stopped on 20 May 2003 at about 1:00 P.M. The Israeli navy took us on board the naval ship, and put three others and me into a small room. They interrogated us all night. Three others from the launch were kept in another room, and the eighth person (the mechanic) stayed in our launch, which was towed to Israel.
4. Our captors were in Israeli military uniforms. We traveled all night on our way to a detention facility.
5. The naval commandos blindfolded all of us so that we couldn't see a thing. They also bound my hands and legs.

During the trip at sea, the commandos took me from the room and questioned me for about two hours.

6. The following afternoon, the navy boat arrived at some location unknown to me. I know the time because we had been given three meals: one in the morning, the second in the afternoon, and the third in the evening. They took me by vehicle to a room near the port. It was a short ride.
7. I was interrogated all night long and into the morning.
8. After the interrogation, they returned me to the port and filmed me in our launch. They spoke with me as I was being filmed.
9. Then they blindfolded me and took me to an army detention facility. I do not know where it was.

I have been held there ever since I was first taken to the facility on 22 May 2003.

10. I was taken, about 13 days ago, to a hearing to extend my detention. The trip took about four hours in each direction. The military judge extended my detention until 14 July 2003.
11. Before being taken to the hearing on extending my detention, a policeman dressed in a regular (non-army) uniform took my testimony.
12. Last Sunday, I underwent a lie-detector test. The soldiers told me that I had failed.

What is the name of the place?

13. They never told me the name of the place or where we were. I asked several times and got different answers. When they allowed me to call my sister's husband, he asked me where I was being held so that he could request a human rights organization to visit me. I turned to the interrogator and asked him the name of the place where I was being held. He refused to tell me. Not knowing where I am and the feeling that they could do with me as they wish, and that no one knew what befell me, and that my life depends on the benevolence of the interrogators is a frightening and threatening experience.

External description of the facility

14. The description I am giving is not of what I saw, for during my stay there I was a "blind man," except for the time I was being interrogated by the army security personnel.

I am describing what I assumed from my continued presence in the facility since 22 May. The facility is located within an army base. The building I am kept in is old and one-story high. There are electric doors between the cells in which the detainees are held and the interrogation rooms, and on the way there was a room without a ceiling. My eyes were always blindfolded when they took me from one location to the other. I felt the warmth and light when we passed by that roofless room.

Description of the detention officials

15. The people who brought me to and from the facility, and those who serve in the facility (bringing the food and cigarettes at times) are soldiers. The army runs the facility. However, the interrogators are security service personnel in regular dress. That was how they introduced themselves.

A detainee is absolutely forbidden to see the soldiers. There is a fixed order that when a detainee is in his cell and a soldier wants to enter or bring something into the cell, the soldier knocks on the door. Then the soldier orders me to put a black covering over my eyes and to face the wall and raise my hands and place them on the wall. When I am in that position, the soldier opens the door and enters. The rest of the time, the soldier looks into the cell through a slit in the door.

When they take me to interrogation, they blindfold me with a black cloth and drag me all the way by grabbing my handcuffs.

I have never seen women or female soldiers in the facility.

Description of the cells

16. There are three types of cells that I am acquainted with: the first is very small, about a meter by meter and a half in size, with one mattress on the floor, and instead of a toilet, it has a can or container with a cover, and there is no place to shower or wash your hands and face.

The second is 1.5 X 2 meters in size, with bunk beds. This cell has a Turkish toilet [hole in the floor].

The third type is larger, 2 X 2 meters approximately, and has the same kind of toilet.

