

## **“SHAMS” Center condemns the refusal by the occupation to release children detainees in view of the Coronavirus outbreak**

**“SHAMS”** Center believes that while the deadly COVID 19 - Coronavirus continues to spread throughout the world, and in particular in "Israel" the occupying Power, and in light of the frequent reports on Israeli prisoners and investigators infected, and serious concerns about the lives of (5000) Palestinian detainees, particularly those Children, who total about 200 children detained in Israeli prisons, including (4) children against whom illegal administrative detention orders were issued, the occupying Power continues to flout the rules of international law.

**“SHAMS”** Center underlines that on the Palestinian Child's Day which marks the fifth of April every year, the continued Israeli neglect of calls and appeals and demands for the release of child detainees, held in prisons and conditions in which the minimum requirements of their rights as children are not available. Such rights are protected in particular under Geneva Conventions and its two protocols of 1977 as children, in addition to the general protection framework under the International Law for them as civilians. Israel continues to persist in violating international law.

**“SHAMS”** Center condemns in the strongest terms Israeli policy based on the continuous disregard for international law and binding human rights conventions and covenants, considering itself as above the law and jeopardizing the lives of Palestinian children. The center highlights the incident of the “Ofer” prison administration, in which two children were put in the quarantine instead of releasing them under these serious conditions.

**“SHAMS”** Center reminds that the Israeli colonialism has increased and accelerated detention of Palestinian children in the recent period, as the number of children arrested in 2019 totaled (899) children, a number of whom were later released, as part of the violent colonial system that targets all components of the Palestinian people, including children, The occupation authorities also issued administrative detention orders against four children. The number of child detainees in Israeli occupation prisons is currently 200 children (under 18 years). Violent practices against child detainees increased, especially in 2020 and witnessed a high frequency of isolation, threats, attacks in transports without representatives, and deprivation of family visits, so that the Corona crisis will add a serious new violation to the series of accumulated Israeli violations.

**“SHAMS”** Center calls upon relevant international organizations foremost among which are UNICEF, the UN Special Rapporteurs and international civil society organizations to necessarily and immediately intervene, and press for the release of the child detainees, before exposing them to a greater and irreversible risk. It also calls on the High Contracting Parties to compel "Israel" to implement and respect these conventions and respect the rights of detainees, and to form an international fact-finding committee from the states parties to the Geneva Conventions in accordance with Article 90 of Protocol I, with the aim of investigating the conditions of detainees in general and of children in particular in Israeli prisons.

**“END”**