

ABSTRACT

Literature Produced by Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails 1987-2000

The political and social conditions that the Palestinians have lived under shaped their life aspects. Such conditions reflected themselves on different productions including literature. Influenced by these conditions Palestinian writers produced different literary genres. Literature has been used as a resistance tool along with the armed struggle.

Much of the Palestinian literature has been produced by Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. To the prisoners literature was another way for struggle and a venue of expression of their feeling and suffering. Further, writing empowered prisoners and helped them pass the hardship. Above all, prisoners' writings gave clearer picture about imprisonment condition in Israeli jails and exposed Israeli violations and practices against prisoners.

Israeli occupying authorities recognized the importance of Palestinian prisoners' writings and its influence on Palestinians in general and prisoners in particular. As such, they tried their best to prevent prisoners from writing. In many instances, writings were confiscated by prison administration in different jails.

This study deals with the literature produced by Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. It covers the period that extends from 1987- 2000. It takes as examples different literary genres that include poetry, short story, novel and literary message.

The study is divided into four chapters in addition to an introduction and a conclusion. The introduction sheds light on the importance of the Palestinian literature to Palestinians and its strong relevance to them and their issue. Issues like jailers' practices against prisoners and prisoners' potential to produce pieces of writing that reflect their suffering are among the matters that are discussed in the introduction as well. Besides, the motives behind the study, the importance of the study, its methodology, the difficulties faced during the research as well as other studies that deal with the same subject are touched on in the introduction.

Chapter one is entitled "Poetry and Detention Experience". It discusses the topics and themes of poetry written by prisoners. Discussion covers imagery and symbolism in this poetry.

Chapter two is entitled "The Short Story". Four series are discussed. Special focus is given to the narrative style, the settings and the language of the stories.

Chapter three is entitled "The Novel". Number of novels are taken as examples. The narrative styles and themes, the settings and the characters are discussed.

The last chapter discusses the literary message and traces its evolution and defines its subjects. Besides, it mentions the persons to whom the writer addressed his/her messages.

The study concludes with some recommendations.