

A SPACE TO FEEL

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I discovered circus by chance.

I liked the way we were treated as equals. We made a circus group and by 2011 it was a full-time job.

The circus is all about feelings. We take a space to feel and then we translate it to movement. And always our feelings take us to the situation around us.

We're making something new, to stop the young generations from forgetting their identity and their feelings. There are many different types of circus, and for sure resistance and circus is a new type. I call it cic-istance.

On the day of my arrest, I was going from Jenin to Rammalah to see a music show. I had ordered six tickets for me and my friends.

On the way in the taxi, the Israeli soldiers stopped me and said that I have to get out. They searched me, asking my name and about my work in the circus.

I went with the gun to my head and all this action that happens only in the movies.

After being detained for three days I went to the court where they said you haven't done anything but we are waiting until you have done something.

After seven days I went back and they said we will keep you in administrative detention - an arrest without any charges - and on the way back I found that I had six months.

In the news, the spokesperson for the Minister of Israel says that I wanted to kill Israeli kids and that I use circus as a cover. It's crazy.

But in court, it wasn't like this, they don't say if my arrest is connected to circus. They say it's a secret reason. That I am active in politics... but it's not true, and even if it was, I would be proud. And even if it's true, what's the problem?

In my opinion, it's because I am active in the community, have a Palestinian Culture and speak in the shows about being Palestinian.

I had six months, then six months, then six months and then three. I lost two years of my life.

Economically prison affected me because you must pay a lot of money, to buy food, coffee, cigarettes, everything. They say as a joke that you need to take out a loan before going to jail.

I participated in the hunger strike and because of this, I have a hernia where the muscles of the stomach open. So as an artist, I am no longer any good. I didn't perform since I went out, but I hope in the future I can.

But in the end, I feel it is a good experience...for sure its bad... but I learned a lot about the occupation.

* On the 9 June 2023, Muhammad was once again taken by the Israeli army. On 10th July, the Israeli occupation military court ordered six months in administrative detention - imprisonment without charge or trial.