



THE ABSENCE OF THE ROLE OF UNITED NATION IN MIDDLE EAST PRISON AND VICTIMIZATION, HOW THIS AFFECTS PRISONERS HEALTH

Islam Hassan

Session. 2022

Malmö University

Degree Project in criminology
30 Credits Two-year master,
Programme.

Malmö University
Faculty of Health and Society
205 06 Malmö

THE ABSENCE OF THE ROLE OF UNITED NATION IN MIDDLE EAST PRISON AND VICTIMIZATION: HOW THIS AFFECTS PRISONERS HEALTH

Islam Hassan

Hassan, I. The absence of the role of United Nation in Middle East prison and victimization: how this affects prisoners health. *Degree project in Criminology 30 credits*. Malmö University: Faculty of health and society, Department of Criminology, 2022..

The absence of the United Nations in the Middle East countries has resulted in the victimization and violation of human rights in prisons. People imprisoned for opposing the government are detained and tortured unlawfully. This study aims to investigate the effects of prisoners' victimization on their physical and mental health and how it impacts their lives after their release. For this research, I applied a qualitative technique, quantitative analysis using secondary data to understand the versatile topic of prisoners' victimization and violations of human rights patterns in the Middle East countries where these practices have remained apparent for many years. This research showed how governments in the Middle East countries are using prisons for coercive political purposes. Syria and Iraq are among the nations that appear immune to the consequences of violating human rights. Victimization undermines international law concerning promoting the rule of law and protecting human rights. Many countries in the Middle East are facing the challenge of ensuring that their prisoners are treated humanely. People with different political views from their leaders are wrongfully convicted and handed unfair prison sentences to punish them for being liberal-minded. The conditions in these prisons are also inhumane as they are crowded considering how temperatures rise in these Middle East countries. Prisoners are also neglected medically evident through the number of deaths of prisoners from chronic illnesses. Prisoners are also tortured by the guards who overstep their mandate and punish innocent prisoners.

In conclusion, it has been documented those prisons in the Middle East serve as secret centers where governments torture their people to death.

Keywords: victimization, United Nations, sexual assault, torture, mental health, human rights.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my acknowledgments, gratitude, and thanks to all those who have maintained, guided, and helped me through the course of my Master's.

Specifically, I'd like to express thanks to Dr. Lindström, my supervisor, for all the help and guidance he so kindly offered. Furthermore, I would like to thank the Department of Criminology and all of my professors who have supported me to a great extent during my studies.

Finally, I would like to extend my acknowledgments and gratitude to my mother and father for all of the help and support they have given and continue to giving me still.

CONTENTS

ABSTRACT.....	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	5
1.1. Prison Conditions.....	5
1.2. Choice of Thematology.....	5
1.3. Aim of Research.....	6
2. BACKGROUND.....	6
3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK.....	7
3.1. Misuse of power from the guards.....	7
3.2. Social Identity Theory.....	8
4. METHODS.....	9
4.1. Choice of Methodology.....	9
4.2. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria.....	9
4.3. Data Analysis.....	11
4.4. Reliability and Validity.....	12
5. LITERATURE REVIEW.....	12
5.1. Introduction.....	12
5.2. Torture.....	13
5.3. Adverse prison conditions.....	13
5.4. Prisoner victimization.....	14
5.5. Healthcare Inadequacies.....	15
6. FINDINGS.....	18
6.1. UNHCR violations.....	18
6.2. Political Prisoners.....	18
6.3. Mental Health Issues.....	19
6.4. Poor Prison Conditions.....	19
7. DISCUSSION.....	20
8. LIMITATIONS.....	20
9. CONCLUSION.....	21
10. REFERENCES.....	22

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Prison Conditions

Research has shown we can evaluate the effectiveness of prisons by examining the levels of victimization occurring in them or by assessing the extent to which the prisons contribute to the rehabilitation of prisoners. Still, less is known in the Middle East on prison victimization as a form of human rights violation (Amar, 2017). The study will help close the knowledge gap on prison victimization to improve human rights in correctional facilities. The Middle East region faces challenges in enforcing and monitoring human rights. The United Nations and other human rights centres' access to the area are difficult due to constant wars and revolutions. In most prisons, treating prisoners with respect and ensuring their rights are not violated has become optional. Victimization includes torture, sexual harassment, false accusations, and abuse which are generally familiar after the war (Kagan, 2018). Therefore the United Nations should end the victimization of prisoners in the Middle East at all costs.

Victimization is the most distinctive feature observed when someone is arrested, tried, and sentenced. Cases involving a lack of healthcare, sexual harassment, and expressions of hatred, which are all considered as facets of systematic abuse, are making life difficult for detainees. In many detention centers, prisoners are denied basic things, such as health care, food, and protection from infectious diseases, which should be provided to each detainee (Al-Fijawi et al., 2019). The United Nations and the Council of Europe have set laws to limit the abuse and damage occurring in prisons to ensure equal health care is provided to all prisoners. According to the European Court of Human Rights, it is inhumane to offer inadequate health care or to subject detainees to degrading treatment, which violates article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (Elger, 2011).

The primary purpose of prisons is to enable individuals to discover the type of people they are and define the relationship between their personality and criminality. In the Middle East, prisons are places of severe deprivation, with cases of overcrowding, little food, and lack of exercise among problems that detainees experience (Al-Fijawi et al., 2019). In its analysis, this paper will seek to address the ineffectiveness of prisons in the Middle East regarding victimization and the lack of fundamental human rights. This thesis paper will help to raise ideas about possible solutions that could reduce the incidence of victimization in Middle East prisons.

1.2. Choice of Thematology

For me is very important to talk about these things because I am coming from Middle East and I feel that I need to address all these kind of difficult situation that my fellow citizens are dealing with, but because also my background to criminology opened new horizons to me and make me see the injustice of society towards the citizens firstly and the inmates lastly. So, it is very important to hear all the voices and let them speak from their side about what they think is important.

1.3. Aim of Research

The study uses relevant literature surrounding the research to investigate the impacts of prisoners' victimization in prisons in the Middle East and how their physical and mental health is affected after their release. In most cases, individual rights are being neglected because of the low status of prisoners who have limited financial capability and social status and are viewed as not deserving. Jails are sites of anxiety and overcrowded facilities where all inmates struggle to maintain their rights and self-respect. The term "human rights," according to the United Nations, coincides with human life, and there are many freedoms and rights that are inherent in human dignity and cannot be dispensed with (Amar, 2017). Therefore, there is a need to research on impacts of victimization on prisoners even after they are released.

2. BACKGROUND

As UNHCR High Commissioner, Filippo Grandi has said : “Syria is the biggest humanitarian and refugee crisis of our time, a continuing cause of suffering for millions which should be garnering a groundswell of support around the world.” The civil war in Syria bursted from initial revolutionary movements in cities like Hama, Homs and Daraa were the start of another unresolved war between many groups, races, ethnicities and nationalities and has now turned into a proxy war at the expense of society in Syria and the overall development of the country. However, there exist numerous scientific papers that stress that was not an unexpected upheaval (De Châtel, 2014; Selby, 2019; Dukhan, 2014; Fröhlich, 2016; Schweizer, 2015). Mismanagement, in addition to the long-term failure of the agricultural policies and changes that suddenly happened in the country's economic strategy, led to a continuous evolution of land degradation (De Châtel, 2014; Selby, 2019).

According to Gibbs (2019), Nelson Mandela described the term "human rights" in his approach to prison management using multiple definitions and described detention centers as areas where arrested persons are kept awaiting trial or who have been convicted of some criminal wrongdoing. For example, in the United States of America, the term "prison" refers to places where convicts are kept while awaiting sentencing or have been sentenced for a short time, and this kind of detention is called correctional institutions (Coyle, 2009). Without undertaking this study, it is hard to determine the actual level of abuse occurring in prisons.

In most cases, such violations of individual rights are being neglected because of the low status of prisoners who, with limited financial capability and social status, are not viewed as deserving. Jails are sites of anxiety, overcrowded facilities in which all inmates struggle to maintain their rights and self-respect (Fellner, 2006). The term "human rights" according to the United Nations, coincides with human life, and there are a lot of freedoms and rights which are inherent in human dignity and cannot be dispensed with.

In Islamic jails the prisoners are being mistreated by prison staff and fundamental human rights are being violated (Al-Fijawi et al., 2019). Islamic law and society does not consider inmates as human beings and do not feel that they deserve humane consideration and proper treatment (ibid). The inmates should be treated with dignity and should not be afraid of asking for their rights. These mistreatments by the jails authorities are being increased as the suffering of the inmates (ibid).

Numerous laws were made so as to protect the rights of prisoners. The United Nations, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) are doing their best to make this happen. The UN has agencies that try to initiate new programmes so as to protect human rights in general. “ICCPR and the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Human Rights Library) prohibit torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of prisoners without any exception or derogation” (Al-Fijawi et al., 2019). It is the state that has the authority to take care that the inmates inside the prisons are not being mistreated or tortured (Porpora et al., 2010).

The Universal Islamic declaration of Human Rights states that : “No person shall be subjected to torture in mind or body, or degraded, or threatened with injury either to himself or to anyone related to or held dear by him, or forcibly made to confess to the commission of a crime, or forced to consent to an act which is injurious to his interests” (Mahaer Hathout, 2006).”

Of course the incident of Abu Ghraib is not the only one, basic human rights are being abused in many prisons in America and around the world (Ajunwa, 2014). "Stanford Prison Experiment," is the first academic study which focuses on the socio psychological effect of imprisonment, not only on prisoners but also on guards (Zimbardo, 2013) In a six day period of prison-like conditions, Zimbardo assessed some brutal and sadistic behavior on the guards side (ibid).

3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.1. Misuse of power from the guards

Cruel and unusual misuse of power from the prisons authorities towards the inmates it's not an uncommon thing to mention since this type of perpetuation against the inmates have been documented since the inception of the United States penal system (Gibbons & Katzenbach, 2006).

After World War II and the feeling of horror that prevailed after the Nazis Concentration Camps some studies were made so as to search why seemingly decent people commit horrific acts of violence so as to prevail justice and right. Maybe the same feeling is the one that led the people in the Middle East to react by following the same pattern with their civil war.

Departing from this starting point, people can remember Milgram's experiment in 1974 where he was believed to conduct a study of memory (Milgram, 1974). At this experiment every “teacher” was very willing to punish a “learner” with up to 300 volts and some of them with up to 450 volts which was the maximum possible (ibid). The participants were very “normal,” “everyman” who were willing to perform horrific acts towards their fellow citizens. This study was a proof of the “evil” that normal people have in them (Gross, 2008).

Another study that wanted to test the same thing was the one of Philip Zimbardo which was a two-week “prison simulation” study. To this study the participants were divided into prisoners and guards and were given guidelines by Zimbardo himself to act as in a real prison environment (Zimbardo, 1971). The outcome of this study was the same, and some of the participants after the end of the study had shown signs of traumatization (Gross, 2008). The study is known as the Stanford Prison Experiment , and the outcome was that one-third of the

prisoners expressed “sadistic” behaviors. Another thing that Zimbardo mentioned is that groups are dangerous, meaning that people are losing the ability to use moral judgement once in a group where the role by itself (the one of the guard) causes them pressure. The conclusion of Zimbardo was that when people belong to groups of unequal power then cruel and vile behavior of the group which has the power is inevitable (Zimbardo, 1971).

Zimbardo mentions that the misuse of power is a tyranny which evolved naturally in groups that had not equal power. As he assesses, brutality is a result of unequal power combined with unequal humanity as it happened in World War II (Zimbardo, 1971), and as it can happen in the same situation of another war. Applying the findings of Zimbardo's study in practice that means that a group of power in comparison with a group of lesser power, perceives that group of lesser power as “subhuman” in a way, and that can be applied in the twofold of guards and inmates (ibid).

3.2. Social Identity Theory

People are social creatures and need to belong in groups, most of the time people want to belong in groups where the others that are already there have the same point of view with them. The group that we belong affects our pride and self esteem (Tajfel, 1979). Then a distinction of “them” and “us” is being made, meaning the people that belong on the in group with the people that belong at the out group, and all of the sudden a discrimination of the one group against the other is being made (ibid).

These people who make up the one group try to make a positive image of their groups, and automatically a negative categorization of the other group is being made (Tajfel & Turner, 1986). When the social identity of one group is being considered to be under threat then that group gathers so as to be all together against the other group (ibid). With that said the members of the one group try to keep their social identity intact and unaltered, so they produce prejudice and not only against the other group (Bergmann, 2008).

“The basic and highly reliable finding is that the trivial, ad hoc intergroup categorization leads to in-group favoritism and discrimination against the out-group” (Tajfel & Turner, 1986).

The social identity theory is being adopted by the guards in this study, meaning that they want to keep a common ground to their group so they are “forced” to follow the same routines, and way of treating the inmates, all of them if they want to belong to that in-group. Otherwise, if one the guards deviates from this behavior will be eliminated from the set.

Consistent to social identity theory of Tajfel and Turner's (1979) and Haslam and Reicher which claim that groups represent collective self-realization, and when a value or belief is not being manifested then the individuals who consist the group are willing to adopt to a more functional group which best represents them (Haslam and Reicher, 2005; Tajfel and Turner, 1979).

4. METHODS.

4.1. Choice of Methodology

Due to the inability to conduct face-to-face or online interviews with the participants, the best strategy employed to collect data was a systematic literature review. A systematic literature review entails evaluating various scholarly articles that have explored an issue of interest and evaluating and appraising the findings (Kraus et al., 2020). Systematic literature reviews also play an important role in synthesizing the data obtained from various studies, giving a conclusive overview of all the issues that the scholars have outlined, addressed, and evaluated throughout their studies (Shaffril et al., 2021). This study will primarily focus on literature that has evaluated the human rights violation in Middle Eastern prisons, assessing issues scholars have identified using the UN framework or any other criteria to establish how the prisoners are denied their basic human rights.

4.2. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Before selecting the sources of the article, an overview of the topic was conducted on various databases, using Google Scholar as the main search tool to identify potential articles that could be used for the article. A Google Scholar search of the topic yielded about 142,000 potential articles usable for the paper. However, with such a large database, it was prudent to apply inclusion and exclusion criteria that would limit the number of articles sufficient for this study. The first assumption was to use the most recent possible articles. A date limit was set on the potentially viable resources sufficient for the study, and the study only included articles published beyond 2000. Although the study would use additional supporting literature to validate the claims made by selected articles, the main articles being assessed for the study were purely those published in the 21st century. After applying this criterion, the number of potential articles that would be viable for the study was reduced to 20,500. Still, these were far too many articles to evaluate, making it prudent to add another exclusion criterion.

The second criteria entailed choosing only articles that reviewed the state of prisons in the Middle East. In addition, the keywords "Human Rights Violation" and "UN" were added to the search terms, reducing the search results to around 8,000 potential articles. Likewise, it was also prudent to reduce the available results, making it imperative to finetune the search criteria. I decided to eliminate all books, solely focusing on scholarly articles instead. Therefore, the third criterion for inclusion and exclusion focused on purely peer-reviewed journals. With this criterion applied, the search results were reduced to around 2,780, which was still too high. The fourth criterion entailed applying another search term, "qualitative," to limit the potential articles used. By purely focusing on qualitative studies, it would be easier to identify potential articles that would give first-hand accounts of the prisoners or people who have visited the prisons, evaluating the authors' views about the responses. After this criterion was applied, the potential articles reduced to around 1,170, which was still too high.

The fifth criterion is to exclude articles published in English. After applying this criterion, the potential articles applicable to the study were reduced to around 375, manageable. The sixth criterion used was reading the titles of the article to solely select those that had identified the middle eastern prisons as the core focus of their study. This approach was imperative to eliminate articles that reviewed other issues such as prison psychology, budgets, and other

issues such as violations of human rights for enslaved people and sex workers. With this inclusion and exclusion criterion, only 103 articles were suitable for the study.

Further assessment of these articles revealed that some of the articles were redundant, reducing the number further to 58 articles. However, only articles reviewing the middle east were included, eliminating other articles reviewing prison human rights violations in Asia, Africa, Mexico, North America, and South America. This approach was the final criteria used and limited the included articles to 18 articles. Each of these articles was then traced back to its original database so that the study would use only the full-text version of the papers. The 18 articles were obtained from seven main databases: Elsevier, EBSCOhost, ProQuest, BMC, JSTOR, Directory of Open Access Journals, and Social Science Research Network (SSRN). This systematic review will use the existing 18 articles to conclude and identify themes and patterns in the study, making it increasingly easier to paint a clear picture of the state of human rights in Middle Eastern prisons.

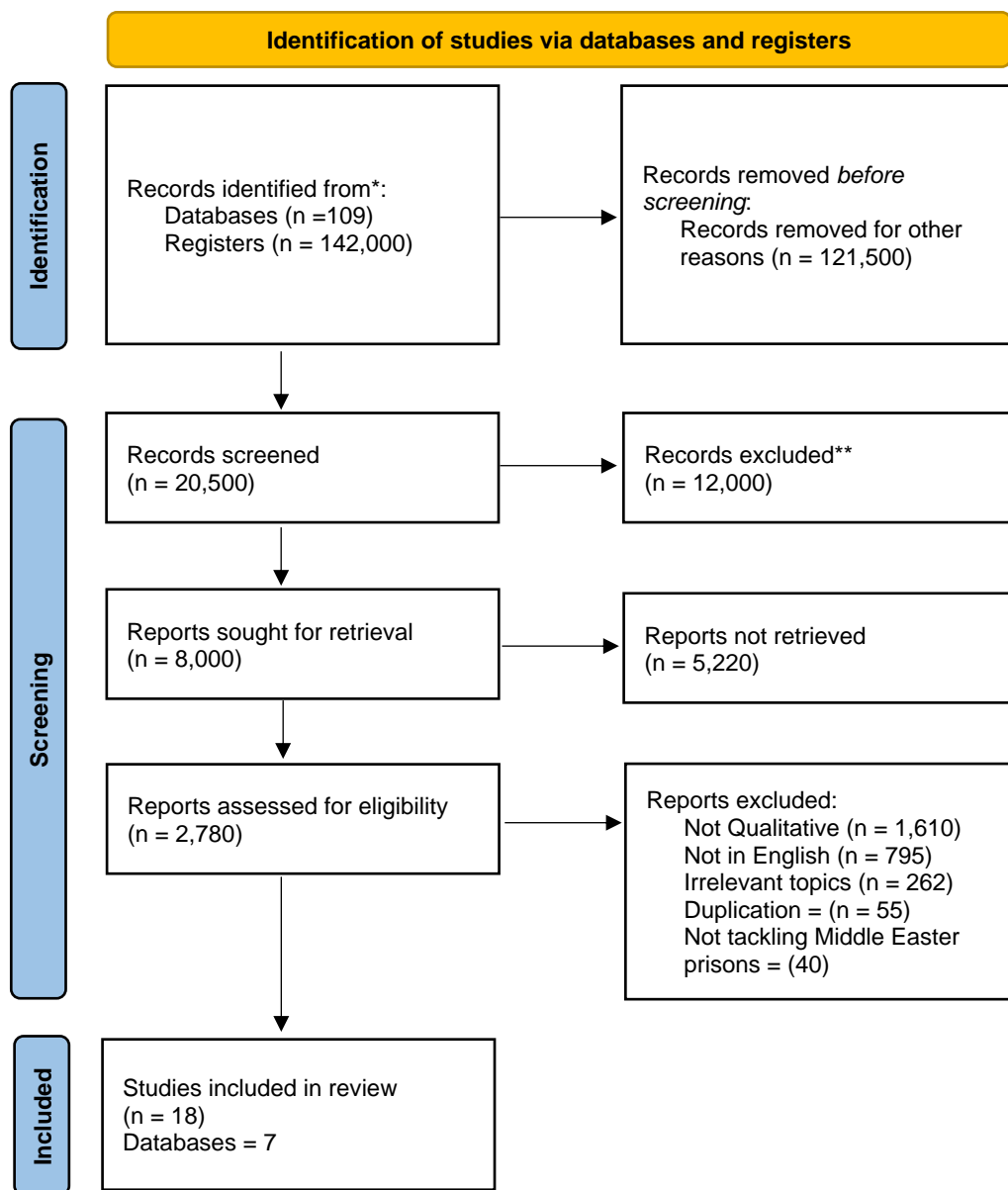


Fig 1: Prisma Flow chart for the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

4.3. Data Analysis

The data collected from the systematic review will be analyzed using thematic coding analysis. Thematic analysis is essential in evaluating the recurrent patterns in content being explored, allowing the researcher to identify similarities in the findings presented in the study (Saunders, Lewis, and Thorn, 2019). Furthermore, since the literature reviews did not require any form of transcription, the next important strategy would entail coding after skimming through the articles. The analysis entailed coding the findings based on the similarity of the

subject they covered and identifying recurrent themes. The articles covered several important themes: UNHCR violations, political prisoners, mental health issues, and poor prison conditions. These themes form the main premise of the study. Thematic analysis was essential in combining the key findings based on these themes to give a broader picture of the human rights violations from the findings.

4.4. Reliability and Validity

Reliability and validity are very important in this article, as these concepts define the quality of the study. Reliability has to do with measuring things to offer internal consistency and replicability. Replicability means that if a researcher uses the same measures, methods, and samples again, they will establish the same findings (Bellamy, 2013). That was why this research process was kept transparent and tried to pay attention to every detail. So if this investigation is carried out again, the findings should be the same (Kvale & Brinkmann, 2009).

Validity refers to how we approach the truth we want to test (Bellamy, 2013). Validity is responsible for measuring what was supposed to be measured (Kvale & Brinkmann, 2009) and was established through purely selecting reliable databases where articles published were peer-reviewed and analyzed by other existing scholars. Notably, this approach has been essential in ensuring that the study only used valid, reliable, and credible sources to evaluate findings. The papers used in the study have been provided, making it easier to replicate the study if another scholar or researcher adopts the same research framework as this one.

5. LITERATURE REVIEW

5.1. Introduction

More than 3000 Palestinians from the Gaza strip and West Bank were held prisoners in Israel in violation of the 4th Geneva Convention. More than 1400 prisoners were serving life sentences, and they were born in inhumane conditions with a lack of health care. Additionally, other 53 people were held as administrative detainees under poor conditions without trial or effective judicial review of their detention. Further, the U.N. Commission on Human Rights report has indicated the execution of hundreds of prisoners in Iraq in the so-called prison cleaning campaign where those opposed to government policies were executed (Kagan, 2018).

Therefore, this instance illustrates the victimization in prisons in the Middle East countries. The report on torture by the U.N. Commission of Human Rights also indicated the ill-treatment and torture of prisoners in Saudi Arabia in Priman prison located in Jeddah. The report also indicated crowding in prisons, yet the temperatures in this country reached higher than 54 degrees Celsius. Priman prison also lacked medical facilities for prisoners. In Syria, an unconfirmed number of Lebanese political prisoners and Syrians underwent cruelty due to not denouncing their political beliefs. Even though imprisoned from unfair trials, they faced medical negligence whose decisions could not be appealed to higher courts. Iran has a record for the largest incarceration inmate population in the world. Since the 1979 Islamic revolution, there has never been a prison

construction in Iran, hence the crowding of prisoners and inadequate health facilities. It is indicated that 4000 inmates have access to only one doctor. Political prisoners are tortured and treated inhumanely due to their political stands to punish them and create fear among the people of Iran (Hasso, 2017). Therefore, these literature sources indicate the level of victimization in prisons in the Middle East. In many detention centers in the Middle East, prisoners are denied basic things, such as health care, food, and protection from infectious diseases (Amar, 2017). Therefore, prisons in the Middle East should implement the United Nations and the Council of Europe laws to limit the abuse occurring in prisons to ensure equal health care. The primary purpose of prisons is to enable individuals to discover the type of people they are and define the relationship between their personality and criminality. In the Middle East, prisons are severely deprived of basic needs, overcrowded, and lack exercise (Hasso, 2017). Hence, this research will seek to address the victimization of prisoners in the Middle East and the lack of fundamental human rights. The study will also help raise ideas about possible solutions to reduce victimization in Middle East prisons.

5.2. Torture

In most Middle East prisons, detainees get subjected to months of psychological and physical torture. The victimization is so intense that prisoners find it hard to survive, leading to cases of suicide. It is absurd that most inmates are falsely accused of participating in wars occurring within the region. Prisoners are tortured using electric shocks on sensitive parts of the body and tortured using brutal methods, such as getting suspended from the ceiling (Hasso, 2017). Therefore, victimization and violation of human rights in Middle East countries is a shame for the whole world, and much effort is needed to eliminate it. There have been several studies on how victimization occurs. It has been noted that around 22% of prisoners are forced into some form of sexual harassment in Middle East prisons. Some of the acts occurring in prisons are rape, and this problem leaves many people traumatized and suffering from low self-esteem. Research indicates that about 16% of detainees have been injured while incarcerated. There are more than 5,000 deaths in prisons, with 5% of them classified as homicide (Amar, 2017). Therefore, these incidences illustrate the impact of prisoners' mental health and the deaths occurring due to negligence.

5.3. Adverse prison conditions

The lack of medical care in Middle East prisons and the inability to get adequate food have forced inmates to live with various medical conditions that eventually lead to death. Human rights activists in the region indicate that prison conditions have remained a problem of significant note. Human rights centers for prisoners in the Middle East countries have repeatedly reported that medical care for prisoners is grossly inadequate, especially for those with serious diseases. The negligence of medical practitioners in prisons requires urgent remedy. For example, at Saydnaya Military Prison in Syria, the doctor visits the facility once a month. The few who manage to be attended to by a physician are examined verbally and remain four meters away from the doctor. Many prisoners are accused of pretending to be sick (Hasso, 2017).

Conditions such as poor ventilation, sanitation, overcrowding, and poor diet indicate the link between abysmal conditions and the spread of illnesses such as tuberculosis. In 1999, the United Nations raised concerns due to the number of prisoners executed at the Abu

Ghraib prison in Iraq in what the country termed a prison cleansing campaign (Amar, 2017). Therefore, the lack of adherence to fundamental human rights is unbelievable in Middle East countries.

In the study “prison simulation”, the participants were divided into prisoners and guards and given guidelines to act in a natural prison environment. The outcome of this study showed the participants had shown signs of traumatization. The study is known as the Stanford Prison Experiment, and the result was that one-third of the prisoners expressed “sadistic” behaviors. Another thing that the study mentioned is that groups are dangerous, meaning that people are losing the ability to use moral judgment once in a group where the role by itself (the one of the guards) causes the pressure. The study concluded that when people belong to groups of unequal power, the cruel and vile behavior of the group with power is inevitable (Amar, 2017). Therefore, illustrating the victimization in prisons.

5.4. Prisoner victimization

Middle East prisons have been in the spotlight for the victimization of prisoners. Tens of thousands of prisoners in detention camps have been tortured beyond levels they can endure (Basoglu et al., 2001). Research indicates that prisons in the Middle East are becoming increasingly diverse and violent, and the issue has created widespread implications within detention centers. Although the problem of violence is not new in prisons, the focus has shifted to investigating the effect of prison victimization.

There have been several studies on the various ways in which victimization occurs and what responses to it are possible. It has been noted that around 22% of prisoners are forced into some form of sexual harassment in Middle East prisons. Some of the acts occurring in prisons are rape, and this problem is leaving many people traumatized and suffering from low self-esteem. Research indicates that about 16% of detainees have been injured while incarcerated (Shalabi, 2017). There are more than 5,000 deaths in prisons, with 5% of them classified as homicide (Shalabi, 2017). There are also other forms of victimization, such as verbal and emotional assault, that are prevalent but hard to measure.

In most Middle East prisons, detainees get subjected to months of psychological and physical torture. The victimization is so intense that prisoners find it hard to survive, leading to cases of suicide. It is absurd that most of the inmates are accused falsely of participating in wars occurring within the region. Prisoners are tortured using electric shocks on sensitive parts of the body; they are tortured using brutal methods, such as getting suspended from the ceiling (Ajunwa, 2014). The environment is one of deprivation, and it influences how well prisoners adapt to prison life.

Sexual harassment in prisons is difficult to assess because of the fear of appraisal by the perpetrator and the stigma associated with rape. Sexual victimization occurs among 1% to 40% of the inmates (Karayel et al., 2019). However, the numbers vary with the method of the survey including the phrasing of the questions, sampling method, and sample size. Sexual victimization has adverse effects on the emotional welfare of the victims. Most of them experience nervousness, social apprehension, depression, and recurring memories, which may lead to suicidal thoughts (Iganski & Levin, 2015).

According to the United Nations, torture is defined as the suffering of severe pain, mental or physical that is intentionally inflicted with a specific purpose, such as to punish or obtain a

confession (Nowak, 2014). Torture also includes less extreme but substantial actions, like inhumane, degrading, or cruel treatment, which is capable of causing suffering and pain, even when not done for a specific purpose. International laws prohibit torture, and there are no circumstances that support it.

However, human rights reports indicate that torture is widely practiced in Middle East prisons. It is sickening to note that detainees have to endure extended periods of receiving bloody beatings, being hanged from the ceiling, receiving electric shocks, or even getting hanged naked from the prison fences (Al-Fijawi, 2019). Detainees are also forced to do inhuman things, such as acting like donkeys, dogs, and cats while being beaten whenever they fail to bray or bark correctly (ibid). Such torture has led to the death of thousands of prisoners, and this is made worse when they are neglected when in pain or when affected by the disease. Based on the details provided by human rights groups in Syria, more than 14,000 people have died in Syrian prisons due to torture (Shalabi, 2017). They consider the deaths as having been caused by dire conditions in the jails that were labeled extermination camps by the United Nations.

5.5. Healthcare Inadequacies

The lack of medical care in Middle East prisons, together with the inability to get adequate food, has forced inmates to live with various medical conditions that eventually lead to death. Human rights activists in the region indicate that prison conditions have remained a problem of significant note (Zentella, 2013). Human rights centers for the assistance of prisoners have repeatedly reported that medical care for prisoners is grossly inadequate, especially for those with serious diseases, and the negligence of medical practitioners in prisons requires urgent remedy (Zentella, 2013). For example, at Saydnaya Military Prison in Syria, the doctor visits the facility once a month (Zentella, 2013). For the few that manage to get attended by a physician, they were examined verbally, they had to remain four meters away from the doctor, and they were accused of pretending to be sick. Conditions such as poor ventilation, sanitation, overcrowding, and poor diet are an indication of the link between abysmal conditions and the spread of illnesses such as tuberculosis. In the year 1999, the United Nations raised concerns due to the number of prisoners executed at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq in what the country termed as a prison cleansing campaign (Stanley, 2013).

According to the World Health Organization, mental health problems affect over 450 million people in the world, and such disorders are most prevalent in prison populations (Shalabi, 2017). The high rates of mental illness are associated with several factors. First, people think that those with psychiatric conditions are a danger to the public. Also, most people in society have a low tolerance for disturbing or challenging behavior. The lack of mental health services in the Middle East's concentration camps causes mental problems that take years to resolve.

Detention centers are bad for mental health. Some of the elements that trigger problems include factors such as various forms of violence and victimization, overcrowding, lack of privacy, or conversely, forced solitude, isolation from one's social network, lack of meaningful activity, and insecurity about prospects (Welch, 2019). Other challenges include a lack of medical services and especially mental health services and an increased risk of suicide. After being released from prison, many people experience discrimination and stigmatization, which affects their mental health (Friedrichs, 2012). They are discriminated

against in the economic and social sphere due to misconceptions associated with people who have spent time in prison (Zurbriggen, 2008).

Although mental health can be treated, there are limited resources in the Middle East, meaning that they cannot meet the needs of everyone. Worse still, the few resources available are often misused. One of the mental health disorders that most prisoners experience after getting released from prison is post-incarceration syndrome. The symptoms are more severe for those who experienced the various forms of victimization when in prison. It is due to having experienced punishment that offers little opportunity for rehabilitation, vocational training, or education. The causes of this disorder include institutionalized personality traits. It is due to the high level of helplessness encountered in prison as a result of experiencing various deprivations. Post-traumatic stress disorder is also a challenge experienced by prisoners after release. It occurs due to the trauma originating in the torture or sexual assault occurring in detention centers. Individuals may develop periodic outbursts of anger and may suffer from cognitive impairment as well as developing negative feelings about themselves. Antisocial personality traits may also develop in an individual after leaving prison. It is a passive-aggressive mechanism established by the person to cope with the abuse they faced when in jail, whether it was mistreatment by fellow inmates or by the authorities (al-Fijawi et al., 2019). Some of the individuals may turn to substance abuse as a way of self-medicating to escape the trauma or disorders caused by their time in prison.

According to the World Health Organization, mental health problems affect over 450 million people in the world, and such disorders are most prevalent in prison populations (Shalabi, 2017). The high rates of mental illness are associated with several factors. First, people think that those with psychiatric conditions are a danger to the public. Also, most people in society have a low tolerance for disturbing or challenging behavior. The lack of mental health services in the Middle East's concentration camps causes mental problems that take years to resolve.

Detention centers are bad for mental health. Some of the elements that trigger problems include factors such as various forms of violence and victimization, overcrowding, lack of privacy, or conversely, forced solitude, isolation from one's social network, lack of meaningful activity, and insecurity about prospects (Welch, 2019). Other challenges include a lack of medical services and especially mental health services and an increased risk of suicide. After being released from prison, many people experience discrimination and stigmatization, which affects their mental health (Friedrichs, 2012). They are discriminated against in the economic and social sphere due to misconceptions associated with people who have spent time in prison (Zurbriggen, 2008).

Although mental health can be treated, there are limited resources in the Middle East, meaning that they cannot meet the needs of everyone. Worse still, the few resources available are often misused. One of the mental health disorders that most prisoners experience after getting released from prison is post-incarceration syndrome. The symptoms are more severe for those who experienced the various forms of victimization when in prison. It is due to having experienced punishment that offers little opportunity for rehabilitation, vocational training, or education. The causes of this disorder include institutionalized personality traits. It is due to the high level of helplessness encountered in prison as a result of experiencing various deprivations. Post-traumatic stress disorder is also a challenge experienced by prisoners after release. It occurs due to the trauma originating in the torture or sexual assault occurring in detention centers.

Individuals may develop periodic outbursts of anger and may suffer from cognitive impairment as well as developing negative feelings about themselves. Antisocial personality traits may also develop in an individual after leaving prison. It is a passive-aggressive mechanism established by the person to cope with the abuse they faced when in jail, whether it was mistreatment by fellow inmates or by the authorities (al-Fijawi et al., 2019). Some of the individuals may turn to substance abuse as a way of self-medicating to escape the trauma or disorders caused by their time in prison.

In Iraq, the government is accused of holding up to 1269 detainees that include young boys aged about 13 without charge (Shalabi, 2017). The detainees are held in awful conditions and are denied access to medical care. Human rights groups indicate that at least four people die each day due to a lack of medical care and horrendous conditions. The state of the prisons is an indication that the government has not put measures in place to ensure they meet the required standards. In Syria, detainees are killed in makeshift and official detention centers in systematized mass violence (Al-Fijawi et al., 2019).

Reports indicate that prisoners held by the Syrian government were beaten to death or died due to sustained injuries after torture. Inhumane living conditions also contributed to the death of many inmates. The Syrian government is accused of crimes against humanity, including murder, extermination, rape, torture, and other forms of sexual harassment enforced disappearance, and imprisonment (Li et al., 2020).

The United Nations must therefore take notes of these crimes against humanity and take action. Several applicable laws can be used by the United Nations to stop the crimes against humanity committed by Iraqi and Syrian governments. International human rights law imposes clear obligations on governments during the war on how all people in their custody should be treated. Prisoners should be protected from life-threatening conditions and violence, including ill-treatment and torture, and should be treated humanely (Kramer & Michalowski, 2005).

Sufficient food and medical care should be provided. It is the responsibility of the nation to carry the burden of proving that the death of a person in their custody is not due to negligence. All deaths of prisoners are supposed to be subjected to a transparent, comprehensive, and independent investigation. Article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Convention - to which Syria is a member state - contains legally binding provisions applicable to torture, murder, and execution without due process (Shalabi, 2017).

The bill also binds all non-state members involved in hostilities. Non-state armed groups are expected to protect and respect the rights of persons under their custody. These laws provide the United Nations with the platform to ensure the Syrian and Iraqi governments are held accountable for the deaths and ill-treatment of detainees in their prisons and are charged for their crimes.

6. FINDINGS

6.1. UNHCR violations

All the articles highlighted some of the issues about the violation of various Human rights provisions, outlining issues such as unlawful government-sanctioned executions (Kagan, 2018; Li et al., 2020; Shalabi, 2017), medical negligence (Hasso, 2017; Amar, 2017; Zentella, 2013), intense victimization sometimes leading to suicide (Basoglu et al., 2001; Shalabi, 2017; Iganski & Levin, 2015; Ajunwa, 2014), abuse and psychological and physical torture (Hasso, 2017; Ajunwa, 2014; Nowak, 2014; Al-Fijawi, 2019; Shalabi, 2017; Kramer & Michalowski, 2005; Swales et al., 2008) and a handful of other violations. Other forms of human rights violations presented included insufficient food leading to malnutrition and death (Hasso, 2017) and sexual abuse (Iganski & Levin, 2015; Karayel et al., 2019; al-Fijawi et al., 2019), and a handful of other ethical violations. Collectively, the scholars believe that a remedy is needed in these prisons, with the UN and the WHO being more involved in tackling the human rights violations in these prisons. Although most of the scholars said that some of the challenges that the prisoners face in the Middle East are extremist and violate UN human rights, they also argued that the UN had neglected these facts irrespective of having many facts indicating that the incidences are recurrent in the prisons in the country (Iganski & Levin, 2015; Ajunwa, 2014; Al-Fijawi, 2019). These findings indicate that irrespective of the blame-shifting taking place, where the UN and western powers are quick to blame the Middle Eastern governments for their negligence regarding the situation in the prisons, the UN, WHO, and other international agencies responsible for safeguarding the human rights and freedoms are equally liable for being negligent in handling the issue as they should have.

6.2. Political Prisoners

Various scholars have indicated that extreme violence in prisons, executions without due process, and extreme victimization were particularly higher among political prisoners the existing government had targeted (Hasso, 2017; Amar, 2017). Evidence indicates that even in prisons where the conditions were a bit humane, the political prisoners living in these prisons had a far worse life than the rest of the prisoners. In addition to being subjected to the most inhumane acts, political prisoners were particularly targeted to be tortured physically and psychologically, subjected to more violence by the guards, and placed in areas with poor ventilation, sanitation, and other prison conditions, increasing the intensity of their suffering (Basoglu et al., 2001; Ajunwa, 2014). Further evidence indicated that this particular demographic would be subjected to extreme measures that would be an absolute violation of their basic human rights and dignity, such as being electrocuted in their private parts to get a confession, being hanged naked from electric fences, and execution without due process (Nowak, 2014; Al-Fijawi, 2019; Shalabi, 2017; Zentella, 2013; Stanley, 2013). Often, while other prisoners are likely to leave the prison system, even if their self-esteem is completely shattered or with poor mental health, most political prisoners rarely leave Middle Eastern prisons (Stanley, 2013). The intense violation of human rights for this demographic is shocking, but considering the oppressive nature of the existing modes of government, it is somewhat expected. Despite this, most scholars believe that transitioning into fully democratic countries could improve the state that political prisoners are subjected to. Although the poor prison conditions might have resulted from poor funding, the state of

political prisoners appears to be targeted and sanctioned by the higher-ups, thereby making their condition worse than that of the general prison population. In addition to introducing a democratic system, having UN oversight or human rights monitors stationed throughout the countries to ensure that due process is given to all political prisoners would also be instrumental. Nevertheless, such a change would not be as easy as most people anticipate.

6.3. Mental Health Issues

The scholars outlined the poor healthcare services administered in the prisons as another core human rights violation. Like members of the general population, prisoners should have access to adequate healthcare for them to survive and thrive in whatever conditions they are placed in. However, the theme of poor health services has been cited as being a common trait characterizing the Middle Eastern hospitals (Al-Fijawi et al., 2019; Elger, 2011; Kagan, 2018; Hasso, 2017; Amar, 2017; Shalabi, 2017; Welch, 2019). In addition to poor administration of health services, with most prisons being given access to a doctor as infrequent as once a month, the issue had escalated and created an unwanted situation making prisoners' health extremely adverse when they leave the prison compared to when they got into the prison. However, the most cited common problem affecting most prisoners was not their physical health but mental health. The adverse prison conditions are not conducive to the prisoners' mental health. Issues such as physical abuse by both guards and prisoners, sexual abuse, torture, poor sanitation and ventilation, increased risk of suicide, post-traumatic disorders from the conditions which the people were accustomed to in prisons such as the tortures, executions, and suicides, and post-incarceration syndrome, have been outlined as being critical in affecting the overall mental health wellbeing of the prisoners (Shalabi, 2017; Welch, 2019; Friedrichs, 2012; Zurbriggen, 2008; Al-Fijawi et al., 2019; Li et al., 2020; Shalabi, 2019; Kramer & Michalowski, 2005). As mental health awareness becomes a global phenomenon, the inability to cater to the prison demographic's mental wellbeing is also cited as being a key component of the human rights violation that the Middle Eastern prisons support, making it prudent to develop a policy to help these individuals while incarcerated. Although mental health is not listed as a human right, the administration and access to healthcare services for all prisoners is a basic right that would reduce the severity of these mental conditions extensively. The treatment of prisoners as second-class citizens, which is particularly common in the Middle East, should be protested, a role that human rights activists in the region have taken to heart.

6.4. Poor Prison Conditions

Another recurrent theme evident throughout the studies is the poor conditions within the prisons. Some of the scholars presented the prison conditions in these prisons as inhumane and unbearable, citing issues such as the lack of air conditioning, despite the countries having temperatures as high as 54OC, overcrowding, poor sanitation, unhealthy food, inadequate basic needs, medical negligence, and rampant spread of diseases such as tuberculosis (Kagan, 2018; Hasso, 2017; Stanley, 2013; Zentella, 2013; Nowak, 2014). The prison conditions made the environment increasingly unbearable and contributed to various other unwanted outcomes such as increased violence due to overpopulation, the spread of diseases, and the victimization of weaker prisoners since

the prisoners had to compete for the existing resources. Governments can improve prison conditions through increased prison system funding, which is a hard sell since the countries already have inadequate funds for other infrastructural and social projects to direct them to the prison system. Of all the main themes identified, this was the hardest to remedy, indicating that governments can only make gradual progress in improving the prison conditions.

7. DISCUSSION

The United Nations can use the findings of this study to develop policies and practices that protect individuals against victimization when in the custody of their governments. There are certain factors that the United Nations should consider as severe and that need to be addressed. Age, mental illness, and race are significant factors in victimization in Middle East prisons. Demanding increased compliance with the human rights of prisoners in these countries is necessary, with potential repercussions for governments that are found to be violating these statutes (Li et al., 2020). First, the UN must demand that the prisoners are treated fairly and justly, ensuring that they undergo a due process before being executed, irrespective of their imprisoned crimes. Such a policy would be instrumental in curbing the current torture and physical abuse levels that political prisoners are exposed to. Political prisoners are merely people exercising their rights to free speech, fighting for democracy or human rights, and opposing authoritarian regimes. Although their acts of boldness might have landed them in these prisons, the government still must ensure that they protect these individuals in the current environment in which they exist.

Secondly, the UN should pass requirements that all prisons should have, such as providing the necessary basic needs for the prisoners. Healthcare services are an essential component that is readily needed in these prisons. Governments must invest in healthcare extensively, particularly in the prisons, to ensure that the prisoners have access to healthcare services, counseling services for those dealing with mental health issues, and a physician to whom they can report certain human rights violations such as sexual abuse (Basoglu et al., 2001).

Evidence indicates that the government's negligence often perpetrates most human rights violations. Demanding increased compliance from respective governments should be an issue of utmost consideration when developing policies to regulate the conditions in various prisons in the Middle East. Following these findings, the UN should primarily focus on addressing these four main themes:

- Human rights violations.
- Improved mental and physical healthcare services.
- Protecting political prisoners.
- Improving the living conditions in prisons in the region.

8. LIMITATIONS

The paper's main emphasis was relying on secondary data sources, which are prone to researchers' bias, making it hard to determine if these incidences were exaggerated or presented as they are. Secondly, most of the scholars come from a western background where they expect the prison conditions worldwide to be similar to that of prisons in their countries.

Since nations vary greatly in their wealth and financial capacities, such an outcome might be hard to achieve. In contrast, most scholars from within the regions have published their studies in Arabic, which led to their exclusion in this study. Further assessment of the area is needed, with a first-hand examination of the prisons essential to provide a concrete paper. Nevertheless, since such an undertaking would be quite expensive and time-consuming, and most of the sources used in this systematic review were peer-reviewed, the findings of this paper can be termed reliable.

9. CONCLUSION

According to the World Health Organization, mental health problems affect over 450 million people globally, and such disorders are most prevalent in prison populations. The high rates of mental illness are associated with several factors. First, people think that those with psychiatric conditions are a danger to the public. Also, most people in society have a low tolerance for disturbing or challenging behaviour (Hasso, 2017). Therefore the lack of mental health services in the Middle East's concentration camps fuels existing mental problems.

The United Nations should also ensure that all people should have the right to justice and humane treatment. Unfair trials should also be abolished in the military field courts in line with the international law of fair trials. The Middle East region should also offer a guarantee that all those held in prison will be protected from victimization and allowed to access their lawyers and families. The UN human rights council should begin investigations into authorities found violating the rights of prisoners.

Another significant result was the explanation of the guards behavior and why they were reacting in such a way. As Zimbardo mentions in years of war the unequal power is being combined with unequal humanity, so people are beginning to degenerate and go with the ones that have the power regardless of their ethical beliefs (Zimbardo, 1971).

10. REFERENCES

- Ajunwa, I. (2014). Bad Barrels: An Organizational-Based Analysis of the Human Rights Abuses at Abu Ghraib Prison. *U. Pa. JL & Soc. Change*, 17, 75
- Al-Fijawi, M. F. A., Shah, M. A., Aung, U. T., & Muhammad, M. K. (2019). Violations of Basic Rights of Prisoners in Conventional and Islamic Law: Theory and Practice. *Intellectual Discourse*, 27(2), 455-474.
- Amar, P. (2017). Policing and Prisons in the Middle East: Formations of Coercion. *Arab Studies Journal*.
<https://www.proquest.com/openview/fe25ff00c625d86ec08905c51751ed3c/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=13619119>
- Bellamy, C., (2013). *Principles of Methodology: Research Design in Social Science* 1st Edition. London: SAGE Publications Ltd.
- Basoglu, M., Jaranson, J. M., Mollica, R., & Kastrup, M. (2001). Torture and mental health. In *The mental health consequences of torture* (pp. 35-62).
- Bergmann, W., (2008). Anti-Semitic Attitudes in Europe: A comparative Perspective. *Journal of Social Issues*, Vol. 64, No. 2, pp. 343-362.
- Coyle, A. (2009). *Handbook for prison staff. Second edition. A Human Rights Approach to Prison Management*. Springer, Boston, MA. Second. London, United Kingdom: International centre for Prison Studies
- De Châtel, F. (2014). The Role of Drought and Climate Change in the Syrian Uprising: Untangling the Triggers of the Revolution. *Middle Eastern Studies*, 50(4), 521-535.
- Dukhan, H. (2014). Tribes and Tribalism in the Syrian Uprising . *Tribes & Neighbourhoods: The Dynamic of Subtlety* , 1-28.
- Elger, B. S. (2011). 'Prison medicine, public health policy and ethics: the Geneva experience', *Swiss Med Wkly*, p. 141,
- EMN Sweden, EMN Policy Report 2015 - Sweden (Migrationsverket (Swedish Migration Agency), 2016), 6.
http://www.emnsweden.se/download/18.2d998ffc151ac38715917abb/1484748703258/Po%20licy%20Report%20Sweden_2015.pdf
- Fellner, J. (2006). *A Conundrum for Corrections, A Tragedy for Prisoners: Prisons As Facilities for the Mentally Ill*
- Friedrichs, D. O. (2012). Resisting state crime as a criminological project in the context of the Arab Spring. In *State crime and resistance* (pp. 27-40). Routledge.

- Fröhlich, C. J. (2016). Climate migrants as protestors? Dispelling Misconceptions about global environmental change in pre-revolutionary Syria. *Contemporary Levant*, 1(1), 38-50.
- Gibbons, J.J. & Katzenbach, N. (2006). *Confronting confinement: A report of the Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons*. Washington, D.C.: Vera Institute of Justice.
- Gibbs, T. (2019). Mandela, Human Rights and the Making of South Africa's Transformative Constitution. *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 45(6), 1131- 1149.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03057070.2019.1687999>
- Gross, B. (2008). Prison violence: Does brutality come with the badge? *The Forensic Examiner*, (800)592-1399.
- Haslam, S.A., & Reicher, S.D. (2005). The psychology of tyranny: Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely—or does it? *Scientific American Mind*, 16(3), 44-51.
- Hathout, M., (2006). *In Pursuit of Justice: The Jurisprudence of Human Rights in Islam*. Los Angeles: Muslim Public Affairs Council.
- Hasso, F. (2017). *Consuming Desires: Family Crisis and the state in the Middle East*. Stanford University Press.
https://books.google.co.ke/books?hl=en&lr=&id=JpUx4dCUPdoC&oi=fnd&pg=PR7&dq=+State+of+prisons+in+the+Middle+East+&ots=ZtjjUAUPo4&sig=IrYfuvrvOQ7W9Xoo6RraVj0KzXU&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=State%20of%20prisons%20in%20the%20Middle%20East&f=false
- Iganski, P., & Levin, J. (2015). *Hate crime: a global perspective*. Routledge.
- Kagan, M. (2018). 'We Live in a Country of UNHCR': The U.N. Surrogate State and Refugee Policy in the Middle East. *The U.N. Refugee Agency: Policy Development & Evaluation Service Research Paper*, (201).
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1957371
- Karayel, A. H. K., Sinmaz, K., & Bakir, Z. Z. (2019). *Captive women in the prisons of Syria*.
- King, R. D. and Wincup, E. (2008). *Doing research on crime and justice*. Oxford University Press.
- Kramer, R. C., & Michalowski, R. J. (2005). War, aggression and state crime: A criminological analysis of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. *British Journal of Criminology*, 45(4), 446-469.
- Kraus, S., Breier, M., & Dasí-Rodríguez, S. (2020). The art of crafting a systematic literature review in entrepreneurship research. *International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal*, 16(3), 1023-1042.

- Kvale, S., Brinkmann, S., (2009). *InterViews Learning the Craft of Qualitative Research Interviewing* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc.
- Li, M., Leidner, B., & Fernandez-Campos, S. (2020). Stepping into Perpetrators' Shoes: How Ingroup Transgressions and Victimization Shape Support for Retributive Justice through Perspective-Taking With Perpetrators. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 46(3), 424-438.
- Mohamed Shaffril, H. A., Samsuddin, S. F., & Abu Samah, A. (2021). The ABC of systematic literature review: The basic methodological guidance for beginners. *Quality & Quantity*, 55(4), 1319-1346
- Milgram, S. (1974). *Obedience to authority*. New York, N.Y.: Harper & Row.
- N.K.Saunders, Lewis, P. and Thorn (2019). *Research Methods for Business Students - Eight Edition*.
- Nowak, M. (2014). Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In *The Oxford Handbook of International Law in Armed Conflict*.
- OECD, Promoting Well Being and Inclusiveness in Sweden, Better Policies Series” (OECD publications, August 2016), 8. <https://www.oecd.org/sweden/promoting-wellbeing-and-inclusiveness-in-sweden.pdf>
- Phillip Zimbardo, *Stanford Prison Experiment: A Simulation Study of the Psychology of Imprisonment Conducted at Stanford University*, STANFORD UNIVERSITY, <http://www.prisonexp.org> (last visited February 20, 2021).
- Porpora, D. V., Nikolaev, A., and Hagemann, J., (2010). Abuse, Torture, Frames, and the Washington Post.” *Journal of Communication. International Communication Association* 60 (2), 254-270.
- Schweizer, G. (2015). *Syrien Verstehen - Geschichte, Gesellschaft und Religion*. Stuttgart: Klett-Cotta Verlag.
- Selby, J. (2019). Climate change and the Syrian civil war, Part II: The Jazira's agrarian crisis. *Geoforum*, 101, 260-274.
- Shalabi, M. (2017). *Spiritual Humiliation: Sectarian Torture Tactics in Assad's Prisons*.
- Stanley, E. (2008). *Torture, truth and justice: The case of Timor-Leste*. Routledge.
- Stanley, E. (2013). Towards a criminology for human rights. In *expanding the criminological imagination* (pp. 180-209). Willan.
- Swales, L. A. et al. (2008). *Prison victimization: high-risk characteristics and prevention*. United Nations (2005). *Human Rights and Prisons: A Compilation of International Human Rights Instruments Concerning the Administration of Justice*. Geneva, Switzerland: United Nations Publication

- Tajfel, H., (1979). Individuals and groups in social psychology. *British Journal of clinical psychology* , pp. 33-47.
- Tajfel, H., Turner, J.C., (1986). The social identity theory of an intergroup behavior. *Psychology of Intergroup Relations*, pp. 276-293.
- Tony Karon, How the Prison Scandal Sabotages the U.S. in Iraq, *TIME WORLD* (May 4, 2004), <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,632967,00.html>
- Welch, K. (2019). Race, Ethnicity, and the War on Terror. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice*.
- Zentella, Y. (2013). Unsolicited Civilian Victimization: The Americas and the Middle East.
- Zimbardo, P. G. (1971). The power and pathology of imprisonment. *Congressional Record*. Hearings before Subcommittee No. 3 of the Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, 92nd Congress, First Session on Corrections, Part II, Prisons, Prison Reform, and Prisoners'
- Zurbriggen, E. L. (2008). Sexualized torture and abuse at Abu Ghraib prison: Feminist psychological analyses. *Feminism & Psychology*, 18(3), 301-320.