**Interview with Mona Jabais, sister of wounded prisoner Isra Jabais from Jabal al-Mukaber in occupied Jerusalem:**

**By Fayhaa Shalash**

**1. How do you describe the health status of Israa?**

Israa suffers from 65% burns in her body with varying degrees, including burns from the third degree, eight of her fingers were amputated as a result of these burns, and the rest of her fingers were severely damaged; she has a problem in her right eye and she does not see very well. She also has a problem in her ears, which became attached to her head. Her body can’t move her head forward or backward and she has an eating difficulty because her mouth was pushed aside and it became difficult for her get food inside. She always suffers from high temperatures in her body forcing her to wear light clothing even in winter to reduce the temperature. She also takes baths using cold water even in winter. She has developed certain allergies as cracks in her burned skin appeared, from which bleeding is continuing and we are afraid of ulcers. She can’t breathe from her nose, and she only does so through the mouth. All of this is coupled with her psychological distress, which is turning into nightmares. She suffers from medical negligence against her and she was transferred to a prison following her arrest before finishing her treatment at the hospital, which lasted for three months and ten days, which is a very short period for someone in her situation. She was imprisoned as a regular prisoner without taking into account her health situation. Her teeth began to fall recently and following her request, a dentist got to see her for one time only, following lengthy delays but the prison service.

**2. Who visits Israa from her family and how is her morale during visits?**

I visit her regularly in addition to two of my sisters. We were banned from visiting her for one time at the beginning of her arrest. Her son Mutasim visited her once after a year and four months of a ban imposed on him; when he tried to visit her again a month ago he was prevented again. When he got to see her for the first time, I was with him, and of course my mother refrained from visiting her as she would not cope with the psychological pressure that would result from seeing her full of burns. The Israeli occupation made it difficult for us to see her, and her child was able to visit her finally. On that day, Israa brought a tiger mask used for children to hide her face because she feared that her son may not accept her due to burns, but when he saw her, he asked her to remove the mask. Her told her that she is more beautiful than tigers: I love you the way you are. She was happy because her son accepted her the way she is, and started crying because she wanted to stay with him longer. The prison service allowed him to see her for only ten minutes and when they brought him out, he said to them, “I want to stay with my mother. Do not deprive me of seeing her.” Muatasim’s silent reactions sometimes can’t be translated into words. When the visit finished, he asked me: My mother is beautiful true? I said to him, of course, he said she is beautiful now, but she was more beautiful. As for her morals, sometimes she feels broken and she complains about pain and tries to hide the pain and ask about our conditions, but we know that the worst pain of Israa is her internal pain. Sometimes, she asks herself: Why am I here? I woke up to find myself full of burns and my fingers cut off.

**3. How did you receive the news of her arrest and injury?**

The news was painful for everyone, before the night before the incident, I dreamed of a burnt woman and woke up to a nightmare. The day she was injured and burned, my brother came to me and showed me a picture posted by the occupation on social media of a car the occupation claimed that its owner tried to carry out a ramming attack. He asked me: Is not this Israa’s car? I told him never, but I knew it was hers. She was driving her car when it exploded near a police checkpoint. All the signs indicate that the vehicle was broken, but the occupation fired at the vehicle which made it explode. By doing so, the occupation forces smashed the body of Israa. We are used to suffering: the occupation demolished a house belonging to our family in 1998 and after the arrest of Israa they demolished our house again.

**4. What is your situation at home especially after Israa’s story has gone viral recently?**

My mother is going through a very difficult time. My father is crying like children. I tried to show that I am a source of strength, but from inside, I feel a burn more than Israa does and I cry a lot when I am alone. My mother is a very strong lady, but suddenly, she collapsed and she is always crying. She avoids appearing in front of cameras so as not to show her tears. We are very much touched because Israa was a person of fun in the house and she was a good sister and we were friends and not only sisters. We used to talk a lot and we would share our worries. She was my only friend. I didn’t have any other friend. Those who knew Israa knew how she was a kind-hearted and a helpful person to everyone without waiting a reward for doing any favor. Our little sister, Batoul, is very affected by what happened to Israa and she cries like children. She recalls many of her memories and she mixes tears with laughs. My siblings and I recall how she was defending us when older kids would try to bully us tin our neighborhood. We would ask, do you remember an event and how she helped and defended us? We ask God to bring her back to us smiling. We just want to provide needed treatment to her so that she could overcome her pains.