

A Report on the Occupation Forces' Attack on Al Jaleel Society in Jenin Refugee Camp

28 November 2023



In an official statement issued by Al Jaleel Charitable Society for Care and Community Rehabilitation, the Society condemned the Israeli Forces' assault on the Society, which took place during the Occupation's raid on Jenin Refugee Camp, which included its assault on the public hospital that is adjacent to the Society's premises, during the early morning hours on Sunday, 26/11/2023.

Al Jaleel Society has been operating in Jenin Refugee camp for around 30 years and works mainly with persons with disabilities, especially persons with mobility disabilities, hearing disabilities, and most types of disabilities. This Society provides its services mainly inside the Camp and within the Jenin governorate as a whole, and also in some other northern governorates, in Nablus, Tulkarm, and Qalqilya. The services provided include physical, occupational, and speech therapy, and it provides services for providing assistive devices in addition to prosthetic limbs through the Prosthetic Limbs Unit within the Society. The Society also works on creating and preparing medical shoes and items.

Although the Society works primarily with persons with disabilities, it provides a range of other services that reach persons without disabilities as well. The Society provides counseling and psychological support sessions for women and children, which are usually held at the Society's premises. The number of beneficiaries of the Society reaches up to 3,000 beneficiaries with disabilities. Despite the clear mandate of the society, the premises of the society was not spared from the occupation destruction.

The monitoring team of the Stars of Hope Society worked to follow up and document the violation against Al Jaleel Society, by conducting a series of interviews with a number of the Society's employees about the attack. The employees confirmed that the attack occurred during the Occupation's storming of the Camp, specifically the storming of the Jenin Governmental Hospital. The Occupation Forces bombed the main entrance of the Society, destroyed the wall separating the society's premises from the yard, and destroyed all the doors of the Society, and all interior doors of the Society. This resulted in the destruction of all windows as well. Furthermore, employees confirmed that the Occupation Forces broke into the Assistive Devices and Prosthetic Limbs Unit, opened the boxes that contained the assistive devices and prosthetic limbs, and destroyed them. They also disabled the devices through which these tools are produced, and they also disabled various devices within the Society, including printing devices and computers. They also destroyed the beds and equipment in the Physical and Occupational Therapy Unit.



Although the employees were not at the Society when the assault occurred, the damage was severe, both materially and morally. In an interview with the Director of the Society Jamal Abu Al-Ezz, he pointed out the significant material damage to the Society as a result of this attack: "We have over 3,000 beneficiaries, most of which are persons with disability. We are the main society in the Camp, and most residents of the Camp refer to us. Our role is pivotal in providing services to people with disabilities inside the Camp in particular, as well as outside it. The Occupation destroyed 9 of the artificial limbs, the estimated cost of which is estimated at approximately 40,000 Shekels. The Occupation also disabled all of the Society's devices, and this means that the Society is unable to operate, meaning that the Society has been out of service for three days, and many things are needed to restore the Society's ability to work again". One of the employees added: "We are unable to work for three days now, and my work mainly depends on the computer and the printer, and both are destroyed now. The Society is destroyed from the inside and is full of glass and damaged items. Many tools and equipment are not good for use in general".



This assault on the Society hindered all of its activities, including the provision of occupational and physical therapy services, counseling and psychological support services, and all services for providing assistive devices and fitting of prosthetic limbs, which means depriving approximately 3,000 beneficiaries of these services, especially the occupational therapy and rehabilitation services that persons with disabilities need on a regular and ongoing basis. In light of the current conditions in Jenin Refugee Camp, represented by ongoing raids, bombing, and constant abuse, it becomes difficult to move outside the Camp, which increases dependence on the associations operating inside the Camp due to their proximity to the locations where the beneficiaries live, who, according to the Society's statement, are poor youth, children and women.

In addition to the material effects, this attack also led to psychological effects on the employees: "The impact of this attack is not limited to the material impact. We, as female employees, have been greatly affected psychologically. For three days, we have been unable to work, and there is no one at her/his desk. We have witnessed 30 years of accumulation demolished before us".

Stars of Hope Society stresses the necessity of holding the Occupation responsible and accountable for this gross assault on a society that provides services to Palestinians with disabilities. It also affirms and supports the demands of Al Jaleel Society, in which it appealed to all actors at the local and international levels to protect facilities and institutions that provide humanitarian, health, and services target for persons with disability, in a manner that contributes to implementing the policy of social inclusion, and not harming the interests and rights of persons with disabilities, their families, and their rights recognized in international conventions and treaties.

Stars of Hope Society affirms that the Israeli Occupation Forces target all Palestinians without discrimination and works to kill, injure, and arrest Palestinians and destroy residential and commercial buildings, and those used for development and humanitarian purposes, with the aim of demolishing Jenin Refugee Camp and making it uninhabitable, as it does in the Gaza Strip. Therefore, the Occupation's violations must be exposed and held accountable everywhere.