

**WARNING:** This letter includes graphic descriptions of violent torture, including physical violence, sexual assault, and threats of rape.

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Wednesday, [REDACTED].

An hour after Fajr prayer (Morning Prayer), my house was raided by civilian forces helped by riot police forces. They did not present any warrant or any official paper that would have allowed them to do so. They frightened all the inhabitants, including women and children, and my son went into a panic attack because of this. The house was then searched in a way that inspires fear. They tampered with the house and looked into my personal belongings. My arrest was also conducted in the same way. Indeed, the minute we left the house, I was blindfolded and handcuffed with my arms behind my back. Then, they put me on a small bus which has a capacity of 16 people approximately, where I was beaten on the face and sensitive area. They further took me to an unknown location where I stayed approximately 25 days, which I identified as building 15 of Jau Prison later on which is attached to the Criminal Investigation Directorate and that we commonly call the "academia."<sup>1</sup>

So, I was taken to the academia on the day of the arrest, in the afternoon but I don't know the exact time because I was blindfolded and they were not willing to tell me what time it was at all. From there, I was taken by car to another unknown location. Five minutes after we arrived, they got me off of the car to another building while I was still handcuffed and blindfolded. There, I was tortured, beaten, insulted, and kicked in sensitive areas. The two interrogation officers who interrogated me at the academia stripped me naked and beat me again on the face, head. They also insulted me again and started hitting my testicles and strongly pulling my penis from the afternoon until very late at night. From then on, it was again insults until I was taken back to building 15 of Jau Prison.

The next morning they took me in the car again to the same building where the same officers interrogated and tortured me. Since I was blindfolded, I recognized them by the sound of their voice. At this point, they started taking my clothes off, torturing me, and insulting me like they did on the first day. All the torture was concentrated on the head and the testicles, and the torture was harsher than the first day as they hung me by my handcuffs on iron bars fixed on the wall. Therefore, it was a different level of torture, another step in their torture. Only my toes could touch the floor, and I stayed like that for five hours, naked, continuously beaten and insulted. They were taking shifts to torture and beat me on sensitive places. Because of that, I started feeling unbearable pain in my testicles. After a while I was returned to building number 15 in Jau Prison in the middle of the night. Because of all the torture, the color of my urine changed from yellow to a blood color. It was obviously red. Following that, they took me to the Jau Prison clinic where they gave me three types of medicines Intravenously (IV): one yellow, one green and one pinkish. I was administrated nine bottles of IV medicines in total, three bottles of each color. They continuously took a sample of my blood and urine every hour until Thursday [REDACTED] in the afternoon. Afterwards, I was escorted back to building number 15 in Jau Prison, and driven by the car to the so-called academia. Then, they started repeating the same torture, yet this time it was much more severe than the previous ones. They started stripping my clothes off, beating me severely on sensitive places, face, waist, stomach and back regardless of my health situation. In the middle of the night I was moved back to building number 15, and after an hour I was taken back to the prison's clinic. I was treated with (IV)s that had the same three different colors, and a total of six bottles or more. A sample of my blood and urine were taken continuously, as well. This process continued until Friday morning before returning to building number 15. On Friday afternoon I was taken to the same interrogation building with the same officers, and as

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<sup>1</sup> It later appeared that it was the building of the Royal Academy of Police next to Jau Prison.

soon as I entered, the interrogator mockingly said “Thank god you’re safe and sound! Hope you’re feeling well, how are you, are you feeling better?”

Keep in mind that we were not allowed to be seated when we were at this “academia”, and this kind of torture continued for about two weeks. During that period, I faced the most brutal torture and sometimes because of the torture we faced there, I feel like I’m dying from the level of pain. It is as if my spirit is being torn out of my body.

**The following methods of torture were used against me during the interrogation period (before [REDACTED] arrest):**

**First:** They alternatively hung me and forced me to stand naked while they strongly beat me on the head, testicles, and face with their hands and other objects that I could not identify because I was blindfolded. It made my head and face swollen.

**Second:** They electrocuted me in the testicles and kicked me in sensitive areas while I was naked. They also strongly grabbed my testicles with their hands and pulled my penis strongly. This kind of torture continued on a daily basis, from the day I was arrested until around two weeks later.

**Third:** They forced me to drink water continuously, around 14 bottles, until I couldn’t bear drinking more and the water started to pour from my mouth and nose, which felt like drowning. I felt like I could not breathe and I did not know how many bottles I was forced to drink, but I was informed that I was forced to empty 14 bottles. Therefore, I felt nauseous and nearly dead; the officer also made sure that I would not be allowed to go to the bathroom no matter what!

**Fourth:** They took me to one of the rooms in the academia to interrogate me, and they called this room the “black room” [room located on the second floor, see below]. They summoned a group called the “party/celebration group,” which included a huge number of people. I’m not sure how many of them there were but the interrogation officers were with them. They made a circle around me while I was naked, and they started hitting and kicking me on different parts of my body. They hit me on the head with hard and soft objects, which caused my head to be swollen. They focused on the head until I fell apart and felt dizzy and unconscious. Sometimes one of the officers would pick me up and make me stand then keep on beating me on the face, testicles and other parts of my body with his hand and other objects that I could not identify and that cause swelling. After that, they start mocking me, laughing at me and leaving me naked in the room for long hours.

**Fifth:** I was forbidden to sleep for two to three days on three different periods of two to three days. I was also forbidden to sit for long periods of hours and forced to stand on one foot with one arm lifted. I was allowed to eat at certain times and forced to eat at others.

**Sixth:** I was blindfolded and handcuffed for 25 days, and they would only allow my handcuffs to be tied from the front when I slept, went to the bathroom or ate. I was handcuffed and blindfolded from the moment I was arrested until I was transferred to Dry Dock Detention Center. They would only remove the cloth blindfolding me during my sleep, which made me unable to tell the time/make the difference between nighttime and daytime.

**Seventh:** The interrogator who supervised my torture told me that all the injuries I received on my head will cause a chronic disease that would have no cure (that my head would be swollen permanently). In addition, he also mentioned that the tortured I received on my testicles will not allow me to have children again.

**Eighth:** As if it stripping me naked was not enough, they ripped my clothes twice during interrogations. I would always go back to building 15 with ripped clothes.

**Ninth:** They forced me to smoke cigarettes one after the other until I feel dizzy and fell on the floor.

**Tenth:** One of the investigators informed me that he was torturing me out of hate for my faith and that he was from the "Nawaseb."<sup>2</sup>

**Eleventh:** During the investigations they spit on my face a lot and pissed on my body!

**Twelfth:** They took me every day by car from building number 15 of Jau Prison to this unknown building called "academia" while I was blindfolded and handcuffed, until the last day I stayed in Jau Prison (25 days).

### The torture that exhausted me the most is psychological torture

They threatened that if I do not say what they wanted me to say they would:

- 1- Bring my wife and hang her naked with me when I was hung naked.
- 2- They threatened they would bring my mother, torture her and rape her in front of me.
- 3- The interrogation officers brought photos of my wife and my [REDACTED], lifted the cloth covering my eyes and showed them to me. They threatened to bring them, torture them, strip them naked and sexually assault them if I did not tell them what they wanted.
- 4- Arrest [REDACTED] torture them in front of me and force me to confess and fabricate some charges against them.

They sexually assaulted me and tried to insert a wooden brush in my anus, threatening to rape me.

They insulted my mother and even my father's dead body although they knew that my father is dead!

They forbid me to pray since the first day of my arrest until I got to Dry Dock Prison. So around 25 days!

They denied me showers for two weeks (since the first day of my arrest)!

I suffered from swelling in the face, nose and eyes because of the continuous and systematic torture. They were forcing us to eat, but I could not eat because of swelling and pain at Jau. I couldn't move my mouth or open it because of continuous beating in the face. In building 15, after they tortured me and brought me back from the investigation, they removed the cloth blindfolding my face and the authorities/administration saw that my face was swollen and my nose bleeding. So they told me that I would not be allowed to go in in this condition, and I was presented to one of the people in building 15, who was in an isolated room. I was there in this room with him and he was wearing an outfit that was different from all their outfits. There was nothing written on the outfits that would indicate that he is from the police but he was wearing an outfit that looked like those of the emergency responders. I use to see this person all the time in building 15 of Jau prison. He used to film me, make me sign a paper waiving the prison's responsibility in case anything happened to me, then get me inside building 15 and check in on me. So, after I was redirected to him this time, after the administration denied me to go back, he also filmed me with a video camera and asked me to explain what happened to me during the investigation, the reason for the puffiness and swelling on my face, and for the chronic pain in my testicles. So, I explained on tape everything that happened during the torture and the investigation while he was filming and recording everything, audio and video. He informed me that

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<sup>2</sup> Sunni extremists who are against Shiites.

there were bruises on my face that my eyes were red and that blood was clotting in my left eye because of torture and punches on the face. He promised to transfer me to the hospital. Whenever I saw him, I would always ask him when he would transfer me to the hospital and he would answer "tomorrow or after tomorrow", but I was never transferred to the hospital. The torture and investigations continued after that encounter despite my swollen face, chronic pain and desperate need to see the doctor. They kept on torturing me.

One morning, nine or ten days after my arrest approximately, I was taken by car from building 15 to the same unknown building for interrogations, but this day was tougher than the other days. As soon as I got out of the car into the academia building, they took me to the room of my usual daily interrogation officer, they stripped me of my clothes and tortured me heavily. There were even more officers than before. They told me "until when are you going to hold on?" and after an hour or two, they told me they were going to take me to the black room where they had taken me to before. However, I remained silent and I didn't tell them the confessions they wanted to hear. And indeed, they took me to the black room, and a lot of officers escorted me to the black room located on the second floor. And because I had entered the room multiple times before, this time I was able to sense that it was a very big room where they have the necessary space not only to torture individuals but to do so in an elaborate manner. After a few minutes, they called the celebration group [I mentioned earlier]. When they were all in the room, they held me still: there was a group of people holding me from the back to guarantee that I wouldn't be able to move. One of the officers punched me in the face. I specifically identified him because I know him from the sound of his yelling. I think he is the officer in charge of all investigators and officers because he was talking to me and because the investigator who was interrogating me was torturing me in front of him.

After a while of continuous kicking and hitting from the officer I started feeling dizzy with a strong pain in the head, but I did not fall because the officer were there to catch me and hold me standing while I was blindfolded and handcuffed from behind.

When I started bleeding from my mouth and nose, they stopped the beating and torture. They forced me to drink water and they started beating me again focusing specifically on my testicles and pulling my penis: They did not care about my deteriorating medical condition.

Then they started to make a circle around me while I was naked and began hitting and kicking me on many parts of my body with hard plastic materials, which increased my swelling. They were aiming at either a physical shutdown or making me fall unconscious. The torture continued regardless of the bleeding. After seven hours of continuous torture they told me that they will bring my wife and siblings while I'm standing naked in front of them [i.e. the officers]. They also said that they would hang my wife naked beside me, and rape her in front of me.

~~Let's go back to the time before my [REDACTED] were arrested. I just remembered~~ While I was in this black room, they were torturing me and asking me about [REDACTED], who I worked with when [REDACTED], and what [REDACTED] I used so I told them: "with [REDACTED]." I was completely naked. It is only after I told them that that they stopped torturing me. Then they asked the same question: what [REDACTED] do you mostly use when you [REDACTED]?

I told them I go to [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] and we have [REDACTED]. They asked me if I have [REDACTED] and I answered no. Then they asked who I mostly go [REDACTED] with and I said: "with [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]." I also told them most of [REDACTED] are [REDACTED] who work at [REDACTED] for a living but the response was more torture from the numerous interrogators who threw questions from every side. They asked me: who do you go to [REDACTED] with? "With

██████████” I said. They asked about ██████████, I answered ██████████. Then they asked about the ██████████ location and I told them they’re in ██████████. After that, they asked me where my phone is and I told them that it was at my house.

This is what happened in the black room of torture. After that I was put in a car and was returned to my house in ██████████. ~~I have already told you what happened there in previous reports.~~

Then, they let me wear my clothes and took me to my house. When we arrived, I was on the bus. The officers raided the house, arrested ██████████ and took them to the bus. They also threatened me not to talk at all and they did not want to hear me out/to hear anything from me. ██████████ were in the front seat of the bus and I was in the back. The officer told me that my wife was also taken and that she was in the back seat of the women police’s car. On the bus, they also made me hear my mother’s voice screaming and shouting. Hearing this screaming hurt a lot and I cannot describe this feeling and pain at this point.

We spent about an hour or two at the house, where they were threatening the family and terrifying the children and women in the house. The bus departed and I was taken with ██████████ to an unknown location, I think it was an open space. They got ██████████ off the bus one after the other in order to investigate them. I was still on the bus, and it went back to the academia. There, they told me that they arrested my wife and ██████████ that if I did not confess to whatever they told me to confess, they would arrest the rest of my family. They added that they would bring my wife and torture her. I was under great psychological stress. If you ask me what the worst experience I went through in my life is I would tell you that it was:

- Hearing my mother scream while the officers raided the house and arrested ██████████.
- Having my wife arrested and the officers threatening to rape and torture her in front of me.

My heart hurts every time I remember the humiliation. Dear mother, dear wife, ██████████, may you forgive me for what happened after my arrest!

Let’s continue with what happened briefly: before taking me back to building 15 in Jau Prison, investigators ordered the police officers to permanently escort and monitor me everywhere even when I was sleeping. They never left me for 25 days and stayed with me 24/7 in the room.

The investigator told the police that I was prohibited from eating, drinking, sleeping and sitting until the next day. Then, they came the next morning to start the investigations again and torture me more than the previous period by continuously hitting me on my testicles and stripping me of my clothes. The torture was harder as I stayed in this room and it lasted until late hours at night with continuous denial from eating and drinking.

Two days after continuous and systematic torture, they told me they would bring my wife and ██████████ and that if I do not confess to what they wanted, they would torture them in front of me. They tortured me naked, put shoes in my mouth and forced me to bite them. If they fell out of my mouth, they’d torture me on the testicles, pressing them hard, and pulling my penis. They brought a reel and pulled my penis until I collapsed. They also electrocuted me in the testicles. I saw death every day. The investigator then said to me while I was still naked: “Until when are you going to hold on and stay naked like this?” They added: “if you confess with what you are told, your wife and ██████████ will be released. Otherwise, I will bring them here, torture them and force them to say what I want them to say.” Because of my fear for them I told them that I would confess to whatever they wanted me to confess to, in order for them to be released. They promised they would release them and allowed me to call my brother ██████████. I asked him about my wife. He told me that she was with them at

home and [REDACTED]. He asked me about [REDACTED], whether they had been released or not and I knew that they had not been released. At this point, the call ended and they brought me back to the investigator. He asked me if I was relieved now, and I said no because [REDACTED] had not been released. Then, they dictated what they wanted from me and I confessed out of fear for [REDACTED], in order for them to be released.

Two weeks after my arrest and continuous torture, the investigator wrote what I had dictated on a computer. I confessed and approved what they said. If I refused or denied the charges, they would beat me, strip me naked and threaten to arrest my wife and [REDACTED]. Things remained like that until the third week: officers writing on the computer, fabricating charges, and continuous threats to arrest my wife and [REDACTED] if I refuse.

They beat me hard, and it carried on until the last day. On the last day, after around 25 days of investigation and torture, I was taken from building 15 after Fajr prayer (Morning Prayer) to the "academia" where I was filmed while forced to say what they dictated to me and brought before a group of officers who told me that I would then be taken to the prosecution. They threatened that if I denied the fabricated charges, they would arrest my family and bring me back to torture me and rape me. This is briefly what happened during the investigations!