

# PSYCHOLOGICAL SCARS OF TORTURE

INTERNATIONAL EXPERT WORKSHOP  
ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF AND  
RESPONSE TO TORTURE WITHOUT  
PHYSICAL TRACES

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK  
29-30 OCTOBER 2015





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# **PSYCHOLOGICAL SCARS OF TORTURE: INTERNATIONAL EXPERT WORKSHOP ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF AND RESPONSE TO TORTURE WITHOUT PHYSICAL TRACES**

Conveners: Adalah, PHR-I, Al Mezan, Dignity, and PCATI

Location: Dignity, Copenhagen, Denmark

Chair/Moderator: Dignity

Dates: 29-30 October 2015

## **Participants**

- Lawyers and health professionals from Israel/Palestine working with Palestinian prisoners and detainees held by Israel.
- International experts in the fields of torture, including psychological torture, torture rehabilitation, the human rights of prisoners and detainees, and medical ethics.

## **Background**

There are few absolutes in law, medicine or psychology, but the universal prohibition against torture, as embodied in the UN Convention Against Torture (CAT) and the Fourth Geneva Convention, is one of them. Sadly, torture is prevalent in over 100 countries.

Psychological methods of torture, as well as the long-term psychological effects of physical methods of torture and physical torture that does not leave a physical trace, are often overshadowed by forensic evidence of physical torture, which is more easily identified, quantified and documented. However the scars inflicted on the mind, sense of identity and personality of the victims are more often persistent and harmful than those inflicted on the body.

Both the physical and psychological effects of torture are comprehensively discussed, analyzed and fully documented in the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (commonly known as the “Istanbul Protocol”).

Examples of psychological methods of interrogation include: sleep deprivation; solitary confinement; fear and humiliation; the use of family members; the use of threats and phobias to induce fear of death or injury; forced nudity; exposure to extreme cold or hot temperatures, light deprivation, etc.

The UN CAT explicitly prohibits the infliction of severe mental (or psychological) suffering. Article 1 of UNCAT provides that: “... ‘torture’ means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession .. when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to lawful sanctions.”<sup>1</sup>

In the context of case concerning “incommunicado detention”, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) asserted that: “Prolonged isolation and deprivation of communication are in themselves cruel and inhuman treatment, harmful to the psychological and moral integrity of the person and a violation of the right of any detainee to respect for his inherent dignity as a human being.<sup>2</sup> Solitary confinement produces moral and psychological suffering in the detainee, places him in a particularly vulnerable position, and increases the risk of aggression and arbitrary acts in detention centres.”<sup>3,4</sup>

Psychological torture, which certainly also has physical effects, has important implications for all lawyers, and psychological and medical professionals. Torture survivors may need legally acceptable documentation of medical evidence to support claims for redress or prosecution of perpetrators, or for asylum claims. The psychological harm caused by torture can last for a lifetime and presents with disturbing, although often unrecognized, frequency to medical professionals in the community.

## **Theme of the Workshop**

This workshop aims to bring together experienced lawyers, human rights actors, and psychological and medical professionals from Israel and the occupied

Palestinian territory (oPt), as well as international experts who have worked with torture victims and their families in different settings. The participants will discuss ways of properly identifying, documenting and responding to evidence of psychological torture and its psychological and physical effects, as well as ways of achieving their formal recognition in litigation processes and in the medical community. The conference will focus on psychological torture methods and on physical torture that leaves no visible marks on the body.

## Objectives

- To bring diverse professionals together - lawyers/human rights actors, mental health professionals, and medical experts – to exchange information on the psychological and physical effects of psychological torture, and how these issues are diagnosed, litigated, advocated, and treated.
- To increase the skills and capacity of the staff of the convening organizations by learning from experiences in specific case studies, including legal interventions undertaken by participants.
- To outline opportunities and challenges in this field of work, and to identify needs and constraints for advancing legal work and torture rehabilitation.

After this Conference participants should be able to:

- Define psychological torture according to international legal and medical instruments and discuss the implications of these definitions for identification, intervention, treatment and rehabilitation.
- Identify necessary elements for guidelines of medico-legal documentation and identification of and response to psychological abuse or torture.
- Discuss ways of achieving a fuller recognition of the psychological techniques of torture and their physical and psychological effects in court processes, and in the medical community.

### Notes:

1. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CAT.aspx>
2. Inter-American Court of Human Rights, *Fairén-Garbi and Solís-Corrales v. Honduras*. 15 March 1989. Series C No. 6, par. 149; *Godínez-Cruz v. Honduras*. 20 January 1989. Series C No. 5, par. 164 and 197; *Velásquez-Rodríguez v. Honduras*. 29 July 1988. Series C No. 4, par. 156 and 187.
3. Inter-American Court of Human Rights, *Castillo-Petruzzi et al. v. Peru*. 30 May 1999. Series C No. 52, par. 195; *Suárez-Rosero v. Ecuador*. 12 November 1997. Series C No. 35, par. 90.
4. Inter-American Court of Human Rights, *Bámaca-Velásquez v. Guatemala*. 25 November 2000. Series C No. 70. para 150

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## WEDNESDAY – 28 OCTOBER 2015

Arrival of the participants

20:00

Welcome dinner

## THURSDAY – 29 OCTOBER 2015

08:30

Gathering & registration

09:00 – 09:30

Welcome to participants and the objectives of the workshop

**Dr. Jens Modvig**, Director, Prevention of Torture in Detention, Chief Medical Officer, Member UN Committee against Torture, Dignity – Denmark

**Issam Younis**, General Director of the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights – Gaza

**Rina Rosenberg (Jabareen)**, International Advocacy Director, Adalah

09:30 – 11:15

Session 1: Presentations: Definition, instruments and identification of psychological torture

Moderator/discussant: **Gerald Staberock**, OMCT

1. Physical and psychological torture: the definitions and identification, **Dr. Önder Özkalipci**, MD, Forensic Physician, International Forensic Advisor & Trainer
2. The physical evidence of psychological traumatization resulting from “scar-less” torture, **Dr. Frank Arnold**, Board of Trustees - Medact
3. Jurisprudence relating to admittance in evidence of psychological forms of torture (national and international courts), **Carla Ferstman**, Director – Redress

4. Music as a torture instrument: the case of Suleiman Abdullah Salim, **Dr. Jens Modvig** – Dignity

Q & A and discussion

11:15

Coffee break

11:30 – 12:45

Session 2: Case study and discussion led by Adv. Efrat Sapir and Dr. Noa Bar

Presentation of a joint case study on legal and medical interventions in behalf of torture victims

Moderator/discussant: **Dr. Maya Mukamel**, clinical psychologist, forensic project, PCATI and **Dr Samah Jabr**, clinical psychological and trainer, medico-legal expert member, PCATI

5. Adv. **Efrat Bergman-Sapir**, Director of the Legal Department, PCATI
6. Dr. **Noa Bar Haim**, Psychiatrist, Physicians For Human Rights – Israel

Q & A and discussion

12:45 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 15:30

Session 3 – Split into discussion groups

Group 1: Legal dilemmas in representation of torture victims and possibilities for change, led by **Saher Francis**, director - Addameer and **Mohammed Jabareen**, attorney - Al Mezan

Group 2: Analyzing and discussing treatment and aid intervention for imprisoned torture victims, led by **Noa Bar** and **Randa Ruben Jaber Sebelin**, Project officer, MENA, Dignity

Group 3: Rehabilitation obstacles and dilemmas (e.g. on ongoing threat of imprisonment and detention and torture of ex-prisoners, torture victims, or their families, led by **Dr. Khader Rasras** – Executive Director and Senior Clinical Psychologist - Treatment and Rehabilitation Center and

**Hasan Zeyada**, Director of Community Program –  
Gaza Community Mental Health Program

15:30 – 16:30 Report back from the discussion groups and taking it forward

Moderator/discussant: **Søs Nissen**, MENA Programme Manager -  
Dignity

19:00 Dinner together

## FRIDAY – 30 OCTOBER 2015

9:00 – 9:30 Summary of Day 1 and AOB

9:30 – 11:00 Session 1: Presentations: Psychological torture of Palestinian  
children

Moderator/discussant: **Dr. Maya Mukamel**, PCATI

7. Psychological and physical torture of Palestinian children in the Israeli military system, according to CAT, **Adv. Khaled Quzmar** - DCI Palestine
8. Israeli Police's Persistent Violations of the Youth Law: Violence and Torture Against Palestinian Children in Israel, **Adv. Aram Mahameed** – Adalah
9. Psychological torture encountered during the Gaza war fact finding mission, **Dr. Hans Petter Hougen**, Professor of Forensic Medicine, University of Copenhagen

11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30 Session 2: The Istanbul Protocol in Action – Lessons from the  
Field

Plenary Discussion

10. "Implementing and advocating on the Istanbul Protocol over the past 15 years – discussion on lessons learned and possible future action" - **Asger Kjaerum** – IRCT

Moderator: **Adv. Efrat Bergman-Sapir**, Director of the Legal Department, PCATI – Israel

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 15:00

Discussion groups – two mixed groups of legal and medical professionals

Session 3: Increasing cooperation and effectiveness between legal and medical experts

11. Group 1 - **Marie Høgh Thøgersen**, psychologist, rehabilitation department - Dignity
12. Group 2 - **Carla Ferstman**, Director - Redress

15:00 – 16:00

Report back from the groups

16:00 – 16:30

Concluding session - Outcomes & recommendations

Led by **Rina Rosenberg (Jabareen)** - Adalah

19:00

Dinner together

# PARTICIPANTS

## Dr. Jens Modvig

*DIGNITY and IRCT, Member of UN CAT*



Dr. Modvig has used his medical training in the fight against torture for more than 20 years, working for DIGNITY – The Danish Institute Against Torture (formerly RCT) and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT). He is responsible for the development and implementation of the health component of the Danish National Preventive Mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) in cooperation with the Danish Ombudsman. In this capacity he has visited numerous institutions where people are deprived of their liberty.

Dr. Modvig is a Clinical Associate Professor in social medicine and rehabilitation at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Copenhagen, as well as the Chief Medical Officer in DIGNITY. He is also a member of the International Forensic Expert Group, under the auspices of IRCT. In October 2013, Dr. Modvig became a member of the UN Committee Against Torture (CAT).

## Issam Younis

*Al Mezan Center for Human Rights*



Mr. Younis has led Al Mezan since mid-2000. Previously, he worked extensively with Palestinian human rights organizations, Al Haq and the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, based in the OPT. Mr. Younis has a BA in Sociology from Birzeit University and an MA in Theory and Practice of Human Rights from the University of Essex in the UK. Mr. Younis is a Deputy Commissioner of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights, Palestine's National Human Rights Institution. He sits on the Boards of Al Azhar University and the AMAN Coalition. He is the winner of the 2009 Weimar Human Rights Award.

## **Rina Rosenberg (Jabareen), Esq.**

*Adalah*



Ms. Rosenberg is a lawyer, and the co-founder and International Advocacy Director of Adalah. Her work with Adalah includes research and advocacy before UN, EU and US bodies; fundraising, donor relations, and financial management; writing and editing English publications; and institutional development projects. She has been a main coordinator for joint EU Torture projects for Adalah, Al Mezan and PHR-I since 2008. Previously, she worked with Palestinian human rights, women's rights, and health rights NGOs in Israel. Prior to coming to Israel, she worked as a public defender in New York and as a clinical supervisor for law students with the Criminal Justice Clinic of Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC. She was also a Schell Fellow at Yale Law School in 2005-2006 and 2012-2014.

## **Gerald Staberock**

*World Organization Against Torture (OMCT)*



Mr. Staberock has been the Secretary General of the OMCT since September 2011. Previously, he served for over eight years with the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), including as Director of its Center for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers and as the Director of its Global Security and Rule of Law Initiative. In this context, he coordinated the most comprehensive global inquiry into the impact of counter-terrorism and human rights through a high level panel of jurists. From 1998-2002 he worked at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Warsaw.

Mr. Staberock has published articles on issues of the rule of law in countries in transition, the domestic implementation of international standards, and counter-terrorism and human rights, including on the lack of accountability over intelligence agencies and cooperation.

## **Dr. Önder Özkalıpcı**

*Consultant on Forensic Medicine, Health and Human Rights*



Dr. Özkalıpcı is a medical doctor and forensic expert, with extensive experience in investigating torture cases and training human rights and medical practitioners. He is a co-editor of the “Istanbul Protocol: The UN Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.” He is a founding member and was a medical coordinator of the International Forensic Expert Group, and a medical director and senior forensic advisor of the IRCT, and a detention doctor with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Dr. Özkalıpcı has participated in missions to over 30 countries to investigate human rights violations, torture or extra-judicial executions. He has worked as a trainer for HRFT- Turkey, PHR- USA, Dignity, IRCT, and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. He has published several articles, book chapters and a medical atlas on torture-related issues. He is also a member of professional organizations including the World Psychiatric Association Section on Psychological Consequences of Torture and Persecution, and the International Academy of Forensic Medicine.

## **Dr. Frank Arnold**

*Medact*



Dr. Arnold is on the Board of Trustees of Medact in the UK. He did basic training in surgery, and then clinical and experimental research in angiogenesis at the Patterson labs and Oxford Wound Healing Institute. He applied his experience of tissue repair to the assessment of evidence of torture, writing over 1000 medico-legal reports. He has worked with the Medical and Helen Bamber Foundations and initiated the Medical Justice Network, where he was first medical advisor. His current interests include medical accidents, healthcare of detainees, hunger strikes, dual loyalties and the misuse of medical authority against patients' welfare, be they asylum seekers, prisoners, Roma, disabled, or from other socially excluded groups.

## **Attorney Carla Ferstman**

*REDRESS*



Attorney Ferstman joined REDRESS in 2001 as its Legal Director, and later became its Director in 2005. She was called to the Bar in British Columbia, Canada in 1994 and practiced there as a criminal law barrister. Further, prior to joining REDRESS, she worked with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on legal reform and capacity-building in post-genocide Rwanda; with Amnesty International's International Secretariat as a legal researcher on trials in Central Africa; and as Executive Legal Advisor to Bosnia and Herzegovina's Commission for Real Property Claims of Displaced Persons and Refugees (CRPC). In 2012/13, she was a Jennings Randolph Senior Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace. She has also been a visiting professional with Australian National University in Canberra. She obtained an LL.B. from the University of British Columbia and an LL.M. from New York University and is working to complete a DPhil at the University of Oxford.

Ms. Ferstman has published articles and is a regular commentator on victims' rights, the International Criminal Court and the prohibition against torture.

## **Attorney Efrat Bergman-Sapir**

*Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI)*



Attorney Bergman-Sapir is the legal department director at PCATI since September 2014. Before joining PCATI, she worked for eight years as a Legal Adviser with the ICRC delegation in Israel and the OPT, where she advocated on behalf of Palestinians and asylum seekers detainees held in Israeli prisons. She has also worked as a teaching fellow in the Program of Asian Studies for law students at Bar Ilan University and with the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI). Ms. Bergman-Sapir holds an LLB in Law and a BA in International Relations from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

## **Dr. Noa Bar Haim**

*Physicians for Human Rights-Israel*



Dr. Bar Haim is a psychiatrist and psychotherapist, who specializes in treating survivors of prolonged sexual childhood abuse. She is the deputy manager and psychiatric consultant of a municipal referral center for the treatment of sexual trauma and dissociation. She also supervises psychotherapists and group facilitators in the Rape Crisis Centre in Jerusalem.

Dr. Bar Haim teaches and delivers training programs on assessment and treatment of trauma for professionals: physicians, social workers and psychologists. She is an active volunteer with PHR-Israel in evaluating and treating prisoners, and is a member of its Ethics Committee.

## **Dr. Samah Jabar**

*PCATI*



Dr. Samah Jabar is a clinical psychiatrist and trainer whose work focuses on public mental health, stigma, and the well-being of the Palestinian people living under occupation. She has taught both in classroom and clinical settings in the faculties of Al Quds University, Bethlehem University, Birzeit University, and George Washington University, where she is currently an Associate Clinical Professor. She has served as the medical director of several mental health centres in Palestine, and is a member of PCATI's medico-legal expert group.

## **Dr. Maya Mukamel**

*PCATI*



Dr. Maya Mukamel is a clinical psychologist, she lives and works in private practice in Tel Aviv. She is a co-founder and an active member in Psychoactive: Mental Health Professionals for Human Rights and is a member of PCATI's medico-legal expert group. Her clinical work and research focus on trauma and dissociation and her research interests include gender, politics and culture in psychotherapy, history of psychoanalytic ideas and psycho-politics of the

Israeli–Palestinian conflict. She teaches in the Gender Studies Program at Bar Ilan University and in The Graduate School for Creative Arts Therapies at Haifa University, and is a member of the steering committee of Psychoactive’s training program, Politically Aware Psychotherapy.

## **Attorney Sahar Francis**

*Addameer - Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association*



Attorney Francis joined Addameer in 1998 as a human rights lawyer, then became the head of the Legal Unit, and now is the General Director. With over 16 years of experience including legal counselling and representation, Ms. Francis is a leader of prisoners’ rights advocacy. She frequently speaks at international forums on behalf of Addameer including at the UN Human Rights Council, at academic conferences at universities, legal organizations, grassroots and Palestine solidarity events. She serves on the Board of Directors of DCI-Palestine, was recently appointed to the technical committee of the Palestinian National Committee for the follow-up to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Ms. Francis earned her law degree from the University of Haifa in 1994, joined the Israeli Bar Association in 1996, and received her MA in International Studies from Birzeit University in 2006.

## **Dr. Khader Rasras**

*Treatment & Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture (TRC)*



Dr. Rusrus has been the Executive Director of TRC since 1997, and a Lecturer of Psychology at Birzeit University since 2003. Previously, he worked as the Chief Psychologist and as a trainer in the field of psychology and group psychotherapy in The Guidance & Training Center for the Child and Family.

Dr. Rusrus has conducted much research and published articles on issues such as post-traumatic stress disorders; bed-wetting treatment and complications; group therapy for victims of torture and organized violence; stress management and crisis intervention; mental health screening among the Palestinians in the West Bank; the state of torture in Israeli detention centers; public perceptions of mental health issues; among others.

## **Mr. Hasan Zeyada**

*Gaza Community Mental Health Programme*

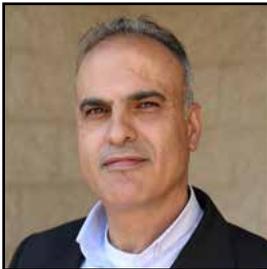


Mr. Zeyada is a psychologist, who has been working with the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP) since its founding in 1991. Mr. Zeyada provides consultation and therapy to men, women and children in Gaza, victims of war, torture and other traumas as well as crisis intervention. He also gives training courses in the field of mental health and human rights for mental health professionals and students. Mr. Zeyada graduated from

Al-Najah University in Nablus, Palestine, and he has a post graduate diploma in community mental health. He completed his training in psychotherapy and group psychodynamic therapy. Mr. Zeyada is trained from OPSI in Berlin to be a certified supervisor and trainer in professional supervision. Currently, he is the head of Gaza Community Centre.

## **Attorney Khaled Quzmar**

*Defense for Children International – Palestine Section*



Attorney Quzmar joined DCI-P in 1995 as a lawyer representing Palestinian children in Israeli military courts, and later became administrative and legal affairs director. He holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the National University of Ireland-Galway, and is a member of the Palestinian Bar Association. His research is on the protection of Palestinian children and children prisoners under international humanitarian and human rights law;

the administrative detention of children; the Israeli policy of assassinations; the right to education in the OPT; and the International Tribunal for Lebanon.

## **Attorney Aram Mahameed**

*Adalah*



Attorney Mahameed has been working as a lawyer with Adalah since 2012. He specializes in prisoners' and detainees' rights, and in criminal law cases. He received an LL.B. in Law and an LLM in Criminal Law from Tel Aviv University, and has been a member of the Israeli Bar Association since 2011. Mr. Mahameed previously worked at a law firm specializing in criminal law and as a legal intern in the Tel Aviv District Attorney's Office – Criminal Division.

## **Prof. Hans Petter Hougen**

*University of Copenhagen*



Prof. Petter Hougen is specialist in forensic pathology and clinical forensic medicine, a Professor of Forensic Medicine at the University of Copenhagen, and the Chief Medical Examiner of East Denmark.

He has extensive international experience working on forensic expert assignments for the UN, OAS, ICRC and various national authorities as well as for several NGOs. He has autopsy and/or exhumation experience, and he has examined torture survivors from several different countries. He also has teaching experience in South Asia, South America, South Africa, the US, and in several European countries; and has served as expert witness in courts.

Prof. Petter Hougen was a member of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission to Gaza, commissioned by PHR-I and Al Mezan, following Operation Protective Edge in the summer of 2014.

## **Asger Kjaerum**

*Consultant to the IRCT*



Mr. Kjaerum is an international human rights lawyer based in Geneva. He is a Danish national currently working as a consultant for the IRCT, focusing on the relevant UN human rights mechanisms, strategic planning and legal research on torture related issues.

Previously, he worked extensively with the UN treaty body system and the implementation of capacity-building projects relating to documentation of torture. He has conducted extensive legal research on the prohibition of refoulement, with a specific focus on the exchange of prisoners between NATO forces in Afghanistan and the local authorities; and the effective submission of medical evidence of torture in cases before international human rights tribunals and selected domestic jurisdictions.

## **Muhamad Jabareen, adv.**

*Al Mezan Center for Human Rights*



Muhamad holds an LLB in Law and has been a member of the Israeli Bar Association since 2000. He currently works as a lawyer, specializing in criminal law on cases for Al Mezan Center for Human Rights since 2005. Through his work Muhamad represents Palestinian prisoners, residents of Gaza before the Israeli military courts, and especially the detainees in accordance with the Unlawful Combatants Law.

As well as representing the detainees in cases involving torture during the investigation in the District Courts and Supreme Court, he submits complaints for criminal investigations of alleged war crimes in Gaza, and represents Al Mezan in raising issues concerning compensation for the victims of the military bombardments in Gaza.

## **Søs Nissen**

*Programme Manager MENA, in the Prevention of Torture in Detention Department in DIGNITY.*



Søs holds master degree in Human Geography and Arabic, from the University of Copenhagen. She has extensive knowledge of the history, society and political setting in Israel, West Bank and Gaza, and developments within the Palestinian NGO sector since 1989. She has knowledge of international law, particularly human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law.

She has more than 15 years of experience with project development, strategic planning, management and monitoring of projects and programs in the field of human rights and within the field of health (psycho-social rehabilitation of victims of human rights violations). She is also involved in human rights campaigning and advocacy on the issue of Palestine and Israel.

## **Mahmoud AbuRahma**

*Al Mezan Center for Human Rights*

Mr. AbuRahma is the Director of Communications and International Relations at Al Mezan Center for Human Rights located in Gaza. He holds an MA in the Theory and Practice of Human Rights from the University of Essex, UK, and he was a research fellow at the Center for Applied Human Rights at the University of York, UK. He also formerly served on the Executive Committee of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network. He has been working on the joint torture project between Al Mezan, Adalah and PHR-I since 2008, and on democratization, civic education and human rights in Gaza since 1995.

## **Fathiyya Hussein**

*Adalah*

Ms. Hussein is the Office Manager and a senior salaries accountant at Adalah, where she has worked since 2000. She is also one of the conference organizers. She is an MA student in Women's Studies and Gender at Haifa University, and holds a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies from the same institution. Previously, she worked as an administrator for 10 years with Arab NGOs in Israel and as an executive secretary for a private lawyer specializing in human rights in Jerusalem.

## **Amany Dayif**

*Physicians for Human Rights – Israel (PHR-IL)*

Ms. Dayif is the director of the Prisoners & Detainees Department at PHR-IL, where she has been working since 2009. In her work, Ms. Dayif leads the organization's struggle against torture and solitary confinement, and promotes the right to health and access to adequate health care for prisoners and detainees in Israel's custody. In recent years, she has also led PHR-IL's campaign against the force-feeding of Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike, and for their right to humane and respectful treatment. Ms. Dayif has worked on the joint torture project between PHR-IL, Adalah, and Al Mezan, since 2009. Prior to her work with PHR-IL, Ms. Dayif coordinated different projects with human rights organizations, and has worked as a political educator for youth. She studied political science and sociology at Haifa University.

## **Nuriya Oswald**

*Al Mezan Center for Human Rights*

Ms. Nuriya has been working with Al Mezan Center for Human Rights for three years. She is the coordinator of international advocacy and projects with a focus on accountability and access to justice. Ms. Oswald has worked on the joint combating-torture project for the last two years, both as the coordinator from Al Mezan and as the project's EU Advocacy Coordinator. Prior to joining Al Mezan, Ms. Oswald worked on the right to health and humanitarian aid in Palestine. She has a BA in political science, an MA in human rights, and is currently completing an LLM in international humanitarian law.

## **Randa Ruben Jaber Sebelin**

*Dignity - Danish Institute against Torture*

Ms. Randa has been a MENA project officer with DIGNITY since early 2014. She is also a member of the EMHRN PIP Working Group.

# CONFERENCE CONVENERS



## **Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel**

is a non-partisan, not-for-profit human rights organization that was established in 1996. It works to promote human rights in the State of Israel in general and the rights of the Palestinian Arab minority in particular; this work includes defending the human rights of all individuals subject to the jurisdiction of the State of Israel. Adalah's vision is the achievement of full rights in accordance with international human rights law for all people living in historic Palestine, the end of the occupation, and historical justice for all Palestinians.



## **Al Mezan Center for Human Rights**

works to promote, respect and protect all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights in the Gaza Strip, as a part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It conducts research, legal interventions, advocacy and awareness-raising with a sound combination of professionalism and community participation. Our guiding principles include equal human worth, equal respect of all human rights, individual and collective, as enshrined in international law and jurisprudence. Al Mezan envisions Palestine as a free, sovereign society where all women, men and children enjoy the benefits of social justice, human rights, the merit of the rule of law and good governance, fully and equally.



## **DIGNITY**

is a Danish human rights institute, which works with treatment, research, international development work and advocacy under one roof. DIGNITY is represented in more than 20 countries, where we have been cooperating with local partner organisations for more than 30 years to fight torture and help torture victims and their families to a better life. DIGNITY knows that torture destroys people, increases violence in society and creates a fundamental sense of insecurity and fear in the countries where torture is used.



### **Physicians for Human Rights-Israel (PHR-IL)**

is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that strives to promote a fair and inclusive society, in which the right to health is applied equally for all. It is PHR-IL's view that

Israel's prolonged occupation over the Palestinian people and territory is the basis of human rights violations. The organization struggles against the use of health and medicine as tools of individual or collective oppression, control and punishment.



### **The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI)**

is an NGO that believes that torture and ill-treatment of any kind and under all circumstances is incompatible with the moral values of democracy and the rule of law. PCATI advocates for all persons - Israelis,

Palestinians, labor immigrants and other foreigners in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) – in order to protect them from torture and ill-treatment by the Israeli interrogation and law enforcement authorities. PCATI acts in accordance with moral and democratic values, and the standards set in Israeli and International law.





*Project funded by the European Union - Joint Project of Adalah, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, and Physicians for Human Rights-Israel. The contents of this conference are the sole responsibility of Adalah, Al Mezan, and PHR-I and under no circumstances should be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.*