



GENOCIDE IN GAZA (IX)



Torture and Inhuman Treatment in Gaza

“They came with their dogs. They unleashed the dogs on us and started beating us. The dog that attacked us had a muzzle with very sharp edges. The muzzle and its claws left marks all over my body.”

18-year-old Muhammed Nazzal,
who is being held in Nafha Prison.



GENOCIDE in Gaza (IX)

Torture and Inhuman Treatment in Gaza

**THEMATIC REPORT
2026**

**GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TÜRKİYE
OMBUDSMAN INSTITUTION**

Kavaklıdere Mah. Zeytindalı Cad. No:4 Çankaya/ANKARA

iletisim@ombudsman.gov.tr

www.ombudsman.gov.tr

Genocide in Gaza “Thematic Report Series”

www.gazzesoykirim.org

<https://gazze.ombudsman.gov.tr/>

Owner of Rights on behalf of Ombudsman Institution

Mehmet AKARCA

General Coordinator

Fatma BENLİ YALÇIN

Working Group

Burak COŞKUN

Muhammet Emin DUMANOĞLU

Zübeyde BERKMAN KESGİN

Images

Anadolu Ajansı, Birleşmiş Milletler

Printing

TBMM Basımevi

ISBN

978-605-9468-30-5

The text and content included in this report may be reproduced provided the source is cited.



Warning: Sensitive Content

This report contains images that depict the devastating and brutal reality of torture and ill-treatment.

“Gaza Genocide” report prepared by the Ombudsman Institution of Türkiye is based on reports by United Nations (UN) agencies; resolutions of the UN General Assembly and Security Council; statements by UN officials and the Human Rights Council, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, and UNRWA; the report of the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry; the International Court of Justice’s provisional measures ruling against Israel for genocide; the International Criminal Court’s arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defense Minister Gallant; reports published by the UN and independent UN Special Rapporteurs; and reports by Israeli civil society organizations such as HaMoked, B’Tselem, Yesh Din, Physicians for Human Rights, Military Court Watch, Legal Center for Freedom of Movement (Gisha), Haaretz, Times of Israel, Channel 12, and other Israeli newspapers and television stations; Anadolu Agency, and other national press outlets; and Guardian, BBC, CNN, Al Jazeera, and other international press outlets; reports by international human rights organizations; research reports and photographs by international human rights organizations, health organizations, and journalists; testimonies by doctors and humanitarian aid workers serving in Gaza; news reports supported by satellite imagery; video footage shared with the international community; interviews conducted by our organization and other human rights organizations with people living in Gaza; statements by the President of the Republic of Türkiye and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; statements shared by Israeli officials with the international public; and testimonies from Palestinians released from prison.

As of October 7, 2023, numerous international organizations, including United Nations agencies, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Doctors Without Borders, Save the Children, and the Committee to Protect Journalists, have documented Israel’s commission of genocide in their reports. Even the Council of Europe and the European Union, which had previously failed to respond to ethnic cleansing practices and genocide, have reached a point where they can no longer deny the obvious truth as we approach 2025 and have begun to make statements. Israel’s own civil society organizations, media outlets, and politicians are also clearly stating that what is being done to Palestinians constitutes genocide.

The Ombudsman Institution’s special report on the “Gaza Genocide” was published in February 2024 under the auspices of the Presidency of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, titled “From the World’s Largest Open-Air Prison to the World’s Largest Children’s Cemetery, stating that what was happening constituted genocide, only five months into the attacks. Our special report has been shared with all relevant parties, including the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. Due to the continuation of genocidal acts from February 2024 to the present, the acts that should be subject to criminal investigation have been classified according to their subject matter and compiled under the main heading “Genocide in Gaza,” including “ Women in Gaza,” “Prohibited Weapons in Gaza,” “Children in Gaza,” “Silent Death: Famine in Gaza,” “Journalists in Gaza,” “The Longest Occupation of the Century: Palestine,” “Healthcare Workers in Gaza,” and “Ethnic Cleansing in Gaza: Death - Destruction - Displacement.”

With ongoing thematic report efforts, the Ombudsman Institution, a constitutional public entity for seeking legal remedies conducting numerous national and international initiatives, is fulfilling its obligation to legally combat genocide, to ensure the protection of the rights of Palestinian children, women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and all innocent civilians who are victims of genocide, torture, and inhuman treatment, and, through the present report, to place on record, for the historical record, efforts aimed at preventing Palestinians from being subjected to torture and inhuman or degrading treatment.

Prohibition of Torture and Ill-Treatment in International Humanitarian Law Instruments

The prohibition of subjecting any person to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as the prohibition of arbitrary arrest, detention, or exile, constitute fundamental principles of human rights enshrined in international human rights conventions.

Pursuant to Article 75 (“Fundamental Guarantees”) of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, any person arrested, detained, or taken into custody for actions related to an armed conflict shall be informed promptly, in a language he or she understands, of the reasons why such measures have been taken. Except in cases of arrest or detention for penal offences, such persons shall be released as soon as the circumstances justifying the arrest, detention, or custody have ceased to exist.

Article 7 of the Rome Statute provides that imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental rules of international law, as well as torture and acts of sexual violence, when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, constitute crimes against humanity.



The treatment to which Palestinians have been subjected disregards the entirety of the provisions of international humanitarian law.



Number of Palestinians in Israeli Prisons



According to reports by local and international human rights organizations;

Since 1967, Israel has detained more than **800,000** Palestinians. **Prior to October 7**, there were **5,250** Palestinians in Israeli prisons, including 180 children, 37 women, and 1,319 administrative detainees.

After October 7, the number of detainees increased rapidly, with thousands of Gazan workers employed in Israel being arrested and held in custody for weeks. On November 3, **3,026** Palestinian workers detained after October 7 were released and transferred to Gaza.

In January 2024, the number of Palestinians in Israeli prisons reached **9,000**, and by January 2024, this number had risen to **9,623**. **Approximately half of these are administrative detainees** who have not been charged or tried.

As of January 16, 2025, the number of Palestinian detainees is **10,400**. In 2025, Israel detained 7,000 Palestinians, including 600 children and 200 women. In October 2025, 1,968 detainees, including 1,700 administrative detainees, were released as part of a ceasefire.

According to statistics from the Israeli civil society organization HaMoked in October 2025, at least 3,500 Palestinians in Israeli prisons are being held in administrative detention without trial. According to the Israeli army's database, only **a quarter** of those detained in Gaza are classified as "combatants."

As of December 30, 2025, according to data from the Palestinian Prisoners' Society, **21,000 Palestinians** have been detained since October 7, 2023. Of these, **1,655 are children and 650 are women**. This number does not include Palestinians detained in the Gaza Strip or Palestinians in Israel.

As of December 30, 2025, the number of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons **exceeds 9,300**. It is reported that **360 children** are still being held in prison at the end of the year.

General Summary of Torture Cases in Israeli Prisons



“It was indescribable pain; hunger, unjust treatment, pressure, torture, and swearing; it was much more than you could ever imagine.”

Kamal Abu Shanab, 51, from Tulkarem in the West Bank, who lost 59 kilograms in Israeli prisons, dropping from 127 to 68 kilograms, and was released in October 2025

Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who is responsible for prisons in Israel, stated on June 30, 2024, that Palestinians held in Israeli prisons should be **“executed by shooting them in the head instead of giving them water and food.”** Ben-Gvir has repeatedly declared that he will keep detention conditions at the minimum level legally possible and will continue to tighten these conditions to increase their deterrent effect. Former prisoners who were in prison before October 7 also confirm that torture in prisons was ongoing, but that **conditions have worsened since Ben-Gvir took office.**

Reports from local Israeli civil society organizations indicate that Israeli prisons have been **turned into hell through systematic torture.** Interviews with those released from prison reveal that thousands of Palestinians were subjected to torture, sexual assault, collective starvation, systematic harassment, attacks by dogs to humiliate prisoners, urination on prisoners, electric shocks, beatings, deprivation of food and sleep, humiliation, being held in degrading positions, medical neglect, and, in some cases, being tightly shackled for long periods, leading to serious injuries, including amputations.

Human rights reports, statements from prisoners reflected in local and international newspapers, lawyers who met with their clients, doctors who treated prisoners, **photos and videos broadcast on Israeli media channels themselves, the appearance of those released from prison,** and deaths in prison unquestionably reveal the severe torture taking place in Israeli prisons. Children, women, people with disabilities, and healthcare workers are not spared from this torture.



Prisoners report being subjected to the ghost method (being tied up and suspended in the air), as well as attempts to drown them in toilet water for hours on end. They also report being dragged on their knees over broken glass. Performing surgical operations without anesthesia or with insufficient painkillers, amputations of prisoners' limbs resulting from prolonged binding, various levels of rape and sexual assault, starvation, and other systematic crimes continue to be committed in prisons. Prisoners describe prisons as “Hell” and “worse than Guantanamo.”

Numerous national and international reports have documented torture in Israeli prisons with hundreds of concrete cases. According to international Israeli and Palestinian human rights groups, most of those missing in Gaza are being held in military camps where inhumane treatment and torture are widespread. In these camps, Palestinians are reported to be subjected to severe beatings, medical neglect, starvation, and even rape.

The phrase most often used in reports about Israeli prisons is **“indescribable.”** According to the reports, conditions that were already poor before October 7 have reached **unimaginable levels** for Palestinian prisoners. In Save the Children’s report titled “As conditions for Palestinian children in detention worsen, physical abuse and infectious diseases are spreading,” 17-year-old Firas, who was interviewed, described the treatment of **12- and 13-year-old children**, saying, “The horrors we experienced **made me think that prison life before (October 2023) was paradise.**”

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk reported that **statements had been taken regarding a series of horrific acts, including waterboarding and setting dogs on detainees.** According to reports by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), detainees stated that they were **held in cage-like facilities, left naked for long periods of time, and given only diapers to wear.** They described having their eyes covered for long periods, being deprived of food, sleep, and water, being subjected to electric shocks, and having **cigarettes extinguished on their bodies. Some detainees stated that dogs were set upon them, while others reported being subjected to waterboarding or having their hands tied and being hung from the ceiling. Some women and men also reported sexual and gender-based violence.**

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reported that health workers, girls, and an 80-year-old woman with Alzheimer's were detained and subjected to waterboarding and electric shocks. One detainee said Israeli soldiers shot him in the knee with a nail gun. Among those detained, many of whom are administrative detainees held without charge, are women, children, doctors, health workers, and civil defense personnel.

According to interviews conducted by the BBC and Haaretz, Israel's oldest newspaper, statements by some doctors responsible for treatment at the hospital in Sde Teiman indicate that **Palestinian patients were kept blindfolded and chained to their beds by their hands and feet,** and were not allowed to use the toilet, but instead **had diapers put on them.**

On December 31, 2025, Haaretz reported that the **Israeli Ministry of Justice's Public Defense Unit, in its own report** on visits to prisons in 2024, revealed that until September 2025, Palestinian detainees were deprived of drinking water as a form of **collective punishment** during the Gaza war, for hours or even up to half a day.

The statement by UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Alice Jill Edwards on May 23, 2024, indicates that the Israeli Government must investigate numerous allegations of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment against Palestinians detained after October 7, 2023. The Special Rapporteur stated that individuals were beaten, held in cells while blindfolded and handcuffed for long periods, deprived of sleep, and threatened with physical and sexual violence. Reports indicate that detainees were subjected to insults and degrading treatment, such as being photographed and videotaped in humiliating positions, and that the prolonged use of handcuffs caused friction injuries and wounds.

Photographs and videos shared online by Israeli soldiers and verified by Reuters show Palestinian detainees naked or in their underwear. The publication of photographs and videos of detained Palestinians, **including those of children**, constitutes inhumane treatment and an attack on their personal dignity. **Forcibly stripping individuals naked and then taking sexually explicit images and sharing them on social media constitutes a form of sexual violence and is also a war crime.**

The accounts of **health workers interviewed** in the Human Rights Watch (HRW) report are **consistent with independent reports**, including those from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), **Israeli news media, and advocacy organizations**. Reports compiled by various institutions document accounts of detention, beatings, **sexual violence, forced confessions, electric shocks**, and other forms of torture and ill-treatment of Palestinians. Health workers interviewed in the HRW report testified, **“I saw (men) with cigarette burns on their arms, it was very clear. One had a dog bite on his stomach.”**

Regarding the report titled **“Welcome to Hell,”** based on the statements of 55 Palestinian prisoners released from Israeli prisons by the Israeli human rights organization B’tselem, B’tselem’s Director General Yuli Novak stated: **“They all told us the same thing, over and over again. Ongoing torment, daily violence, physical and psychological violence, humiliation, sleep deprivation, starvation.”** The conclusion reached from the interviews is: **“The Israeli prison system has turned into a network of torture camps when it comes to Palestinians.”**

“They poured boiling water on the faces and backs of young men until their skin was peeled off.”

Released in October 2025, Akram Al-Basyouni

Deaths in Custody

Under international law, torture and other ill-treatment committed against protected persons in occupied territories constitute war crimes. The detention of protected persons outside occupied territories, such as Palestinian prisoners held in Israel, also constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law as it amounts to forcible transfer.

According to local and international human rights reports, **292** Palestinians have died in Israeli prisons since 1967 as a result of torture and medical neglect.

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, in its report dated July 31, 2024 titled “Palestinian detainees held arbitrarily and secretly, subjected to torture and mistreatment” states that as of July 2024, at least 53 Palestinian detainees have died in Israeli military facilities and prisons since October 7, 2023.

As of December 30, 2025, **83 Palestinians have died in Israeli prisons since October 2023 due to torture and medical neglect**, 32 of them in 2025.



One of them is 53-year-old **Palestinian doctor Iyad Al-Rantisi**, who lived in the Gaza Strip and was found dead in an investigation center affiliated with the Israeli Internal Security Agency Shin Bet (Shabak) a week after being detained by Israel in November. According to a June 2024 report by Haaretz newspaper, Al-Rantisi, who was the director of a women’s hospital in the Gaza Strip city of Beit Lahia, died at a Shabak investigation center in Ashkelon just six days after his arrest in November

2023. An Israeli court banned the publication of details about the death for six months. No official statement has been made by the Israeli army or the Shin Bet regarding Dr. Al-Rantisi’s death.



Dr. Adnan Al- Bursh, head of the orthopedics department at Shifa Hospital in Gaza, who died as a result of torture in an Israeli prison in April 2024.

As of August 22, 2025, **Israel has killed at least 1,581 healthcare workers** since October 7, 2023. Among them are 157 doctors, 366 nurses, 103 pharmacists, 254 medical assistants, and 611 administrative healthcare personnel.

As reiterated in Human Rights Watch's statement dated August 5, 2024, according to Israeli authorities, four Palestinian detainees died in Israeli detention centers in the first month after October 7, and this situation has not been investigated impartially. Two of these four individuals were registered workers from the occupied Gaza Strip with work permits who were held in isolation in military detention centers by the Israeli army, and their deaths were only disclosed to the public by the army following an investigation by the Israeli newspaper Haaretz.

As stated in the thematic report titled “**Detention in the Context of Escalating Hostilities in Gaza (October 2023-July 2024)**” published by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on July 31, 2024;

It is impossible to accurately determine the number of Palestinians who died in custody in military bases and under the supervision of the Israel Prison Service, amid reports of torture, other ill-treatment, and denial of medical care, as Israeli authorities refuse to provide information on the fate or whereabouts of Palestinian detainees. **However, media sources have reported that dozens of Palestinian detainees have died in custody.** The Israeli army has stated that “some detainees died, some had pre-existing illnesses, and some had injuries sustained in clashes.” As of July 2024, it is said that the deaths of 35 detainees from Gaza are being investigated, but **no soldier has been arrested** in any of the cases.

OHCHR, along with others, has investigated the killing of 50-year-old Dr. Adnan Ahmad Ateya Al Bursh, Head of the Orthopedics Department at the Al-Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza City, who was killed on April 19 at Ofer Prison, an Israeli detention facility located in the West Bank and operated by the Israel Prison Service. The Israel Prison Service arrested Bursh on December 18, 2023, along with doctors and hospital staff at Al-Awda Hospital in northern Gaza. According to a witness detained alongside Dr. Al Bursh, interviewed by OHCHR, **Dr. Al Bursh was in good health prior to his arrest and was performing his regular duties at the hospital, despite having sustained a minor injury a few days earlier.** Statements from Palestinians detained with him raise serious concerns that Dr. Al Bursh died as a result of torture or ill-treatment by Israeli authorities. Indeed, witness Dr. Khalid Hamoudeh stated that while he was detained in Sde Teiman in late December, one day soldiers brought in five detained doctors, including Dr. Adnan al-Bursh, the head of orthopedics at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza. Dr. Hamoudeh said, **“Dr. Adnan was in pain from the beatings, yet he was punished. He had visible blunt trauma and was having difficulty breathing. What happened to him happened to many people. There was clearly medical negligence.”**

Israeli newspapers reported that an application had been made to the Jerusalem Magistrate’s Court for a judge to be appointed to investigate the circumstances of the death and that authorities had announced they would conduct an autopsy on May 23. However, OHCHR has not been able to obtain any information on whether this autopsy was performed or, if so, its findings.

The Physicians for Human Rights-Israel also stated that, as of March 20, 2024, doctors who performed autopsies on five Palestinian men who died in custody reported **visible signs of physical violence**, including broken ribs, in **two of the five cases**, and assessed that **the specific cause of death in a third case was medical negligence.**

In a separate case investigated by OHCHR and supported by interviews with four Palestinians released from Ketziot prison, 38-year-old **Thair Abu Assab** died on November 18, 2023, in Ketziot prison after being severely beaten by the Israel Prison Service and then **left without medical attention for two hours**, according to a former cellmate interviewed.

The individuals interviewed in the report stated that officials used excessive force during periodic prisoner counts, **including severe and repeated beatings that often caused detainees to lose consciousness or suffer serious injuries.** Israeli media reported that 19 guards were placed under investigation in December, one month after Abu Assab's death. However, OHCHR has not been able to obtain any information regarding the outcome of this investigation.



Dr. Ziad Eldalou, who died in another incident at prison, was an internal medicine specialist at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. On March 18, 2024, while on duty at Al-Shifa Hospital, he was detained along with other health workers during a raid by Israeli forces. He died in custody on March 21, 2024..

UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health Tlaleng Mofokeng made a statement regarding Eldalou, the third doctor confirmed to have died while in Israeli custody after October 7, 2023. As the Special Rapporteur stated on September 4, 2024, “Practicing medicine during conflict is never a crime; however, **targeting and killing healthcare workers is a crime.**”

Similarly, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) reported that it had attempted to gather information on the fate and whereabouts of Palestinian detainees held in military camps under Israeli army control and in prisons operated by the Israel Prison Service after October 7, 2023. As of October 31, 2024, it has reported sending 15 notifications to Israeli authorities regarding 303 Palestinians detained by the Israel Defense Forces. Israeli authorities have provided information on the fate and whereabouts of 209 individuals (88 in Negev Prison, 18 in Nafha Prison, 26 in Ofer Prison, 64 in Ofer Military Camp, 8 in Askalan Prison, 4 in El-Ramla Prison, and 1 in Moscobiye Prison), but stated that 91 individuals were not in custody. This situation shows that, despite numerous eyewitness accounts that most of these individuals were arrested and taken away by the Israeli Defense Forces, many people cannot be located and their whereabouts are unknown. **Dozens of Palestinian children are among those whose whereabouts are unknown.**

According to information submitted to PCHR, all detainees are being held under the “Unlawful Combatants Detention Law,” which, among other things, allows for the mass arrest of civilians and their indefinite detention without charge. As seen in the documents submitted to PCHR, some of the detainees have been brought before Israeli district courts and release dates have been set. However, some of these detainees have stated that they were never brought before a court. Although some were expected to be released in recent weeks and months, their detention periods have been extended indefinitely under the law. The rest have neither been brought before a district court nor given a release date. No explanation has been given for the continuation of their detention.

As of October 31, 2024, PCHR reported that Israeli authorities had informed them of **the deaths of three Palestinian detainees**, two of whom were in the Sde Teiman detention camp. The first is 32-year-old Amro Hatem Fawzi Ouda, a supermarket sales clerk, who was arrested from his home in the Al-Zeytun neighborhood of Gaza City on December 7, 2023, and died in Sde Teiman on December 13, 2023, **one week after his arrest**. The second was 31-year-old **Hussein Saber Hussein Abu Ubeyde**, a salesperson at a bakery, who was arrested from his home in the Japanese Quarter of Khan Yunis on January 22, 2024, and died in Sde Teiman on January 29, 2024, **one week after his arrest**. The third person is **Ali Abdullah Soliman**, a 64-year-old retired teacher who was arrested at his home in Khan Yunis during an Israeli Defense Forces ground operation on January 2, 2024. Israeli authorities announced that Soliman died on February 5, 2024, **one month and three days after his arrest**. However, they did not provide any information about where he died.

The Military Control and Command Center, the body responsible for operating the IDF’s detention camps, stated that “an investigation has been launched by the Military Police to clarify the circumstances of his death.” Based on decades of experience with the Israeli investigation and judicial systems, PCHR stated that **given Israel’s longstanding reluctance and failure to conduct genuine and transparent investigations into crimes and violations committed against Palestinians**, it is almost certain that no credible investigation into the circumstances of their deaths has been or will be conducted.

As of the end of 2025, there has been no reported development regarding the punishment of those responsible for deaths in prisons.

As stated in HRW's August 29, 2023 report titled **"Why Does Israel Have So Many Palestinians in Detention and Available to Swap?,"** Israeli authorities have subjected Palestinian detainees to mistreatment and torture for decades, in addition to the lack of due process. Since 2001, more than 1,400 complaints have been filed with the Israeli Ministry of Justice regarding torture, including painful shackles, sleep deprivation, and exposure to extreme temperatures.

According to a statement by Human Rights Watch (HRW) on August 5, 2024, Israeli authorities have failed to provide reliable accountability for torture and other ill-treatment of Palestinian detainees for decades. According to official Israeli statistics, **1,830** complaints of ill-treatment were filed against Israeli Prison Service officials between 2019 and 2022, **none of which resulted in criminal convictions.** Israeli authorities have also denied independent humanitarian organizations access to Palestinian detainees since October 7, 2023.



Abdulrahman Mari died a week after being released from an Israeli prison, as reported by the BBC. Professor Danny Rosin of Physicians for Human Rights, who participated in Abdulrahman Mari's autopsy, noted in his report that Abdulrahman had bruises on his chest and several broken ribs. He had wounds on his back, left arm, hips, left leg, and calf, as well as on the right side of his head and neck. In addition,

an additional police report states that six days before Mari's death, "forceful restraint methods were used" on him. The report states, "It can be said that the multiple injuries and broken ribs on his body contributed to his death."

Arafat Hamdan died in Ofer Prison two days after being arrested by Israeli forces. He was a Type 1 diabetic who was taken by Israeli police during a raid in the West Bank village of Beit Sira at 4:00 a.m. on October 22. According to the BBC, a report written by Dr. Daniel Solomon, who performed the autopsy on Arafat Hamdan at the request of Physicians for Human Rights, states that the autopsy was performed on October 31, but that the condition of the body and the fact that it had been refrigerated for a long time made it difficult to determine the cause of death. According to the report, there is no record of whether Arafat, who had Type 1 diabetes, was given his diabetes medication, and if so, at what dosage.



Sexual Torture in Prison Captured on Camera



Footage captured by security cameras showing Israeli soldiers raping a Palestinian detained at the Sde Teiman detention center in the Negev Desert in July 2024 has been broadcast on Channel 12 television. The footage shows numerous detained Palestinians lying face down in a fenced-off area. During this time, Israeli soldiers are seen picking up a Palestinian lying on the ground and taking him to another area. **The video also shows some soldiers raping the detained Palestinian, while others try to block the security camera with their shields.**

Channel 12's report stated, "(The soldiers) were **probably aware of the security cameras and tried to hide their actions with their shields.**" The report states that Israeli soldiers sexually tortured the detained Palestinian by inserting an object into his body, and that the Palestinian, who was raped, was taken to the hospital covered in blood with broken ribs, lung damage, and rectal injuries.



In the investigation conducted by the prosecutor's office, nine Israeli soldiers stationed at the base were arrested on suspicion of "severe abuse" of a Palestinian detainee. When Israeli military police arrived at Sde Teiman on July 29 to arrest the soldiers, clashes broke out as the soldiers resisted arrest. It was reported that **the soldiers who were to be detained used tear gas against the military police who came to arrest them.** The soldiers set up barricades inside the base to prevent their arrest. When security forces removed the nine soldiers, Israelis protesting the soldiers' arrest forcibly entered Sde Teiman and **Beit Lid base, where the military court to which the arrested soldiers were taken is located,** and staged a raid.

The Haaretz newspaper reported that no investigation was conducted into the forced entry of far-right groups into the Sde Teiman and Beit Lid military bases. A senior Israeli police official stated that the police had no intention of opening an investigation into the raids because the Israeli army had not made any such request. Despite the police having a large amount of evidence, including footage recorded by officers at the scene, the police did not arrest anyone during the raids on the Sde Teiman and Beit Lid bases.

Among those who raided the military bases were **Israel's Heritage Minister Amichay Eliyahu**, ruling Likud Party Knesset member Nissim Vaturi, and Religious Zionism Party member Zvi Sukkot. Israel's **National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir** reportedly ordered the police not to interfere with the raids on the detention center and base.

A July 31, 2024, report by Human Rights Watch (HRW) alleges that Israeli Knesset members obstructed torture cases. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Defense Minister, and the Chief of Staff condemned the clashes at the two centers. However, he did not condemn the allegations of torture against the detainee. The Israeli Justice Minister criticized the arrests, saying that the soldiers were performing a "sacred duty." Some Israeli ministers, notably Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir and Minister of Finance Bezalel Smotrich, have sent messages of support to the soldiers and posted on social media saying, "Don't touch our reserve soldiers." The chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee has strongly criticized "this despicable pursuit of its fighters."

UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Alice Jill Edwards stated that this particular case of sexual torture, involving multiple perpetrators, was **horrific**, and that Israeli citizens, including a member of parliament, were disturbed by violent attempts to intervene following the arrest of soldiers on charges of harassment. Edwards called for this process to proceed without any interference. As the Special Rapporteur on Torture stated, “Criminal proceedings concerning all allegations must proceed without obstruction. No one is above the law. No one is immune from prosecution for torture.” **“There are no circumstances that can justify sexual torture or sexualized inhuman and degrading treatment.** All crimes allegedly committed in the context of this horrific war must be investigated in a transparent and impartial manner, and those responsible must be held accountable by civilian courts.”

As stated in the August 5, 2024 statement by an Amnesty International official Hashash, The horrific reports of the collective rape of a Palestinian detainee being collectively raped at the facility (Sde Teiman)” provide new evidence of the horrific torture and other ill-treatment of Palestinian detainees documented in Amnesty International’s recent investigations. The Israeli army has announced that it has launched an investigation into the incident, and the Israeli police have questioned some suspects in connection with the incident. **Given Israel’s “poor record” of impartially investigating torture against Palestinians and holding perpetrators accountable,** an independent and impartial investigation into this incident and all other cases of torture and ill-treatment should be conducted by the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC).”

Indeed, **after the camera footage resonated around the world,** the Israeli soldiers in the footage were only subjected to investigation without indictment on August 13, and were subsequently **placed under house arrest.** Israeli human rights organizations warned that this step was **an approach that would allow the soldiers and army commanders to escape punishment** and that it could cause global damage to the Israeli administration, potentially reaching the International Court of Justice (ICJ), but to no avail.



Subsequently, on November 3, 2025, **Israel detained Military Prosecutor Tomer-Yerushalmi on the grounds that he “revealed the crime” and leaked images of sexual assault on a Palestinian prisoner** at Sde Teiman prison. The police announced in a written statement that, in addition to Tomer-Yerushalmi, a military prosecutor named Matan Solomosh had also been detained.

The prosecutor who resigned was charged with “abuse of office, obstruction of justice, and disclosure of confidential information by a public official.” Prior to his arrest, Tomer Yerushalmi stated in his resignation letter that he had authorized the release of the footage **“in order to mitigate attacks on investigators within the army,”** and then disappeared, leaving behind a suicide note.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated on November 2, 2025, that the incident at Sde Teiman **“caused great damage to the image of the State of Israel and its army.”** Netanyahu described **the exposure** of sexual assaults committed against prisoners in open areas equipped with cameras as **“the most serious public relations crisis Israel has faced since its founding.”**

The perpetrators of sexual assaults, which were captured on camera, were declared “heroes” by Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich; Meir Mazuz, the spiritual leader of the Shas Party, argued that these individuals should be **“rewarded rather than arrested.”** The soldiers on trial stated in press conferences before the Supreme Court that they expected “thanks and embraces” rather than remorse, characterizing their actions as a “struggle for justice.” This situation clearly demonstrates that perpetrators’ grave human rights violations are being legitimized at a societal level through recognition by political and religious authorities.

On March 12, 2026, the Military Prosecutor’s Office dropped charges against five soldiers accused of torture and sexual assault at the Sde Teiman detention center. The Office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that it “welcomed the dismissal of charges in the so-called Sde Teiman incident, a blood libel against the Force 100 fighters.” Defense Minister Yisrael Katz stated, **“Justice has been served.”**

As stated by Jeremy Laurence, spokesperson for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in August 2024, regarding the footage of Israeli soldiers raping a Palestinian detainee at the Sde Teiman detention center, “This is shocking footage. **It is one of many videos** in recent months showing Israel’s **serious violations**, including ill-treatment, torture, **sexual violence, and rape** of Palestinian detainees.” In the report, Laurence stated that it details numerous serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including sexual and gender-based violence against persons deprived of their liberty, some of which may constitute war crimes. The High Commissioner’s spokesperson stated that they regularly express their concerns about the **“impunity”** that has long been a problem in Israel in the context of violations against Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories. **Israel does not prosecute perpetrators** and does not allow independent monitoring bodies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights access to detention centers.

Ambulance driver Walid Halili, quoted in Human Rights Watch’s August 26, 2024 report titled **“A Palestinian Paramedic’s Ordeal in Israeli Detention”** said that while he was in EL-Nekab Prison, “a man was brought in, clearly bleeding from his back, and placed next to him. The man told Halili that before his arrest, “three soldiers took turns raping him with an M16 (assault rifle).” He added, “No one else knew, but he told me as a health worker. He was very scared. His mental health was terrible; he started talking to himself.”

Prior to October 7, it was very rare for Israeli soldiers to be arrested on the grounds of mistreating Palestinians. As stated in reports by the Israeli human rights organization Yesh Din, between 2017 and 2021, **only 0.87% of complaints against soldiers resulted in prosecution.**

Regarding this situation, Israeli journalist **Yoana Gonen** wrote in an article titled **“What did we really want? To torture quietly without the world finding out and making us uncomfortable”** published in **Haaretz, Israel’s oldest newspaper**: “The torture inflicted on Palestinian prisoners is a disgrace for modern Israel. While tens of thousands of civilians lost their lives in the Israeli army’s attacks on Gaza, **only one soldier has been convicted so far for torture and ill-treatment of Palestinians. No soldier has been held accountable for the killing of civilians.** This includes the killing of medical personnel and the World Central Kitchen aid organization team...”

On August 5, 2024, UN Special Rapporteurs stated that reports of alleged torture and sexual violence in Israel’s Sde Teiman prison are extremely illegal and disgusting, but that **these are only the tip of the iceberg.** The special rapporteurs stated, “Israel’s decades-long pattern of widespread and systematic ill-treatment and arbitrary detention of Palestinians, combined with the absence of any constraints on the State of Israel since October 7, 2023, has resulted in a shocking picture of absolute impunity. Allegations of collective rape of a Palestinian detainee are **shockingly supported by voices within Israel’s political structure and society, providing irrefutable evidence of a moral compass gone awry.**”

Indeed, in February 2024, UN rapporteurs published a report expressing serious concern about reports of sexual and other gender-based violence against Palestinian women and girls in detention.

The Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, after examining Israel’s detention practices in 2023, called on UN Member States to intervene and urged the International Criminal Court to immediately investigate this situation, which appears to constitute a crime against humanity. Accordingly, “Torture practices are irredeemably unlawful and constitute international crimes, yet form part of the modus operandi of Israel’s notorious detention and torture system **These practices are intended to punish Palestinians for resisting occupation and seek to destroy them individually and collectively. Israel’s genocidal destruction in Gaza, which is spreading across the West Bank, including east Jerusalem, serves as the backdrop to its abusive detention programme today.** What is required now is nothing short of an independent, international presence of human rights observers. They must become the world’s eyes in light of Israel’s brazen failure to prevent and address the heinous rights violations against prisoners and detainees.”

Administrative Detention as Israel's Arbitrary Detention Practice in the Palestinian Territories

According to local and international reports, most Palestinians who have been subjected to physical torture have not been charged or tried, but have been held in prison under **what Israel calls “administrative detention.”** Administrative detainees may be released without any charges after being held in prison for months or sometimes years.



Administrative detainees, who are imprisoned without charges or trial, have also reported being subjected to **“unimaginable”** severe torture in prisons. Muazzaz Abayat, an administrative detainee arrested from her home on October 25, 2023, under a procedure allowing for indefinite detention without charge, is one such example

Abayat, reportedly had no health issues prior to her detention, was released in July 2024 after spending **nine months** in the Naqab prison in southern Israel. Images show Abiyyat’s clothes torn, struggling to stand on her own, walking with a limp, and in very poor physical condition.



Reportedly able to muster the strength to speak for only a few minutes, experiencing nightly hallucinations, and in shock or recalling the torture and pain she endured, Abayat reported being beaten regularly in prison. Abayat stated that she was interrogated while chained and blindfolded, stated that the **Negev prison**, where the world’s most ugly and horrific operations are carried out, **is no different from Guantanamo prison**, that there is no food, water, or medicine, that there is nothing but beatings and dragging. She added that because there are approximately two to three thousand prisoners in the prison, many serious diseases spread among the prisoners, and that the prisoners are in very bad condition.

“Negev Prison is like Guantanamo. **Everything you can imagine. Killing, beating, starvation, disease.** The prisoners only have Allah. I left them. I wish we had died together.”

Muazzaz Abiyyat



Administrative detention, which Israel had been imposing on Palestinians even before October 7, is a form of detention in which individuals are held by state authorities on secret security grounds and **on the assumption that they may commit crimes in the future**. The grounds are not disclosed to the individual or their lawyers, and the detention can be extended indefinitely without interrogation or trial.

Israel detains Palestinians for periods ranging from **one to six months** without charge or trial. Military courts can extend detention for **up to five years** by ruling that the detainee “poses a threat to Israel’s security,” without even informing the detainee of the charges against them, and thus without allowing them to mount a defense. Most Palestinians are subjected to torture in prisons for months or even years without any charges or trial.

In August 2024, the report of Israeli award-winning human rights organization **B’Tselem** (The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories), titled “**Welcome to Hell: The Israeli Prison System as a Network of Torture Camps,**” stated that testimonies provided by Palestinians held in Israeli prisons reveal that more than twelve civilian and military detention facilities have been transformed into camps, the purpose of which is to inflict abuse upon detainees. **According to the report, anyone who enters these facilities—functioning as torture camps—is subjected to the most severe pain and to deliberate and relentless abuse.** Moreover, at that time, **approximately half of the Palestinians held in prison—4,781 individuals**—were being detained under the practice of “**administrative detention,**” without trial and without any formal charges being brought against them.

According to data from the Palestinian Prisoners' Society, Israel has frequently used "administrative detention" against Palestinians since 1967. A significant proportion of the more than 800,000 Palestinians detained by Israel between 1967 and October 2023 were "administrative detainees," released without any charges or trial. The practice, which declined somewhat in 1977, increased again during the "First Intifada" period between 1987 and 1994, during which 19,000 Palestinians held in administrative detention by Israel, and again during the "Second Intifada" between 2000 and 2007, when 18,000 were detained under this practice.

According to data released by the Israeli human rights organization HaMoked on October 5, 2023, Before October 7, **1,319 Palestinians, approximately one-quarter of those held in Israeli prisons, were held as "administrative detainees"** without being tried. This rate has increased rapidly since October 7.

By November 1, the number of administrative detainees had risen **to 2,700**. The Israeli army has detained an average of 60 Palestinians per day over the two years since the start of its attacks on Gaza. It is stated that **more than half** of these were sent to Israeli prisons under "administrative detention." The situation has not changed following the ceasefire on October 9, 2025.

In October 2025, 1,968 detainees were released under the ceasefire. **Approximately 1,700 of them were administrative detainees**, and only 250 had previously received prison sentences. The physical condition of the Palestinians released in October reveals the extent of the torture to which they were subjected.

As of December 2025, **3,350** people, corresponding to about one-third of the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons, are **administrative detainees**, according to reports by the Palestinian Prisoners' Society.

Israel's "administrative detention" of Palestinians, applied since 1967, is part of Israeli military law adapted from the British Mandate's Emergency Regulations. Those detained in this manner are denied knowledge of the charges against them or the evidence supporting them "for security reasons." According to the law, detained Palestinians are brought before a military court within eight days, but **neither the detained Palestinians nor their lawyers can learn the reasons for the arrest presented by the military prosecutor to the court or the evidence related to it, on the grounds that it could "harm security."** Therefore, a judicial process in which the detainee can defend themselves cannot proceed. This practice disregards the right to a fair trial, which international law guarantees for everyone deprived of their liberty. Reports by Israeli human rights organizations reveal that military courts **act as "automatic approval authorities"** when it comes to decisions about detained individuals.

In its November 8, 2023 report titled “Horrible cases of torture and degrading treatment of Palestinian detainees amid spike in arbitrary arrest,” Amnesty International states that Israel uses administrative detention not as a preventive measure applied in an extraordinary and selective manner, but as **a systematic tool to oppress Palestinians**. Administrative detention is a form of detention in which individuals are detained by state **authorities on secret security grounds that neither the detainee nor their lawyer can examine the allegations against them**. This effectively violates the procedural and legal guarantees of a fair trial, which are guaranteed under international law for all persons deprived of their liberty.

In a statement dated August 5, 2024, Amnesty International official Hashash revealed how **Israel’s Unlawful Combatants Law is being used as a tool to “arbitrarily detain Palestinians indefinitely without charge or trial,” in violation of international law**.

Israel’s **Unlawful Combatants Law** is a regulation that permits the detention of individuals who are not affiliated with a state army but are alleged to have engaged in hostile activities against the state, thereby depriving them of the status of “prisoner of war” or “civilian prisoner” under international law. Under this law, individuals can be held indefinitely in administrative detention based solely **on the assumption that they pose a “security threat,” without any concrete charges or clear evidence**, and with their rights to defense restricted. This practice, which suspends the fundamental legal principles of “presumption of innocence” and “right to a fair trial,” has been criticized by international human rights organizations because it leaves individuals in a legal vacuum (a legal black hole). Israel’s Incarceration of Unlawful Combatants Law, enacted in 2002 and designed particularly to cover Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and Lebanese resistance fighters, is a highly controversial regulation under international law. This law allows individuals to be deprived of their “prisoner of war” status and held indefinitely without concrete charges or trial. Under Israeli law, anyone who has committed hostile acts against the State of Israel, either directly or indirectly, or who is a member of an organization/force that has committed hostile acts against Israel, can be subject to this law. This law deviates from standard criminal law and the protections afforded by the Geneva Conventions. Accordingly;

No Prisoner of War Status: Captured individuals are not considered soldiers and therefore cannot benefit from the rights provided by the Geneva Convention (e.g., Red Cross visits, guarantees against ill-treatment, etc.).

Administrative Detention (Indefinite Detention): There is no requirement to prepare an indictment against individuals. They can be detained on the assumption that they are a “threat to state security” by order of the Chief of General Staff.

Shifting the Burden of Proof: Normally, the state must prove that a person is guilty. Under this law, however, a person accused of being a member of an organization is expected to **prove that they are “not dangerous.”** However, since **the evidence is usually “secret,”** it is almost impossible for the person to do so.

After 2007, administrative detention began to be applied mainly to Gaza residents. In 2023-2024, temporary amendments were made to the law after the October 7 attacks. While under normal circumstances there is an obligation to be brought before a judge within 14 days, this period has been extended to 75 days, and the period of prohibition on meeting with a lawyer has been extended to up to 180 days.

Human rights organizations such as Amnesty International and B’Tselem describe the law in question as a **“legal black hole.”** Detaining individuals without concrete evidence, restricting their right to defense, and imprisoning them indefinitely violates universal principles of law and the right to a fair trial.

As stated in Human Rights Watch’s August 29, 2023 report titled **“Why Does Israel Have So Many Palestinians in Detention and Available to Swap?”** administrative detentions are extended indefinitely based on secret information that the detainee is not allowed to see. **Those in administrative detention are held on the assumption that they may commit a crime at some point in the future.** Israeli authorities have held thousands of Palestinians, including children, human rights defenders, and Palestinian political activists, in administrative detention, often for long periods of time.

The large number of Palestinian detainees is primarily a result of the separate criminal justice systems implemented by Israeli authorities in the occupied territories. With the exception of East Jerusalem, approximately **3 million Palestinians** living in the occupied West Bank, including children, are **subject to military law and are tried in military courts.** In contrast, approximately half a million Israeli settlers in the West Bank are subject to civil and criminal law and are tried in Israeli civil courts. **Discrimination permeates every aspect of this system.** Under military law, Palestinians can be held in custody for **up to eight days** before appearing before a judge. They can only be brought before a military judge. However, under Israeli law, a person must be brought before a judge **within 24 hours** of arrest, a period that can be extended to up to 96 hours in exceptional circumstances, when authorized. Similarly, Palestinians can be imprisoned for attending an unauthorized meeting of only **10 people** on any subject that could be “interpreted as political.” Israeli settlers, on the other hand, can hold unauthorized demonstrations as long as the gathering does not exceed **50 people**, is not held outdoors, and does not involve “political speeches and statements.”



Firas Hassan, whose testimony is included in the report titled **“Welcome to Hell”** published by the Israeli human rights organization B’Tselem in August 2024, has been in prison since October 2023 under the “administrative detention” practice, which involves indefinite detention without charges.

Firas stated that he witnessed the rapid deterioration of conditions after October 7, saying, **“Life completely changed. I describe what happened as a tsunami.”** Hassan told B’Tselem researchers that although he was accustomed to the harsh conditions in prison, he was unprepared for what happened when guards entered his cell two days after October 7. “We were severely beaten by 20 guards. Masked men beat us with batons, sticks, dogs, and firearms. Our hands were tied behind our backs, our eyes were blindfolded, and we were severely beaten. **Blood was gushing from my face.** They beat us for 50 minutes. I saw them from under my blindfold. They were beating us and filming us at the same time. I spent 13 years in prison in the past, but I never experienced anything like this.” **Hassan had lost 20 kilograms in prison** when he was released in April 2024 **without any charges being brought against him.**



Systematic Torture and Ill-Treatment Committed by Israel Against the Palestinian People and Inhumane Detention Conditions



“Imagine prisoners whose ears have been cut off or who have lost their eyesight because Israeli soldiers extinguished cigarettes in their eyes.”



Spokesperson for the Palestine Center for Prisoners Studies

Amina el-Taveel

Common Article 3 of the four 1949 Geneva Conventions provides that persons taking no active part in hostilities shall in all circumstances be treated humanely. “Violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture” as well as “outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment” are prohibited at all times. The wounded and sick shall be “cared for.”

Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits individual forcible transfers within occupied territory and the deportation of civilians from occupied territory to the territory of the occupying power, regardless of the motive. Serious violations committed intentionally in contravention of Articles 3 and 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention constitute **war crimes**.



ISRAEL'S GUANTANAMO: SDE TEIMAN MILITARY BASE

The Sde Teiman Military Base in the Negev Desert of southern Israel, often referred to as Israel's Guantanamo, has again come under scrutiny due to allegations of crimes against humanity, with sexual abuse and torture at the forefront, perpetrated against individuals detained from the Gaza Strip.



History of Torture at Sde Teiman Military Base

- 1949-1950**
Taking its name from the region where 49,000 Yemenite Jews brought from Yemen to Israel were initially settled.
- 2008-2014**
Israel established concentration camps for hundreds of Palestinians detained from Gaza.
- 2023-2024**
Since October 7, Israel has continued to hold hundreds of Palestinian civilians from Gaza here under inhumane conditions. 36 Palestinian prisoners were killed at the base.
- July 2024**
9 soldiers were detained on allegations of sexual torture and assault of a Palestinian.

Some Inhumane Conditions Faced by Palestinians Detained at Sde Teiman



- Systematic starvation**
Deprivation of bathroom, toilet, and medical services
- Surgical operations without anesthesia**
- Being kept in handcuffs in a way that causes organ severance/amputation**
- Being forced to lie on the ground with only a thin cloth covering**



AKDENİZ

BATI ŞERİA

KUDÜS

GAZZE

MISIR

Negev Çölü



As repeatedly stated by national and international organizations, **the Israeli army is subjecting Palestinians to severe torture that is clearly visible on their bodies**, systematically starving them and depriving them of food, water, medicine, and medical treatment

On September 18, 2024, the Israeli Supreme Court rejected the request to close Sde Teiman, despite evidence from human rights organizations that violations were taking place at the detention center. Reports from human rights organizations indicate that after June 2024, Israeli authorities transferred some Palestinian detainees from Sde Teiman to other facilities due to reports of ill-treatment. However, these transfers and investigations into a limited number of cases are considered a grossly inadequate response to reports of **“widespread torture and ill-treatment”** at Sde Teiman.



National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir pressured for Sde Teiman to remain open on July 8, 2024, claiming that the detention center being “overcrowded with detained Palestinians is a good thing.” On September 12, Ben-Gvir also requested an additional budget to build 5,000 new detention centers to double the number of Palestinians detained in Israel’s genocide in Gaza.

National Security Minister Ben Gvir released the attached video in February 2026 following a PR visit to Ofer Prison, where Israel holds Palestinian prisoners.



As stated by the Israeli human rights organization B’Tselem, **the video released by the Minister shows Ofer Prison as part of a network of torture camps Israel has established for Palestinian prisoners.** During the visit, Ben Gvir engaged in acts of violence and humiliation, threatening handcuffed prisoners lying on the ground with the death penalty. As stated by human rights organizations, the death penalty law passed by the Israeli government in the Knesset **will be another tool in Israel’s arsenal to kill Palestinians.**

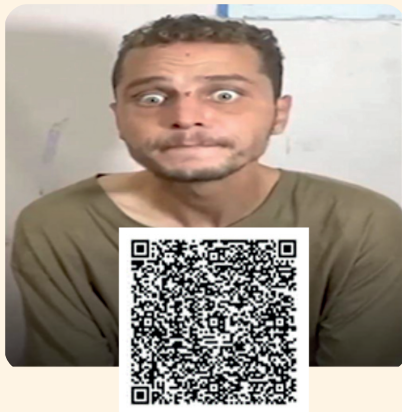
In the video shared by Minister Ben Gvir, which also shows military dogs, a journalist asks about the Palestinian prisoners being pinned to the ground by soldiers, saying, “Minister, what are we looking at here?” Minister Ben Gvir’s statement:

“We are here before Ramadan, and what we are seeing is routine activity by the Israel Prison Service. This is how terrorists are treated. This is how murderers, these despicable, cursed people, are treated. What we are doing here is historic. What the Prison Service commissioner, the regional commander, and the prison commander are doing in all IPS facilities is, in fact, a 180-degree turn. But now we need something else: death for terrorists. They should be executed. By hanging, by injection, by electric chair, whatever it takes, as long as they are executed.”

With this perspective, as noted in numerous reports on the “inhumane” torture in Israeli prisons and detention centers, especially after October 2023, the conditions of Palestinian prisoners and detainees continue to deteriorate. Israel’s systematic torture system includes physical torture, beatings, starvation and dehydration, deprivation of medical supplies and health services, denial of hygiene and personal items, and sexual abuse and rape.

As stated in the statement by UN rapporteurs on August 28, 2025, regarding reports of enforced disappearances at aid distribution centers, the Israel Defense Forces are clearly violating the absolute and unconditional prohibition on enforced disappearances. They refuse to provide information about the fate and whereabouts of those deprived of their liberty. “The failure to acknowledge that liberty has been restricted by state officials and the failure to acknowledge detention **constitutes enforced disappearance.**”

On August 5, 2024, Amnesty International official Hashash stated that torture and other inhuman treatment of Palestinian detainees at Sde Teiman and other detention facilities had been documented. Hashash reported that Amnesty International had interviewed 27 former detainees—20 men, 6 women, and 1 child—all of whom had been held for periods ranging from two weeks to 140 days in military or Israel Prison Service–operated detention centers in the occupied Gaza Strip, during which they were cut off from outside communication. According to these interviews, Israeli military, intelligence, and police forces subjected all of them to torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. Those held at Sde Teiman reported that during their detention their eyes had been blindfolded and their hands handcuffed, they had been forced to remain in “stress positions” **for extended periods**, and they were prevented from speaking to each other or raising their heads. **The testimonies collected by Amnesty International are consistent with numerous reports based on accounts from other human rights organizations, United Nations bodies, whistleblowers, and released detainees.**



Even spending a week in prison can cause permanent damage that lasts a lifetime. A case in point is 30-year-old Bedir Dahlan, who was detained by Israeli soldiers **for a month** and, according to his wife's statement, returned from prison in an abnormal state due to the torture he was subjected to, unable to recognize his wife and daughter.

The doctors who treated Bedir Dahlan reported that he suffered severe psychological distress as a result of the torture he was subjected to in Israeli prisons. Bedir's father, Muhammad Dahlan, stated: **"The marks of torture on my son's body, who was released from an Israeli prison, are clearly visible. He has very deep wounds on his head and feet, and he also has burns on his feet... Before his detention, Bedir was a very ordinary person, like everyone else, living his life like everyone else."**

Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem, in a report published in August 2024, stated that the Israeli prison system as a **"network of torture camps,"** characterized by **"frequent, severe, arbitrary acts of violence; sexual assault; humiliation and degradation; deliberate starvation; forced exposure to unsanitary conditions;** sleep deprivation; prohibition and punishment of religious worship; confiscation of all shared and personal belongings; and denial of adequate medical treatment."



According to a joint report published on August 20, 2024, by the Palestinian Commission of Detainees' and Ex-Detainees' Affairs and the Palestinian Prisoners Society regarding the torture experienced by a Palestinian prisoner named G.V. in **Ofer Prison**, west of Ramallah, Ofer Prison is no less than the Sde Teiman detention center, which has become the obvious address for torture against Gazan prisoners.

Palestinian prisoner G.V. stated, **“The interrogators tried to drown me with toilet water during interrogation,** and we are subjected to torture, humiliation, and beatings.” G.V. reported that on March 2, he was detained by Israeli soldiers in the Hamad neighborhood of Khan Yunis in southern Gaza Strip, stripped of his clothes, handcuffed behind his back, blindfolded, and beaten after being loaded onto a truck. **He was held for 100 days by Israeli soldiers a metal-sheet-covered area,** where he was subjected to severe torture methods. G.V. stated, **“For 100 days, we were beaten just for making any movement, and we remained handcuffed and blindfolded throughout this period. During the interrogation process, I was subjected to the ‘ghost method’ (tying the detainee up and hanging them in the air), as well as attempts to drown me with toilet water for long hours.”** Israeli officers who came to search the cell where he was detained violently beat all the inmates in the cell simply for hiding a few pieces of bread, causing fractures to the faces and hands of some detainees. G.V. stated that many detainees were reluctant to speak out about what they had experienced due to pressure, adding, **“Surgical operations without anesthesia, the amputation of detainees’ limbs as a result of constant shackling, rape and sexual assault at various levels,** starvation, and other systematic crimes continue to be committed.”

According to reports from numerous human rights organizations, allegations of torture against Palestinian prisoners and detainees in prisons and detention centers have been constantly raised in Israel. With the appointment of National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir as the Minister of the Interior, the problem has become much worse.



Ben-Gvir shared a video he recorded in front of a small cell holding Palestinian prisoners at **Ketziot Prison** in southern Israel on October 20, 2025, on his social media account with the caption, **“everyone is on the floor.”** Ben-Gvir said, “They have been deprived of almost everything; no jam, no chocolate, no television or radio. **We took everything from them; the only thing left is the death penalty.”**

The Israeli Parliament Approves Discriminatory Law Allowing the Execution of Palestinian Prisoners in Clear Violation of International Law

Israeli Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir, in a statement posted on his Telegram account one day after his social media post about prisoners, referring to Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons, stated that they hoped the law providing for the “death penalty for terrorists” would be enacted as soon as possible. He subsequently threatened to withdraw support from the government if the draft law on the “death penalty for terrorism offences” was not brought before the Plenum of the Parliament for a vote within three weeks. In his social media post, Ben-Gvir stated, **“Until then, they will continue to remain in prison under the conditions they deserve.”**

On November 11, 2025, the Security Committee of the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament, approved in its first vote the draft law providing for the death penalty for Palestinian prisoners by 39 votes to 16. Following the second vote, the final third vote was adopted by 62 members of the Knesset, **including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu**, with 48 votes against.



The law adopted on March 30, 2026 provides that Palestinians **convicted of carrying out deadly attacks against Israelis** may be executed by hanging.

The law provides for the death penalty for “any person” who kills an Israeli citizen or resident “with the intent to bring about the destruction of the State of Israel.” Palestinian citizens of Israel are also encompassed within its scope.

Under the approved law, killing an Israeli citizen or a person residing in Israel “with the intent of denying the existence of the State of Israel” constitutes sufficient grounds for the imposition of the death penalty. It is possible for the death penalty to be imposed without a request from the prosecution. **Unanimity is not required for the imposition of the death penalty; a decision may be rendered by a simple majority.** Military courts holding jurisdiction over Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank will also be authorized to impose the death penalty. The Minister of Defence has the right to provide an opinion. In cases where the death penalty is imposed on Palestinian prisoners in the occupied Palestinian territories, avenues for pardon and appeal are closed. The law also grants Israeli courts the authority to choose between the death penalty and life imprisonment for their own citizens.

Under the law, once the sentence has been handed down, **the execution by hanging must be carried out within 90 days.** The execution may be postponed for up to 180 days. Under the law, persons sentenced to death will be placed in a separate detention facility and will not be permitted visits from anyone other than authorized persons, while meetings with their lawyers will be conducted only via video conferencing.

Israeli Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir, who is reported to be the architect of the law, stated in a speech following the approval to bring the bill to the final vote: “With God’s help, **we will fully implement this law and kill our enemies.**” He described it as “the most important law” passed by the parliament in recent years.

Ben-Gvir posted on his social media account: “History is being made. We promised, and we delivered on our promise.” Following the approval of the bill, Minister Ben-Gvir celebrated in the Knesset with champagne.



According to a statement by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, in the military courts exercising jurisdiction over Palestinians in the West Bank, **the death penalty has effectively become mandatory**. Under the law, judges may impose the death penalty without a request from the prosecution. In most cases, execution will be obligatory unless the court recognizes exceptional circumstances.

Under the law, military courts trying Palestinians who are not Israeli citizens will impose the death penalty on those who kill Israelis as a result of “terrorist acts.” Military courts may convert the sentence to life imprisonment only in “exceptional circumstances.”

Civil courts trying Israeli citizens, including Palestinians who hold Israeli citizenship, will have the discretion to impose either life imprisonment or the death penalty for murders committed “with the intent to deny the existence of the State of Israel.”

Amichai Cohen from the Israel Democracy Institute emphasized that this is clearly discriminatory, stating: “This law will apply in areas under military courts, that is, where Palestinians are tried. In Israeli courts, it will apply only to terrorist activities aimed at undermining the existence of Israel. This means that Jews will not be prosecuted under this law.”

As stated by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk, the Israeli bill aiming to introduce the death penalty for Palestinian detainees constitutes a clear violation of international law both in the occupied Palestinian territories and within Israel. According to Türk, these proposals, which lower the threshold for applying the death penalty, deepen discrimination against Palestinians and undermine the right to a fair trial. The bill contradicts Israel’s obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Moreover, **the legislation provides no discretion to the courts. The bill constitutes serious discrimination, opens the door to new and severe human rights violations**, and seeks to amend the military law currently in force in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Torture and Inhuman Treatment of Children, Women, and Persons with Disabilities in Detention Centers and Prisons

Torture and Inhuman Treatment of Children



Local and international Israeli reports indicate that the same practices that disregard humanitarian law are carried out against vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Numerous reports and testimonies indicate that women, children, and persons with disabilities are also subjected to torture. For example, Israeli security forces carried out random arrests during ground operations in Gaza. Those released have shared information about practices in the Zeytun neighborhood, where, despite cold weather conditions, men were forced to go outside in their underwear, had their hands handcuffed in a way that caused injury, were kicked while on the ground, left hungry and thirsty, and were not allowed to use toilets. Photographs show that **children are among those arrested** under administrative detention.

Children are not exempt from torture in detention centers and prisons either. On December 16, 2023, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) stated that it had received “numerous disturbing reports” that “**thousands of Palestinians, including children, were collectively detained, ill-treated, and forcibly disappeared**” in northern Gaza. Its report titled “**Palestinian detainees held arbitrarily and secretly, subjected to torture and mistreatment,**” dated July 31, 2024, states that in Gaza, mostly men and **adolescent boys were detained**, many while staying in schools, hospitals, and homes or at checkpoints during their migration from north to south, and that in some cases children were held with adults.

Save the Children's research, titled "**Stripped, beaten and blindfolded,**" dated July 10, 2023, prior to October 7, examines the ongoing violence and abuse against Palestinian children detained by the Israeli army.

According to Save the Children's research, which included interviews with 228 former child detainees, **42% of the children** were injured during their arrest, including bullet wounds and fractures. **65% of the children** were arrested in the middle of the night. 86% of the children were beaten. 60% were hit with sticks or weapons. Some children reported being subjected to sexual violence and abuse, including being hit or touched on their genitals, while **69%** reported being subjected to strip searches. **60% of the children** were held in solitary confinement for periods ranging from 1 to 48 days.

As stated in Human Rights Watch's November 29, 2023 statement, Military Court Watch (a group monitoring the treatment of children in Israeli military custody) reported that **in 22 documented cases of Palestinian children in detention in 2023**, they were subjected to physical violence by Israeli forces while in detention, and 73% were subjected to strip searches.

As reported by Military Court Watch (Monitoring Group on the Treatment of Children in Israeli Military Detention), as of November 2009;

approximately 800,000 Palestinian men, women, and children have been detained since 1967.

Even 12-year-old Palestinian children can be tried in military courts.

Approximately 500 to 1,000 children are detained each year.

Children are most often prosecuted for throwing stones.

More than half of the detained children are arrested at night and report being subjected to physical and psychological abuse during arrest, transfer, and interrogation.

Cases are concluded in military courts. **95%** of cases result in convictions.

Approximately **50%** of Palestinian child detainees are held in Israeli prisons, in violation of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

In a report published in 2013, UNICEF concluded that "ill-treatment of children in contact with the military detention system is widespread, systematic, and institutionalized throughout the process."

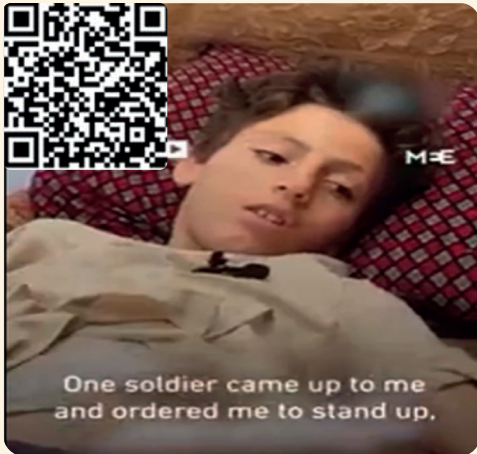
- Under Israeli military law, army commanders have full **executive, legislative, and judicial authority** over more than 3 million Palestinians living in the West Bank. Palestinians have no say in how this authority is exercised
- **Two separate Israeli legal systems** are applied in the West Bank. While Palestinians are tried **in military courts**, Israeli settlers are tried **in civil courts**, where they enjoy significantly greater rights and protections.
- Israeli children, including those living in settlements built in violation of international law in the West Bank, enjoy significantly more rights and protections under civil law than Palestinian children living under military law.
- Military courts used to try civilians are only permitted on a temporary basis under international law. Israeli military courts used to try Palestinians from the West Bank have been operating since **1967**.

As stated in Human Rights Watch’s report dated August 29, 2023, **discrimination is also becoming widespread in the treatment of children**. Israeli civil law protects children from night arrests. It recognizes the right of a parent to be present during interrogations and limits the length of time children can be held in custody before consulting a lawyer and appearing before a judge. Palestinian children, however, do not enjoy these rights. In addition, Israeli authorities regularly arrest Palestinian children during **night raids**, interrogate them without a guardian present, and detain them for long periods before bringing them before a judge. Children under the age of 12 are also subjected to long periods of detention. **The Israeli Civil Rights Association found that in 2017, authorities detained 72% of Palestinian children in the West Bank until the end of their trial, compared to only 17.9% of Israeli children.**



The Palestinian Commission of Detainees’ and Ex-Detainees’ Affairs claims that approximately 460 children were detained in the five months following October 2023. This number is roughly double that of previous years, indicating that **an average of three children were detained every day**.

As stated by Jason Lee, Country Director for Save the Children in the occupied Palestinian territories, Israel is **the only country in the world that automatically and systematically tries children in military courts**.



Many Palestinian women and children who have been tortured are on record.

The child in the referenced photo how an Israeli soldier stepped on his head with his boot during arrest, how he was placed in a solitary cell, how **dogs were set on the prisoners**, how many prisoners had scars, and how children and settlers were brought to the prison to spit on and urinate on the prisoners.

The Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), in its report dated July 27, 2025, stated that the statements of ten children who were arrested when they went to aid centers interviewed by PCHR indicate that Israel used hunger to direct children to aid centers, where they were arrested, **tortured, robbed, and beaten**. One of the children, aged 15-17, stated that he was taken by military vehicles to the Hamad Hospital under construction in the Tal al-Sultan neighborhood of Rafah, lined up in front of the hospital building and shot between his legs, taken to the fifth floor, **tied with a rope around his neck and feet, and pushed from the fifth floor. He also stated that the rope was likely attached to a crane, so he did not hit the ground but remained suspended about half a meter above it.**



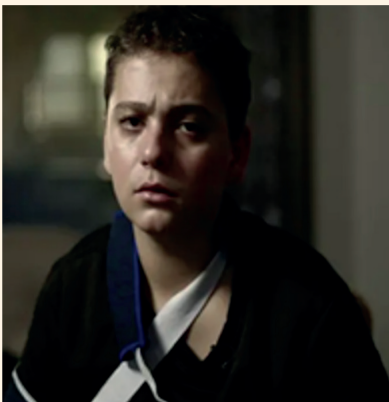
The arrest of children in Palestine is commonplace, and even campaigns that have gained worldwide attention have failed to prevent children from enduring torture and ill-treatment in prisons for years. Ahmed Manasra, who was arrested in 2015, sentenced to 9.5 years in prison, and lost his mental stability after enduring torture during his years in prison, is an example of this.

The arrest of Ahmed Manasra at the age of 13 and his subsequent detention in solitary confinement for two years, followed by his being brought to and from court with his hands and feet chained, is **just one example of Israel's practices against children, long before October 7.** After his arrest, a video showing the pressure applied by Israeli police during Ahmed Manasra's interrogation and Ahmed crying out of fear was published in the press. All campaigns and demands by the international community have failed to secure Ahmed Manasra's release from prison **before ten years.**



Save the Children reported that as of June 9, 2024, approximately 250 children from the West Bank are missing within Israel's detention system, with families unable to learn where their children are or their health status due to restrictions on visits imposed in October 2023.

A June 2, 2024, statement by the Palestinian Commission of Detainees' and Ex-Detainees' Affairs, based on statements from 120 children held in Israeli prisons, **alleges that children under the age of 18 held in Israeli prisons are subjected to "hateful punishments based on solitary confinement, beatings, torture, and daily harassment."**



"They came with their dogs. They set their dogs on us and started beating us. They took our mattresses, clothes, and pillows. They threw our food on the ground. People were terrified. The dog that attacked us had a muzzle with very sharp edges. The muzzle and its claws left marks all over my body."

Muhammed Nazzal

Mohammad Nazzal, who was released on Tuesday, December 1, 2023, at the age of 18, stated, “They lined us up with the older prisoners in the back and the younger ones in the front. They took me and started beating me. I was trying to protect my head, and they were trying to break my hands and legs. At first, I was in a lot of pain. **After a while, I realized they had broken them. I stopped using my hands. I only used them when I went to the toilet.**” Mohammad explained that he ate, drank water, and went to the toilet with the help of other prisoners, that he did not ask the guards for medical help for fear of being beaten again, that he was beaten twice in this way in Megiddo Prison, and that he was beaten countless times in Nafha Prison.

Citizens of other countries also face the same treatment. For example, **Palestinian-American Muhammad Ibrahim, who lives in Florida, USA, was detained by Israeli forces in February 2025 at the age of 15 while visiting his family in the West Bank. He was not released until nine months later.** In a statement to DCIP, Muhammad said that soldiers beat him with rifle butts while transporting him. Muhammad’s uncle, Zeyad Kadur, said that Muhammad contracted scabies more than three months ago and has not received any treatment. **“At one point, he lost more than 14 kilograms, which is more than a quarter of his total body weight.** We have no communication. We haven’t seen him. We haven’t heard from him.” “The last time we saw Muhammad, he was **blindfolded and handcuffed by 25 armed soldiers.**



The case of Ibrahim, who denied the charges but was accused by Israel of stone-throwing, illustrates the treatment that even U.S. citizens have faced. Indeed, Israeli forces and settlers have **killed at least ten U.S. citizens** since 2022, including two who were killed in the West Bank in July.

Torture and Inhuman Treatment of Persons with Disabilities



The case of Ömer Yahya El Karinavi, who has autism, demonstrates that the situation is the same for Palestinians with mental disabilities. El-Karinavi, 18, from the Bureyc Refugee Camp in the central Gaza Strip, was taken to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Red Cross vehicles when he was released by the Israeli army. El-Karinavi was wounded by Israeli soldiers' gunfire. Despite posing no threat whatsoever, he has been held for months in extremely harsh conditions in prison

It is reported that Palestinians detained by the Israeli army and subjected to severe torture in prisons suffer from numerous physical and psychological ailments. One such case is Abu Mustafa, who is being treated at the European Hospital in Khan Yunis. Hospital doctor Hasan es-Saidi stated that Abu Mustafa was brought to the hospital in a pitiful state, having lost his eyesight due to severe beatings by Israeli soldiers, unable to control his bladder, unable to move, unable to speak, and unaware of who he was or where he was.



Hastanın vücudundan dalak, karaciğer ve diğer bazı organlar alınmış durumda.



Ayrıca gözlerinden aldığı ağır darbeler nedeniyle görme yetisini kaybetmiş.



Halline bakın iştah harisiz edismiyor, konuşmuyor, hasta kendini tanıyamıyor ve şu anda nerede olduğunu bilmiyor.

On December 18, 2023, Palestinian human rights defender and social worker Munther Amira was detained by Israeli forces for Facebook posts criticizing Israel. He was released from administrative detention at Ofer Military Prison in the occupied West Bank on February 29, 2024. Amira, a West Bank native held at Ofer Prison, stated that guards regularly beat detainees as punishment or often for no reason at all. He said that he and 12 others shared a cell with only six beds and a few thin blankets, freezing during the winter months, that prisoners were handcuffed and forced to bend over when they had to use the toilet, and that they were allowed outside for only 15 minutes twice a week.



Amira reported that he lost 33 kilograms during the three months he was detained because he was given very little food. Amira reported that he and his cellmates watched another prisoner attempt to kill himself by jumping from a high fence outside their cell window. When they knocked on the door for help, **soldiers entered their cell with two large dogs, tied their hands, lined them up in the corridor, and beat them.**



Nadur Halid Gaseliyye, a 27-year-old blind man, was detained with 10 other people, including elderly individuals, at a shelter where they had taken refuge in the northern Gaza Strip. Despite being blind, he said Israeli soldiers blindfolded him just as they did to other Palestinians. Gaseliyye stated: “It was very hot in the prison. I was sweating profusely. The blindfold caused severe pain and burning in my eyes. I asked them to wash my face with water, but they refused. During the transfer, we were subjected to various forms of torture, including severe beatings. **They hit us on the back and spine with the butts of their rifles. Some people died as a result. In addition to the severity of the beatings, they set dogs on us.**”

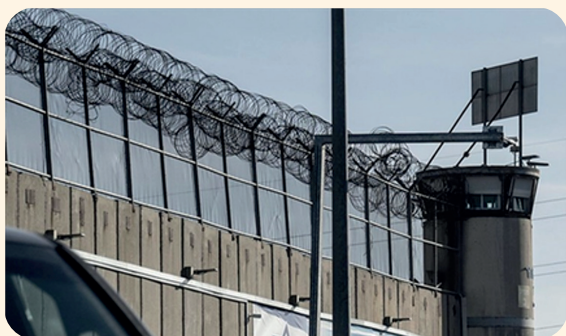


The Israeli army raided Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza on December 27, 2024, and detained Mahmud Abu Ful, who was undergoing treatment there. Abu Ful, who lost his left leg in an Israeli bombardment in 2015 and had no access to a prosthesis, was unable to leave the hospital due to his limited mobility. During the raid, patients and medical staff were detained. **Abu Ful, who already had his leg amputated, was taken directly to prison, where he lost his eye.**

Abu Ful, 28, reported being subjected to severe torture in prison after being detained by the Israeli army in the Gaza Strip. “The Israeli army took me from the bed where I was being treated. I couldn’t move. It was impossible for me to even stand up. I was subjected to severe torture at the interrogation center where they took me,” he said. He described the pain he experienced: “We were subjected to severe torture. **They hit me repeatedly on the head and neck with iron batons. Two hours later, everything went dark, and my eyes could no longer see anything.** I am free, but I have lost my eyesight.” After months of detention, Abu Ful was released in October 2025, but without his eyes and leg, and with his home destroyed, he is forced to live in a tent in southern Gaza.

Torture and Inhuman Treatment of Women

As stated in the 2025 report of the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry covering the Occupied Palestinian Territory, East Jerusalem, and Israel, certain forms of sexual and gender-based violence (including sexual harassment and sexual assault, including threats of rape, forced undressing and stripping, and forced nudity) are part of the standard operating procedures of the Israeli Security Forces towards Palestinians. The findings in the report indicate that other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including rape and violence against sexual organs, were committed with the explicit orders or tacit encouragement of Israel's senior civilian and military leaders.



Reports prepared by various human rights organizations have repeatedly documented that **Palestinian female prisoners** face serious human rights violations in Israeli prisons, including systematic psychological and physical torture, strip searches, overcrowding, and denial of access to health care.

As stated in the March 3, 2025 report by Amnesty International, “Palestinian women in Gaza are subjected to various forms of gender-based physical and psychological violence, including reproductive and other gender-based violence.” Palestinians released from Israeli detention centers have also reported to Amnesty International that they were subjected to torture and sexual violence while in custody.

On May 3, 2024, the Palestinian Prisoners’ Society announced that four Palestinian female journalists, including one breastfeeding mother, were being held in Israeli prisons. **A report compiled during a visit to Damon Prison** by a lawyer from the Palestinian Commission of Detainees’ and Ex-Detainees’ Affairs states that **women were subjected to strip searches, threatened with rape, had their hair pulled, were dragged on the floor, and had their photos taken with cell phones in difficult and painful situations.**

According to a report published in August 2025 by the Palestinian human rights organization El-Avde, detained Palestinian women struggle with pests and lack of hygiene in overcrowded cells, enduring daily strip searches and psychological pressure. The lack of basic living supplies and personal belongings further exacerbates their difficulties.

The report, based on statements from international rights organizations and former detainees, documents **systematic torture and sexual abuse of female prisoners** in Israeli prisons. It states that torture and humiliation are not isolated incidents, but rather are organized within the framework of Israeli policy, and that the ill-treatment experienced in prisons is recorded as a concrete manifestation of Israel's systematic oppression of Palestinian female prisoners and its policy of violating international law.

UN Special Rapporteurs on Violence against Women and Girls, its Causes and Consequences Reem Alsalem, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 Francesca Albanese, Chair of the Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls Dorothy Estrada Tanck, members Claudia Flores, Ivana Krstić, Haina Lu, and Laura Nyirinkindi, stated in their February 19, 2024, statement that they are **seriously concerned about the arbitrary detention of hundreds of Palestinian women and girls**, including human rights defenders, journalists, and humanitarian workers, in Gaza and the West Bank since October 7, 2023. Many were reportedly subjected to inhumane and degrading treatment, denied sanitary pads, food, and medicine, and severely beaten. In at least one case, Palestinian women detained in Gaza were allegedly held in a cage in the rain and cold, without food. The UN rapporteurs' statement said, "We are particularly distressed by reports that Palestinian women and girls in detention have been subjected to various forms of sexual assault, including being stripped and searched by male Israeli military personnel. At least two Palestinian female detainees were reportedly raped, while others were threatened with rape and sexual violence." It was also reported that photographs of female detainees in degrading conditions were taken by the Israeli army and uploaded to the internet.

UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, Reem Alsalem, stated in her statement dated July 17, 2025, that she was concerned about reports of sexual violence, including rape committed by Israeli forces. In Alsalem's words, "**What is being done to Palestinian women and girls is not a side effect of war. It is the deliberate destruction of their lives and bodies because they are Palestinian and because they are women.**"

Many female detainees have testified about their experiences. Mervat Hammad, who was arrested at her home and witnessed her husband being brutally murdered in front of their children during her arrest, was released in October 2025 and recounted the horrific torture she endured in Israeli prisons. She reported that **the guards made no distinction in their treatment of women and men**. Among the most unbearable abuses Hammad endured were **being hung by her arms, being assaulted for days, and being subjected to electric shocks**.



The transformation of Palestinian women in prison speaks for itself, requiring no further explanation. One such case is that of Halide Cerrar, who was detained by Israel at her home in Ramallah on December 26, 2023, and held in prison without charge under administrative detention. Cerrar was released **two years later** on January 19, 2026. At 61 years old, Cerrar's hair has turned completely white, she has become frail, and she has difficulty walking. As stated by the Palestinian Prisoners' Society, Cerrar spent most of her time in Israeli prison in solitary confinement. The Society stated, "Since August 12, 2024, Halide has been held in solitary confinement in one of the oldest and worst cells imaginable in Israel. Israeli authorities committed crimes of pressure and abuse against Halide at every level, from isolation to starvation and deprivation of even the most basic necessities for human life. Halide's solitary confinement was open-ended."



Halide Cerrar wrote in a letter sent through her lawyer who visited her in August 2024, "I am dying every day because the cell I am in resembles a small, closed box where even air cannot enter. I am suffocating in my cell. I wait for hours hoping to find oxygen to breathe in order to survive." Cerrar wrote that they even cut off the water in her cell, saying she felt "like she was in an oven and couldn't sleep." Cerrar stated that the prison administration's repeated attacks on Palestinian prisoners over the past year, the reduction in the quality and quantity of food provided, and the isolation policies have made conditions extremely harsh, and that these are the result of National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's policy of treating **prisoners "as if they were not human."** **She stated that "the conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons are the harshest since 1967."**



Tesnim, the daughter of Mervan el-Hams, who is responsible for managing field hospitals in Gaza, was released in a state of extreme exhaustion and showing signs of prolonged starvation, **struggling to stand with the support of two family members** when she was brought to the hospital. Tesnim, a 24-year-old nurse, was detained by Israeli soldiers on October 2 in the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis and released on October 28, 2025, as part of a ceasefire exchange. Tesnim described the conditions in Israeli prisons, stating, "We were beaten, insulted, and verbally abused. They treated us brutally, sprayed gas into the cells, and **beat the female prisoners until their skulls were fractured.**"

Testimonies of Detained Prisoners and Their Lawyers and Reports on Torture



The Palestinian, who was detained in the hospital along with other healthcare workers and patients while being treated at Nasser Hospital due to his injuries, said he was **kept with his eyes covered and hands cuffed for 60 days**, describing the torture inside as “like living in hell”.



As part of the 2025 ceasefire agreement, Israel released 1,968 Palestinians from Gaza and the occupied West Bank, deporting 154 former detainees from Egypt to be sent to other countries of which they were citizens. The rest returned to their homes in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. Among those released from the Gaza Strip were **two women, six children, and 30 men over the age of 60**. Many of those released were extremely emaciated or had visible bruises. Some were so severely injured and

weak that they were taken directly from the transport vehicle to the hospital for medical treatment.



After the ceasefire agreement came into effect in October 2025, Dr. Muhammad Asaliya, who was released, was also transferred to Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. Asaliya complains of spasms and chest pain due to the ill-treatment he suffered in prison.



A Palestinian in a wheelchair, released in October 2025 as part of the exchange, stated that he was held in **Megiddo prison**, which he described as a “slaughterhouse,” and later transferred to another detention center called **Ofer**, crying for his children aged 2, 5, and 8 and his wife, who were killed by Israeli soldiers. **The physical changes and scars on the bodies** of those released from prison constitute evidence of the torture they endured.

Reports from Israel’s own public institutions reveal collective punishment. A December 31, 2025, Haaretz newspaper report reveals that the Israeli Civil Rights Association applied to the Jerusalem Magistrate’s Court in January 2025 to share reports on prisons with the public, but that the official authorities have not responded to the request to date. Previously, permission had not been granted to release the reports on the grounds that Israeli prisoners were being held in Gaza. Subsequently, the Israeli Ministry of Justice shared six reports with the association, noting that conditions had changed as of the end of December.

Accordingly, delegations from the **Israeli Public Defense Unit** visited the prison in the southern Najaf region in May, June, and September 2024. As stated in these reports, “The results of the first two visits indicate that **the practice of depriving Palestinian prisoners of drinking water has taken place, at least in some parts of the prison.**” The practice of depriving Palestinian detainees of drinking water is **carried out periodically as a form of collective punishment.** In some places, it was reported that drinking water was not provided for half a day. The Israel Prison Service stated that it had stopped the collective punishment practice of depriving Palestinians of drinking water prior to the September visit.



Ramadan Shamalack, a Palestinian man being treated at Al-Aqsa Hospital in central Gaza, suffered severe injuries to his hands and face after being beaten and was unable to open his eyes due to swelling caused by torture, despite stating that he was a civilian. “I don’t know where they took my three sisters,” Shamalack said. **“They used a chair and a kitchen knife (while torturing me), they used (the knife) on my fingers. (The Israeli soldier) was about to cut off my ear. They tortured me. They kicked me in the eyes with their boots. They kept kicking me in the face. They cut me.”**

When Abu Al-Rish was released from the Beit Hanoun (Erez) Border Crossing in northern Gaza on August 30, 2024, he was one of the victims of torture receiving treatment at Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahia. Abu Al-Rish, who is in his 40s, has difficulty speaking due to the psychological and physical violence he suffered. Eyewitnesses reported that Abu al-Rish had bruises on his body from being beaten and was in severe pain.



Abu al-Rish repeatedly cries out, **“They tortured me. I want my mother. Take me to her, I want to talk to her. Mother, I want to see you, but I can’t,”** which is indicative of the severity of his experiences.

In July 2024, the Israeli army released 19 Palestinians it had detained in various parts of the Gaza Strip. Thirteen of the Palestinians released at the gate in Israel's Kissufim region were taken to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah due to their poor health. The Palestinians stated that during their detention, they were subjected to beatings, torture, ill-treatment, and starvation. **Saeed Abu Tafa, 31, described his experience, saying, "I saw every kind of torture. I was in hell. Israeli detention centers are worse than Guantanamo."**

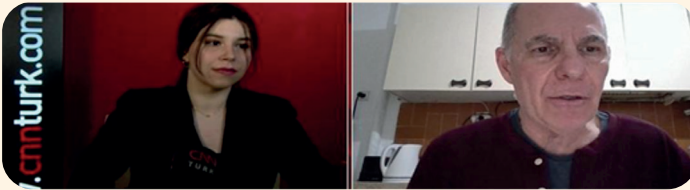


Fathi Abdulal (21), an electrical engineering student who was detained by Israeli forces for seven months, was brought to his relatives in the city of Deir al-Balah in Gaza after his release. As a result of the torture he endured during his detention, Abdulal has scars on his hands, face, and legs.

Palestinian teacher Ibrahim Al-Shawish, a resident of Beit Hanoun who was detained on December 10, 2023, and held in Israeli prisons for a year, describes the psychological and physical torture he endured in Israeli prisons as **"indescribable torture."**



Al-Shawish: “They interrogated me there, tortured me, and **dragged me on my knees over broken glass. They didn’t care if someone died; three people died in our unit. For example, when they brought you in for interrogation, they would say, ‘I killed your family; not a single member of your family is left.’** (After the interrogation) for seven months, there was no change of clothes. From morning prayer until evening, they took away the already thin blankets and mattresses, and we slept on bare iron in the winter cold. Most of the time, 25 of us stayed in tents. In the summer heat, opening the tent door or window was forbidden. If you opened it, they punished you by not allowing you to use the toilet for 24 hours and by denying you water for 24 hours.”



Reports and testimonies show that not only Palestinians but also Israelis had to pay a heavy price for criticizing what was happening in Gaza. Israeli history teacher Meir Baruchin was fired from his job and arrested after sharing information about Gaza. When Baruchin shared information showing the massacre in Gaza on October 8, he was asked to defend himself on October 18 and was fired the next day. He was summoned for questioning on November 9. According to Baruchin’s statement to the press, as soon as he entered the police station, his hands and feet were cuffed, then he was taken home by five detectives, his home was ransacked, and then he was taken back to the police station for his first interrogation. The interrogation lasted for hours, and then he was taken to a prison in Jerusalem.

The Israeli teacher described his experiences in Israeli prisons: “I was in a solitary cell. The guards weren’t allowed to talk to me. I wasn’t allowed to bring anything with me. Forget about a TV, I didn’t even have a book. I entered the cell wearing my own clothes, and I wore the same clothes for four days. They gave me two old blankets that reeked of cigarette smoke. **If I were Palestinian, I would have been subjected to even more violence. All night long, I could hear the screams of other prisoners, especially the Palestinians. It was a horrific situation.**”

One of the most important witnesses to what happens in Israeli prisons are **the lawyers who are able to meet with their clients** in prison. Khaled Mahajna, a lawyer with the Prisoners’ Affairs Commission, testified during a press conference in August 2024 about what he witnessed when he visited two Gazan prisoners at **Ofer Prison** near Ramallah in the West Bank.

Journalist Muhammad Arab, one of the two detainees he visited, was questioned by his lawyer about a previous visit to the Sde Teiman camp in the Negev Desert in southern Israel and threatened with punishment if he disclosed the details. He stated that **he witnessed the rape of Gazan detainees, including one who was stripped naked, and was in critical physical and mental condition.** He also reported that another detainee had been stripped of all his clothes, **electrocuted, and sexually abused, that those arrested were forced to lie on the ground with their hands tied behind their heads, and that police dogs were set on them.** The lawyer reported that approximately one hundred detainees were taken from the Sde Teiman camp to Ofer Prison with their eyes blindfolded, and that these individuals believed they were being taken to a camp near Gaza.



There is a great deal of testimony regarding torture in Israeli prisons, and **lawyers, like doctors, can personally witness and testify to the physical violence inflicted on their clients' bodies.** Israeli lawyer Ben Marmarelli stated that torture has always existed in Israeli prisons, but that conditions have worsened and torture has intensified since Ben-Gvir took office, and that his client had personally reported these issues to him.

Marmarelli stated, “Palestinian prisoners are not receiving enough food. When I saw my client a year ago, in April 2024, **he looked like the skeletons in Holocaust films.** Today he is still very weak, but slightly better than a year ago.” The Israeli lawyer stated that beatings and humiliation are constant, and that Palestinians, who are deprived of visits from their families for years and cut off from the outside world, **can only meet with their lawyers,** adding that **visiting days are the days when beatings and humiliation are most intense.**

He described what happens on visiting days: “During the lawyer visit, they have to take them out of their cells and take them to another part of the prison. In a room, the lawyer is on one side of the window and the prisoner is on the other side, talking on the phone. To do this, **they take him out of his cell at around 6:00 a.m., beat him, rape him, and put him in another room with all the other prisoners who have visitors that day.**” He described what happened: “**In the room, they handcuff his hands and feet, blindfold him, and keep him waiting on his knees in a stressful position with his eyes covered from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. throughout the day.** Except for the 30 minutes between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. when I saw my client, they keep him waiting in the room on his knees. **When he comes for the visit, they move the handcuffs forward so he can hold the phone and remove the blindfold.**”

The Israeli lawyer stated that his clients **could not identify the guard who attacked them because their eyes were blindfolded during the beating and rape**, and therefore could not provide a name or description to file a complaint. He explained that he had submitted a petition on this matter, but the judges and police did not take the complaints seriously. According to the Israeli lawyer, **“Torture is not just rape; rape is only part of the bigger picture, part of systematic torture.”**

A former Palestinian prisoner, who introduced himself as Nihat because he did not want his name disclosed for security concerns, told Anadolu Agency that physical and psychological torture such as being forcibly stripped naked, sexual assault, and rape by dogs were “the hardest things he had ever experienced in his life.” Nihat said he was detained during a dawn raid by the Israeli army on January 14, 2024, **stripped completely naked, handcuffed behind his back, and forced to put his head in a toilet bowl**. He described this detention by Israel as much worse than the five other experiences he had endured since the 1990s. Nihat also stated that he refrained from recounting the details of previous **sexual assaults because speaking about them had no effect. He emphasized that sexual abuse and rape were not isolated incidents but part of systematic torture**. The Palestinian prisoner described what happened in prison as **“a great achievement to be able to walk out of prison on your own two feet.”**

The situation of prisoners in Israeli prisons is one of the most difficult. I have read everything written about prison literature, but no book mentioned the torture methods used on us. **In prison, soldiers deliberately broke all my teeth and shoved a toilet brush into my mouth.”**



Dr. Issam Ebu Acve

Issam Abu Acwa is a Gazan doctor who was detained by the Israeli army while volunteering at the Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza and was released from prison 200 days later.

The Gazan surgeon stated that his hands and feet were shackled throughout the 125-day interrogation period, that he was subjected to various forms of torture while held captive by Israel, that he and other Palestinian prisoners were blindfolded and taken to an unknown location, **stripped of their clothes, and left in the cold for 17 hours**, and that the most difficult forms of torture were hunger, exposure to the cold, and being unable to use the toilet. He stated that the 150 Palestinian prisoners in their tent were allowed to use water for drinking and washing for only one hour, and that their meals consisted of one and a half spoonful of rice or beans and a small piece of vegetable. Acwa said, **“My only crime was being a doctor with a scalpel and scissors in my hands. Think about what they did to the others.”**

“Every two hours, we were taken to the inspectors who asked us where the Israeli prisoners were. We had no idea about this. I was a doctor working in a private hospital inside the church, while the other detainees were civilians. **Every doctor in the Gaza Strip is wanted by Israel for performing their humanitarian duty.** We were subjected to various forms of torture, including beatings, starvation, humiliation, and verbal abuse.” He stated that the Israeli interrogator threatened to paralyze his hands during the severe torture, thereby preventing him from practicing his profession.



Amina Al-Taweel, spokesperson for the Palestine Centre for Prisoner Studies, stated that in February 2024, Palestinians died in Israeli prisons as a result of severe beatings, and that prisoners were tied up naked and **beaten to death in a specific sitting position.** Describing the torture as **“satanic acts,”** she said the problem was not only due to the number of Palestinian detainees, but also the practices carried out from the moment they were arrested, including **severe beatings, punishment, harassment,**

threats of rape, and photographing them completely naked. She added that some prisoners had fractures in their skulls, jaws, chests, backs, or spines, that Palestinian prisoners were reluctant to speak to the press **after their release** due to Israeli pressure, and that prisoners whose images appeared in the media **could be punished for any reason.**



According to a statement issued by the Palestinian Prisoners' Society on April 29, 2024, Israel has recently released a small number of Palestinians consisting of "administrative detainees" and those who have completed their sentences. Most of the Palestinians released from Israeli prisons suffer from health problems, which are caused by "harsh detention conditions and the systematic policies escalated by the Israeli Prison Service after the attacks on the Gaza Strip began on October 7, 2023." Some of the systematic policies implemented by the Israeli Prison Service amount to "torture, starvation, and mistreatment leading to death after release."

Some released Palestinians have complained of pain in their bodies and suffered health problems requiring ongoing treatment, while others have reported **broken bones as a result of beatings** during their detention. Despite the passage of time, Palestinians still bear the negative effects of their detention. They have lost weight, are weak, and their appearance has changed significantly. The continued strict practices in Israeli prisons following the attacks on Gaza are worsening health conditions and making even healthy people sick.

One such case is that of Palestinian Doctor Mustafa Jawad Siyam, who was detained by the Israeli army during its occupation of Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza in March. Dr. Siyam was treated at the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir Al-Balah for severe torture he endured during his detention until his release on May 10. **The Palestinian doctor** stated that during his detention, he faced food and water shortages, sleep deprivation, and extremely poor detention conditions, as well as psychological and physical torture. He said, "We were interrogated, subjected to physical and psychological torture. I was accused of baseless charges and forcibly sent to Israel."



"The Gazans who are detained are beaten, their hands are tied, and their eyes are covered. **The Israeli army sets dogs on the prisoners.**"

Dr. Mustafa Cevad Siyam



Palestinians entering prison report that the torture they are subjected to is too horrific to describe. A July 2024 New York Times article reported that Gazans detained at the Sde Teiman detention center were kept in an open area with their eyes blindfolded, their hands cuffed, and forced to sit silently on the ground for up to 18 hours a day. The report stated that Palestinian detainees brought to the detention center were held there for up to three months and that many were subjected to inhumane treatment and torture during interrogation.



Ibrahim Atef Salim was detained at Kamal Adwan Hospital in the north when the Israeli army launched its ground invasion of the Gaza Strip in December 2023. Salim was detained while accompanying his children, who were injured in an Israeli bombardment targeting his home in the northern Gaza Strip town of Jabalia. **The image of Salim standing behind a cage filled with barbed wire, blindfolded and handcuffed, is one of the shocking examples illustrating the torture that took place.**

Palestinian Salim, who spent 8 months in Israeli prisons, describes the 52 days he spent in Sde Teiman as **“a period that exceeded all limits of physical torture and left an indelible mark.”** He stated that during those 52 days, he was beaten 12 times and subjected to various forms of torture. Salim said he was transferred to numerous Israeli prisons, including Negev, Ofer, and Megiddo in Israel, where he was left naked in closed rooms exposed to low temperatures. He also stated that he was **electrocuted** in various parts of his body during his detention.

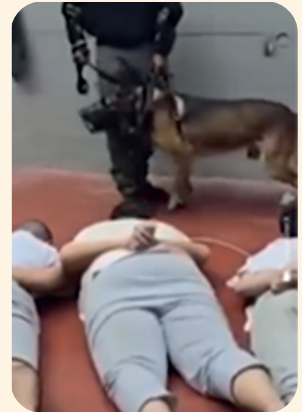
Reports indicate that the torture was not limited to Sde Teiman prison. A December 7, 2023, Haaretz newspaper report stated that **“in addition to Sde Teiman, the Megiddo Prison in northern Israel is another prison where horrific crimes are constantly committed against detained Palestinians and systematic torture is carried out.”** Documents leaked from Megiddo indicate that **numerous horrific attacks and torture cases against hundreds of detained Palestinians have been recorded, and that dogs were set upon prisoners** to humiliate them. The footage shows an Israeli guard walking his police dog over the heads of some Palestinian prisoners, who are lying face down on the ground with their hands cuffed behind their backs, and very close to the heads of others.



According to a December 7, 2023 report by Haaretz newspaper, an unnamed senior official from the Israel Prison Service stated that images showing Palestinians lying on their backs with their upper bodies naked and their hands cuffed behind their backs, while Israeli guards stepped on their heads with dogs, were part of a **“routine practice”** for Palestinians held at Megiddo Prison.



The Haaretz newspaper reported in September 2024 that **Palestinian prisoners at Megiddo Prison were taken by guards to areas without cameras and beaten on their private parts.**



Dr. Salmiya, one of the administrators at Shifa Hospital, said, “We were beaten and tortured almost every day. **My finger was broken and I was hit on the head repeatedly. For a month and a half, I was forced to kneel with my hands cuffed and my eyes blindfolded.**”

Akram Al-Basyouni, a Palestinian prisoner held without charge in Israeli prisons and released under the October 2025 ceasefire, described the systematic torture and death scenes in detention centers, stating, **“They poured boiling water on the faces and backs of young men until their skin was peeled off.”**





Al-Basyouni, a 45-year-old man from northern Gaza, stated that he was detained on December 10, 2023, at a shelter school in Jabalia and held in custody for approximately two years, including at the Sde Teiman military base. Al-Basyouni said that detainees were routinely tortured, beaten with batons and fists, **attacked by dogs, and exposed to gas attacks during what the guards called a “welcome ceremony.”** “Many of our friends were beaten to death. When we shouted for help from the guards, they coldly replied, ‘Let them die.’ **Five minutes**

later, they would take the body away, wrap it in a bag, and close the door.”

Al-Basyouni said, “They cursed the Prophet, tore up the Quran in front of us, and insulted our mothers and sisters with the worst curses. They said our families were dead. They said, ‘There is no place called Gaza,’ **‘We killed your children.’**”

Prisoners released from Israeli prisons in July 2024 described the torture they endured to CNN, saying, “We were subjected to torture beyond description. Only God knows what we went through. **I swear it was a kind of torture no one could understand.**”

“They play with your emotions. They show you photos of your relatives, your family, and your children. They say, **‘Look, this is your child, we killed him.’**”

Similarly, many prisoners have stated that they were **shown photos of their children and told that they had been killed.** Palestinian journalist Shadi Abu Sido, who was released in a prisoner exchange, described the torture he was subjected to in Israeli prisons:

“...They stripped us naked. They threatened us with our children, saying, **‘We killed your children.’**”



Medical Neglect in Israeli Prisons



A report dated October 6, 2024, by the Israel-based human rights organization Civil Rights Association states that physical and psychological violations were committed against Palestinians at the Sde Teiman Detention Center in the Negev Desert, referred to as “Israel’s Guantanamo.” The report states that at Sde Teiman, “surgeries were

performed without anesthesia, detainees were handcuffed in a manner causing pain, their eyes were blindfolded for long periods, and violence and medical neglect were practiced.”

According to a report in the Haaretz newspaper in April 2024, an unnamed doctor working at a health center in the Sde Teiman detention facility described the horrific conditions faced by Palestinian detainees in a letter he wrote. In the letter, the doctor stated that Gazans held in Israeli detention facilities had their legs amputated due to handcuff injuries and were forced to wear diapers to use the toilet. In the letter, he stated, “Just this week, two prisoners had their legs amputated due to handcuff injuries, which is unfortunately a routine occurrence.”

The Sde Teiman facility, located between Biru’s Sebi and Gaza, was established by Israel as a temporary detention facility after October 7. As stated in the Haaretz newspaper, many of the people held at the facility in the Negev have no connection to Hamas. Israel refuses to provide evidence against the detained individuals or to formally charge them. The doctor who wrote the letter stated, “From the first days of the medical facility’s operation to the present, I have faced difficult ethical dilemmas. Beyond that, I am writing to warn that the nature of the facility’s activities is not in accordance with the law in any of the sections related to the health of the detained fighters.”

The doctor’s statements indicate that **patients are shackled throughout the day, blindfolded, and fed through a straw.** Accordingly, **many prisoners are often forced to wear diapers for hours without being changed.** According to the doctor’s statement, **more than half of the patients** held in the detention center’s health facility suffer from injuries requiring surgical intervention due to being constantly shackled.

The doctor also stated that despite increasing demand, the facility did not receive regular or sufficient medical supplies, patients with chronic conditions, including epilepsy, often could not obtain the necessary medications, and patients did not receive adequate care because there was only one doctor on duty. “This situation leads to complications and **sometimes even the death of the patient,**” he said. Haaretz’s report states that amputations are routinely performed in Sde Teiman, with three different sources confirming that **a patient’s hand was amputated in 2023 due to prolonged use of restraints.**

Indeed, a May 22, 2024, BBC report shows that **Israeli healthcare workers have reported that Palestinian patients detained in Gaza and taken to Israel are routinely chained to their hospital beds, blindfolded, sometimes kept naked,** and forced to wear diapers.

A source who provided information to the BBC stated that **operations at the military hospital were routinely performed without the use of painkillers, causing “unacceptable levels of pain” to Palestinians.** Another source described how painkillers were “selectively” and “very sparingly” used during an invasive medical procedure on a Gazan in a state hospital, and how **critical patients were kept in makeshift military facilities and denied proper treatment** due to the reluctance of state hospitals to transfer and treat them. A Palestinian who was detained by the Israeli army for interrogation and taken from Gaza, and later released, said his leg was amputated because his infected wound was not treated.

The Israeli army defended that detainees at the facility were treated “appropriately and carefully.” However, statements from two sources interviewed by the BBC, whose names were kept confidential, coincide with a report published in February by the Israel-based organization Physicians for Human Rights, which noted that Israel’s civilian and military prisons have become **“an instrument of punishment and revenge”** and that detainees’ human rights, primarily their right to access healthcare, are being violated.

Concerns regarding the treatment of detained and wounded Palestinians are concentrated at the military field hospital at the Sde Teiman military base in southern Israel. The field hospital was established by the Israeli Ministry of Health to treat those detained in Gaza. Israeli forces then took large numbers of people from Gaza to bases such as Sde Teiman for interrogation, sent them to Israeli detention centers, and **returned many to Gaza without any charges being brought against them.** According to some doctors responsible for treatment at the hospital in Sde Teiman, **patients are kept blindfolded and chained to their beds by their hands and feet.** They are also not allowed to use the toilet; instead, diapers are placed on them.

In response to the allegations, the Israeli army stated that the shackling of patients detained at Sde Teiman Hospital is “assessed on a case-by-case and daily basis” and “applied when necessary for security reasons.” It stated that diapers are used “only for detainees whose movements are restricted due to medical procedures.”



Anesthesiologist Yoel Donchin states that even those unable to walk are restrained to their beds. Witnesses, including Dr. Donchin, reveal that the use of both diapers and restraints is widespread in hospital wards. The doctor's statement reads: **“The military makes the patient 100% dependent, like a baby. You are restrained, diapered, you need water, you need everything; this is dehumanizing.”** Dr. Donchin reported that in this practice, which he described as “stupid,” no individual assessment was made regarding the restriction of patient

movement and that even patients who could not walk (**such as those with amputated legs**) were restrained to their beds.

In the first weeks of the attacks, two witnesses at the facility reported that patients were kept naked under blankets. A doctor familiar with the conditions at the facility said that **prolonged shackling to beds causes “horrific pain” in patients, who begin to feel pain after a few hours, and that this constitutes “torture.”** Other doctors interviewed mentioned the risk of long-term nerve damage. Israeli medical guidelines also stipulate that no patient's movements should be restricted unless there is a specific security reason, and that any restriction should be minimal.

When examining images of Gazans released after interrogation, injuries and scars are visible on their wrists and legs. Dr. Donchin, speaking to the BBC, stated that the amputations were not a direct result of shackling and that other factors, such as infection, diabetes, or problems with blood vessels, also played a role.

In October, a source working at the Sde Teiman field hospital reported that patients were given insufficient painkillers, including anesthesia. **One doctor even refused a request to administer painkillers while opening an amputation wound that had recently become infected in an elderly patient.** Another source, referred to as “Yoni” by the BBC to protect their identity, explained that the situation at Sde Teiman was only part of a problem extending to state hospitals. “There were times when I heard staff discussing whether it was necessary to give painkillers to those detained in Gaza, or **how they could turn certain procedures into a form of punishment...**” Although they rarely put these into practice, he said that such conversations were common. “I am aware of a case where painkillers were selected and used in a very limited manner during a procedure. No explanation was given to the patient about what was happening.”

He stated, **“When you consider that a person who has undergone surgery with their body cut open has not been told anything and their eyes are covered,** there is a fine line between treatment and assault.” Yoni also said that the field hospital in Sde Teiman did not have the equipment to treat seriously wounded people, but that **in the first months after October 2023, people who had recently been wounded by bullets in the chest and abdomen were also held there.**



Sufian Abu Salah, a 43-year-old taxi driver living in Khan Yunis, is one of dozens of people detained during Israeli army raids and taken to a military base for interrogation. He said that soldiers beat him severely both during the journey and at the base, that he was denied treatment, and that **a small wound on his foot later became infected.**

Abu Salah told the BBC, “My leg got infected and turned purple, it became spongy.” He said that a week later, the guards took him to the hospital and hit his injured leg on the way, and that the two surgeries performed to clean the wound were unsuccessful. Abu Salah stated, “This period was mental and physical torture. I can’t describe it. **When I was arrested, I had two legs, now I have one.**”

On August 26, 2024, the Prisoners and Released Prisoners Committee reported that Palestinians in Israel’s Negev Prison were suffering from scabies, as well as hunger, beatings, and medical neglect. The statement noted that the Negev Prison, described as a **“living graveyard,”** imposed suffocating restrictions and pursued a policy of revenge against Palestinians. It was stated that Palestinian prisoners were deliberately subjected to pressure, tortured, and deprived of the most basic necessities of life, that many prisoners suffered serious injuries as well as infectious diseases, particularly scabies, and that most of them lost a significant amount of weight.



Palestinian detainees have stated that they constantly feel weak due to medical neglect, starvation, and deliberate insults and humiliation. It has been emphasized that even patients are subjected to torture and are not exempt from being deprived of medication.

As stated in the report titled **“Palestinian Healthcare Workers Tortured,”** published by Human Rights Watch on August 26, 2024, health workers have indicated that medical neglect occurred despite numerous requests from detainees. As stated in the report, a March 2024 report by Haaretz newspaper points to **autopsies of Palestinians who died in Israeli detention centers, indicating physical abuse, including medical neglect, bruising, and broken bones.** A report published by Physicians for Human Rights-Israel documents treatments performed without consent, surgeries performed without an anesthesiologist, and political interference in medical decisions in detention centers.

Torture Marks Found on Corpses and Bodies Not Handed Over by Israel

According to a statement issued by the Palestinian Prisoners Society on October 18, 2025, health officials in Gaza found signs of torture on the bodies of Palestinian prisoners killed by Israel that were handed over after the ceasefire in October 2025. The marks on the bodies of over a hundred Palestinians handed over by Israel, as well as marks on the eyes and handcuffs on the hands of some, indicate that they were tortured before their deaths and were likely executed. Medical sources speaking to Al Jazeera stated that forensic teams examining the bodies noted **signs of physical violence on the bodies**. The Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza stated in an announcement on October 15, 2025, that **some of the bodies were missing limbs or teeth, while others appeared to have been burned**. Sameh Hamad, a member of the commission that received the bodies at Nasser Hospital in Gaza, reported that one of the bodies had **a rope around its neck**.



On October 14, 2025, Israel handed over the unidentified remains of approximately 45 people to Gaza. A source at Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, which received the bodies through the Red Cross, told Middle East Eye that some of the deceased had been killed recently, while others had arrived decomposed or only partially intact. The source reported that some bodies showed signs of severe torture, including **strangulation marks, broken bones, and mutilation**; some had their hands and feet bound and their eyes gouged out; and others were missing limbs. It was also stated that some of the bodies belonged to people who had been **crushed to death** by Israeli tanks.

Naji Abbas, director of the Prisoners and Detainees Department at Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, said the organization was “not surprised” by the condition of the bodies that were handed over. In an autopsy report examined by the organization, signs of violence were found on the body even eight months after the person’s death. “These are documented cases of prisoners’ bodies showing signs of torture and brutal restraint prior to death,” he said.

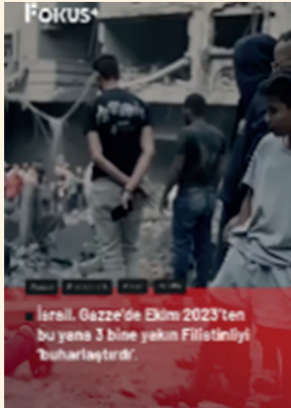
It is possible to detect signs of torture on the bodies and even **the absence of some organs**. Israel, meanwhile, **continues to withhold the bodies of some Palestinians** who have lost their lives, a practice it has maintained since 1967. The National Movement for the Recovery of Martyrs’ Bodies and the Search for Missing Persons, a Palestinian civil society organization, stated that Israel withholds the bodies of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers or who died in prison “to use them as bargaining chips in any prisoner exchange,” and buries the bodies of Palestinians Israel refuses to return to their families in graves marked only with numbers instead of names, in a cemetery called the **“Cemetery of Numbers.”** On October 11, 2025, the organization reported that Israel was **holding the bodies of 735 Palestinians**, including 67 children, 10 women, and 86 prisoners. The organization stated that 256 of them were being held in the “Graveyard of Numbers” and that there were also burials outside this graveyard.

The spokesperson for the Palestinian Ministry of Health stated that in October 2025, Israeli forces **removed and took away the bodies of at least 2,450 Palestinians from their graves** after October 2023. It is also stated that within two years, 1,500 more bodies, marked only with numbers, were held at the Sde Teiman military detention camp.

A report published on July 16, 2025, in Haaretz, Israel’s oldest newspaper, stated that the Israeli army was **holding the bodies of approximately 1,500 Palestinians** from the Gaza Strip at the Sde Teiman detention center, notorious for torture and ill-treatment. This situation constitutes an ongoing source of torment and torture for the families who have lost their loved ones, and also prevents autopsies from being performed and the documentation of torture marks on the bodies.

Indeed, an Al Jazeera investigation shows that Israel systematically used

thermobaric weapons reaching temperatures of 3,000 degrees Celsius in its attacks on Gaza, and that **2,842 Palestinians died without leaving any physical remains** after October 2023. Legal experts argue that the use of such munitions in civilian areas clearly constitutes a war crime and that the countries supplying the weapons should also be held accountable for this situation.



Inhumane Treatment of Global Sumud Fleet Activists

As of October 10, 2023, a full closure has been imposed on Gaza. **On August 22, 2025**, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, a **famine** has been declared. By October 2025, more than half a million people in Gaza were living in famine conditions, with widespread hunger, extreme poverty, and preventable deaths reported. Hundreds of Palestinians, mostly children and the elderly, have died of starvation.

The Global Sumud Fleet, consisting of more than 50 ships carrying 497 people from 46 countries and described as **“the largest civilian-led convoy of its kind in history,”** set sail for Gaza with the aim of breaking the Gaza blockade and delivering humanitarian aid. However, the Sumud Fleet was stopped in international waters by Israeli military intervention. Israel detained the activists on October 2, 2025. Despite the detentions taking place in full view of the world, the activists reported mistreatment, psychological violence, and sexual violence.



Greta Thunberg, a Swedish activist and member of the Global Sumud Fleet, reported that Israeli soldiers tortured her and other detainees after her arrest. The 22-year-old Thunberg, recounting her experiences to the Swedish press, stated that she and others were taken to a “dystopian” detention area and said, **“I saw maybe 50 people sitting in a row on their knees, their hands cuffed and their foreheads on the ground.”**

Thunberg said, “There are many things I don’t remember. Too many things were happening at once. You’re in shock, you’re in pain, but you try to stay calm. When people fainted, we banged on the cages and asked for a doctor. Then the guards came and said, ‘We’re going to spray you with gas.’ They dragged me to the other side of where the others were sitting, and the Israeli flag was constantly placed on top of me. **They hit me and kicked me.** They forced me to hold the Israeli flag, and I had to beg for water.” She also reported that obscene graffiti was written on her belongings and that they were damaged.

Turkish activist Ersin Çelik stated upon his release, **“They treated us all very badly. They tortured Greta severely right before our eyes. They mistreated Greta. They dragged her around. Greta is just a little child. They made her kiss the Israeli flag. In other words, they did exactly what the Nazis did.”**



Yvonne Ridley, an English journalist and volunteer with the Sumud Fleet, described her experience, saying, **“Those who know me know that I was imprisoned for 11 days under the Taliban regime in 2001. Now I’ll tell you something, something that comes from my heart. I would rather spend two months in a Taliban prison than two days with the Israelis.”**



German activist Anna Liedtke, who was on the Conscience Ship belonging to the International Freedom Flotilla, reported being sexually assaulted during her detention. Speaking at an event in December 2025, Liedtke shared her experiences with the public, stating that after being detained, they were held in prison in Israel for five days. Liedtke described what happened during the search while in custody, saying, **“After being transferred from one prison to another, we were searched naked. During this time, I was sexually assaulted by Israeli soldiers. I am not the only one who experienced this, but others are ashamed to talk about it.”** The activist stated that this was not an isolated incident and that there were other people who had been subjected to similar treatment.

Torture and Ill-Treatment Committed by Israel in Areas Where Civilians Live



Reports indicate that Israel commits torture and gross human rights violations not only in closed institutions but also in open areas. Jewish doctor Mark Perlmutter, an American orthopedic surgeon who volunteered for Humanity Auxilium in Gaza as part of a comprehensive program by the World Health Organization (WHO), testified after working at Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah and then at Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza.

Dr. Mark Perlmutter described his testimony as follows:

“We witnessed Israeli soldiers using a shovel to push two children into a mass grave and bury them. Israeli soldiers were burying the children alive with the help of a digger. When the bodies were later exhumed, the children, whose hands were tied behind their backs, were found wearing red and green T-shirts.”



A mass grave containing more than 300 people has been uncovered at the Nasser Medical Complex. A statement issued by UN special rapporteurs on May 6, 2024, indicates that **children are among those found in the mass graves.** According to the statement, most of them show signs of torture and extrajudicial executions, and there are also **potential examples of people being buried alive.**

In a statement dated June 24, 2024, the UK-based aid organization Save the Children reported that **children buried in mass graves showed signs of torture.**

American orthopedic surgeon Perlmutter's statement:



A statement by American orthopedic surgeon Perlmutter:

“All the disasters I’ve seen combined—**40 deployment missions, 30 years, the World Trade Center on 9/11... Even the sum of all that doesn’t compare to the massacre of civilians I witnessed during my first week in Gaza.** Almost all of them were children. I’ve never seen anything like this before. Not once. **I’ve seen more burned children than the total of everything I’ve seen in my entire life.** In the very first week, I saw lots of children torn to pieces. Missing body parts, those trapped under rubble make up the vast majority, or bomb blasts, the next largest group. There are sniper bullets. We pulled out shrapnel pieces the size of my thumb from eight-year-old children. **There are two children** whose photos I took who were **shot so clearly through the chest and the side of the head** that I couldn’t properly place a stethoscope over their hearts. “No child is shot twice by the world’s best sniper,” he said.”



Prof. Dr. Nick Maynard from Oxford University, who works in hospitals in Gaza, stated that Israel shot young men at food distribution points and testified that **children were shot in specific areas as if they were playing games.**

Maynard’s statement: “Children aged 11-12-13 were shot at these points. They went to get food for their starving families and were shot. A 12-year-old child who was shot died on our operating table because his injuries were too severe. Some days it was very painful to see injuries where certain parts of the body had been shot. One day most of the injuries were to the head or neck, another day to the chest, another day to the abdomen. **Twelve days ago, four boys were brought in who had been deliberately shot in the testicles.** These were not coincidences. It seemed to us as if a target practice game was being played. **‘Today we’ll shoot the head, tomorrow we’ll shoot the chest, the next day we’ll shoot the testicles.’** I wouldn’t have believed it was possible until I saw it with my own eyes.”

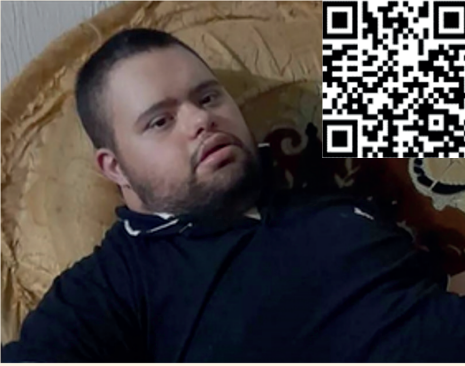
Maynard stated that baby formula brought by doctors from around the world entering Gaza was confiscated by Israeli soldiers, saying, **“It is true that baby formula was confiscated from an American doctor’s bag.** I know doctors who said they brought baby formula in their suitcases, but it was confiscated by Israeli border forces. Nothing else was confiscated besides baby formula.”



Numerous Palestinian civilians, **including children** and the elderly, who were forcibly displaced from their homes, were detained by Israeli soldiers and held half-naked in a stadium in Gaza.



Many testimonies and photographs show that dogs are used for torture in prisons. However, **it has been documented that Israel uses dogs to attack Palestinians not only in closed institutions but also in open spaces.** An example of this is the killing of Mohammad Bhar (24), a Palestinian with Down syndrome in the Gaza Strip, by a police dog during a house raid by Israeli forces in Gaza.



Mohammad's mother, 70-year-old Nabila Bhar, recounted how her son, who had Down syndrome, was attacked by a police dog in a room where he was detained in front of her and his siblings during Israel's occupation of the Shuja'iyya neighborhood in eastern Gaza Strip on June 28, 2024. Bhar said that the Israeli army surrounded their house and, despite their cries that they were civilians, soldiers stormed their home, firing shots and accompanied by police dogs.

Bahar said, "The dogs attacked us, and one of them attacked my son Mohammad, who was sitting on the couch. The dog first bit him on the chest, then on the hand. The dog tore my son Muhammad's chest and hand apart."

She said she asked the soldiers to give her son first aid, and the soldiers replied that they were "waiting for the military doctor."

Muhammad's sister, Sarah Bhar, also said that "Israeli soldiers locked Muhammad in a room, kept him there until he died, arrested their two brothers during the raid, forced them to leave their home under the shadow of weapons, and when they returned, they encountered the lifeless bodies of civilians killed by Israel and his brother, left alone in a room covered in blood after the dog attack."



Cases of dogs being set upon innocent civilians have also been reported by many Palestinians who have been subjected to torture. One such victim is an elderly Palestinian woman, Dawlat Abdullah Mohammed Al-Tanani, who was attacked by one of the Israeli army's dogs on May 14, 2024, at the Jabalia Refugee Camp in the northern Gaza Strip. Al-Tanani said, **"The dog sank its sharp teeth into my arm until it reached my bones."**

"Meanwhile, the dog continued to eat my flesh and drag me along the ground until the Israeli soldiers called it outside. Then I was left covered in blood until morning. I saw death with my own eyes." The elderly woman, who was seriously wounded in the arm, stated that she could not leave the house and go to the hospital until the next morning due to the Israeli army's ongoing bombardment of the camp, that she lost a lot of blood for a long time, and that **she waited for help covered in blood until morning.**

The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Organization (Euro-Med) stated in its announcement on June 25, 2024, **“The Israeli army’s use of dogs to attack Palestinian civilians, intimidate, injure, and rape prisoners in detention centers during its military attacks in Gaza is a systematic and widespread practice. We have documented dozens of cases in which Israeli forces used large police/military dogs during their military attacks in Gaza, particularly during raids on homes, hospitals, and shelters.”** It has been noted that Israeli soldiers mocked civilians while attacking them with dogs, and that the images of Al-Tanani, circulating on social media are not an isolated case, but that there have been many similar cases.



The photo, which has received widespread attention on social media, shows Hamza Abu Halima being tortured after being stripped of his clothes in northern Gaza in February 2024. Hamza Abu Halima is seated on a chair, handcuffed, with blood flowing from his body. His brother Bilal Abu Halima told Al Jazeera that when his brother was arrested, their father Khamis Abu Halima came out of the house waving a white flag, but Israeli soldiers shot and killed him anyway. Bilal stated, “They shot my father even though he was carrying a white flag. They shot my brother’s wife. **The children stood next to their martyred mother for two days, crying.** The occupation soldiers returned two days later and **killed the children who were crying next to their dead mother.”**

Reports by International Organizations and News by Media Organizations Regarding Israel's Acts of Torture, Ill-Treatment and Inhumane Detention Conditions

When I was detained, I had two legs; now I have only one.

Sufian Abu Salah, a 43-year-old taxi driver living in Khan Yunis

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Reports

UN Report dated December 28, 2023

The UN Human Rights Office report dated December 28, 2023, details the rapidly deteriorating human rights situation in the occupied West Bank (including East Jerusalem) since October 7, 2023, and calls on Israel to end unlawful killings and settler violence against the Palestinian people.

The UN Human Rights Office has confirmed that since the attacks by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups in southern Israel, 300 Palestinians, including **79** children, were killed in the occupied West Bank (including East Jerusalem) between October 7 and December 27, 2023. At least 291 of them were killed by Israeli security forces and eight by settlers. **Prior to October 7, 2023, 200 Palestinians had been killed in the region, the highest number in a ten-month period since the UN began recording such data in 2005.**

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk, in his assessment of the report's findings, stated: "The use of military tactics, tools, and weapons in the context of law enforcement, the use of unnecessary or disproportionate force, and the implementation of widespread, arbitrary, and discriminatory movement restrictions affecting Palestinians are extremely concerning. The violations documented in this report **repeat the pattern and nature of violations reported in the past** in the context of Israel's long-standing occupation of the West Bank. However, **the intensity of violence and repression is at a level not seen in years.** Israel must put an end to settler violence against the Palestinian people, investigate all incidents of violence committed by settlers and Israeli Security Forces, effectively protect Palestinian communities from all forms of forced displacement, and enable shepherd communities displaced by repeated attacks by armed settlers to return to their lands."

The report covering the period from October 7 to November 20, 2023, states that there was a sharp increase in airstrikes on refugee camps and other densely populated areas in the West Bank, as well as raids using armored personnel carriers and bulldozers, resulting in deaths, injuries, and extensive damage to civilian objects and infrastructure.

As stated in the report, during a 30-hour raid on the Nur Shams Refugee Camp in Tulkarem on October 19 and 20, Israeli forces killed 14 Palestinians, **including 6 children**, wounded at least 20 others, and arrested 10 Palestinians, using military weapons and combat vehicles.

Israeli security forces arrested more than 4,700 Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between October and December, among them approximately 40 journalists. The report states that some were stripped naked, blindfolded, handcuffed, and shackled for long hours, and that Israeli soldiers stepped on their heads and backs, spat on them, slammed them against walls, threatened them, insulted them, and humiliated them, and in some cases subjected them to sexual and gender-based violence.

In the weeks following October 7, there was a sharp increase in attacks by settlers, with an average of six incidents occurring daily. These incidents included armed attacks, burning homes and vehicles, and uprooting trees. According to the report, **in many incidents, settlers were accompanied by Internal Security Forces (ISF) or wore ISF uniforms and carried army rifles.**

The UN Human Rights Office has documented numerous incidents in which settlers attacked Palestinians harvesting olives with firearms, forced them off their land, stole their harvest, poisoned or destroyed olive trees, and deprived many Palestinians of a vital source of income.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights stated, “The dehumanization of Palestinians evident in many of the settlers’ actions is deeply disturbing and must end immediately. Israeli authorities must strongly condemn settler violence, prevent it, and prosecute both its instigators and perpetrators.”

As stated in the report, since October 7, Israeli authorities have imposed serious and systematic restrictions on the movement of Palestinians throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The Israeli Security Forces (ISF) have **closed nearly all access points to Palestinian villages and towns to vehicle traffic.** They have separated Palestinian cities and towns from main roads by placing earth mounds or concrete barriers at road gates.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk stated, “The report reiterates our call for an end to measures that create an oppressive environment and our concerns about forced displacement; it also highlights the continued impunity for violence committed by settlers and the Internal Security Forces.” He called on Israel to grant the UN Human Rights Office access to the country and stated that they were ready to report similarly on the October 7 attacks.

UN Report dated July 31, 2024: Palestinian detainees held arbitrarily and secretly, subjected to torture and mistreatment



The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights published a report in July 2024 on the arbitrary, prolonged, and isolated detention practices by Israeli authorities affecting thousands of Palestinians since October 23, 2023. The report also includes allegations of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, including torture and sexual abuse of both women and men.

As stated in the report, **thousands of Palestinians**, including medical personnel, patients, and civilians fleeing the conflict after October 7, as well as captured combatants, were transported from Gaza to Israel, often handcuffed and blindfolded. Thousands more were detained in the West Bank and Israel. These individuals are often held in secret, with **no reason given for their detention**. They are denied access to lawyers and are not subject to effective judicial review.

Since October 7, 2023, **at least 53 Palestinian detainees have been reported dead** in Israeli military facilities and prisons as of July 2024.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk stated that reports of numerous men, **women, children, doctors, journalists, and human rights defenders** being detained, most without any charges or trial and held in poor conditions, as well as reports of ill-treatment, torture and violations of due process guarantees, raise serious concerns about the arbitrary and **punitive nature** of such arrests and detentions.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Türk stated: “Statements collected by my office and other agencies show that a series of horrific acts, such as waterboarding and setting dogs on detainees, constitute clear violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.”

It has been reported that in Gaza, mostly men and adolescent boys are being detained, many of them while staying in schools, hospitals, and homes or at checkpoints during their migration from north to south. Conditions in military detention centers are deteriorating, and children are among those held there, sometimes alongside adults.

The Israeli army generally does not disclose to the public the reasons for detaining Palestinians in Gaza. In some cases, Israel claims that they are affiliated with Palestinian armed groups or their political wings. Israel also does not provide information on the fate or whereabouts of most of those detained. Israel does not allow the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to enter the facilities where detainees are held.

Detainees have stated that they were held in cage-like facilities, left naked for long periods of time, and only allowed to wear diapers. They have described having their eyes covered for extended periods, being deprived of food, sleep, and water, subjected to electric shocks, and having cigarettes extinguished on their bodies. Some detainees stated that dogs were set upon them, while others reported being subjected to water torture or having their hands tied and being hung from the ceiling. Some women and men also made allegations of sexual and gender-based violence.

As stated by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, “International humanitarian law protects everyone in detention, demanding that they be treated humanely and protected from any act or threat of violence.” International law requires that all persons deprived of their liberty be treated humanely and with dignity, and strictly prohibits torture and other ill-treatment, including rape and other forms of sexual violence. Secret and prolonged detention in isolation conditions can also constitute a form of torture.

The Report calls on the Government of Israel to:

- Immediately release all Palestinians who have been arbitrarily detained and ensure due process and fair trial guarantees and procedural safeguards for all Palestinians in detention, regardless of the domestic legal basis invoked, consistent with international standards.

- Reform all legislation, policies and practices, particularly the Incarceration of Unlawful Combatants Law and Military Order 1651, to bring them fully into compliance with Israel’s obligations under international law, including by prohibiting incommunicado detention and ensuring access to families, legal representation and periodic judicial review of detention.

-Take all measures to prevent and investigate allegations of enforced disappearances, and ensure that detention conditions strictly conform with international norms and standards, end all practices that may amount to torture or other ill-treatment, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence.

-Ensure that all allegations of violations are investigated promptly, impartially, thoroughly, and independently, and that perpetrators are held accountable.

-Ensure families are promptly informed about the fate and whereabouts of their detained family members, including through coordination with the ICRC.

-Immediately allow the ICRC full and independent access to all detainees held by Israel, and ensure access for other independent prison monitors, as well as OHCHR.

-Ensure full enjoyment of the rights to freedom of expression, opinion, peaceful assembly and association, without discrimination, and end arbitrary arrests and detention, including of journalists and human rights defenders, in the occupied Palestinian territories (OPT) as well as in Israel.

-Ensure that victims of gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law, including arbitrary detention, torture or other ill-treatment, and all forms of sexual and gender based violence, have access to adequate, effective, and prompt reparation including restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition. This also includes providing remedies and support to released hostages to facilitate their recovery from violations suffered while held hostage.

-Repress and punish all serious crimes under international law; ensure prompt, thorough, independent, impartial and effective investigations into all incidents by the ISF that have led to serious violations of international law; ensure that perpetrators are held accountable and that all victims and their families are provided with their right to truth, remedy and reparations. Ensure cooperation with international mechanisms for accountability, including the International Criminal Court.

May 16, 2024 Statement: UN expert horrified by death of Gazan orthopedic surgeon in Israeli detention

The UN Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, Tlaleng Mofokeng, stated, “I was horrified to learn of the death of Dr. Adnan Al-Bursh while in Israeli custody,” and called for an independent international investigation into the circumstances of the doctor’s death.



Mofokeng said that on December 18, 2023, Dr. Al-Bursh was detained by Israeli forces at Al-Awda Hospital in northern Gaza, along with other doctors and health personnel. She stated that his general health was good at the time and he was performing his duties as usual, and that reports indicated he had been beaten in prison before his death, with signs of torture on his body.

The Special Rapporteur said, “Al-Bursh was detained while performing his duties as a medical doctor in accordance with his oath to his patients and while caring for them. He died while trying to protect the life and health rights of his patients. Dr. Adnan’s case raises serious concerns that he died after being tortured at the hands of Israeli authorities. His death requires an independent international investigation. I am deeply saddened to continue receiving reports of doctors being killed in this conflict.”

The Special Rapporteur demanded that Israel immediately release all health workers arbitrarily detained in the occupied Palestinian territories, conduct urgent, independent, and impartial investigations, and hold accountable those who unlawfully detained and killed them. “Health workers should not be killed while performing their duties. They have a legitimate and fundamental role in times of conflict, such as caring for the sick and wounded. Killing and detaining health workers is not a legitimate method of warfare.”

September 24, 2024 Statement: UN expert shocked by death of another Palestinian doctor in Israeli detention

In a statement dated September 4, 2024, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health Tlaleng Mofokeng condemned the death of Ziad Mohammed Al-Dalou, the third doctor confirmed to have died while in Israeli custody in the first year after October 7, 2023, and reiterated her call for the protection of health workers in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Dr. Ziad Mohammed Al-Dalou is one of more than 885 health workers who have reportedly been killed in Gaza and the West Bank between October 7, 2023, and September 2024. Among the health workers detained by Israel are nurses, paramedics, doctors, and other health personnel, with many more injured.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported 1,043 attacks on health workers in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem between October 7, 2023, and September 24, 2024. According to WHO data, Israeli forces are still holding at least 128 more health workers who were arbitrarily detained while on duty.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health stated, “On the cusp of the one-year anniversary of the genocide, I continue to be shocked at Israel’s blatant disregard for the right to health in Gaza and the rest of the occupied territory.” As Mofokeng stated, “Israel must stop destroying and hindering the already limited functioning of the health system in Palestine, by protecting healthcare workers. **The practice of medicine is never a crime during conflict – but the targeted killing of healthcare workers is.** The targeting of healthcare workers and healthcare facilities contravenes the fundamental right of individuals to access essential healthcare services, a matter of acute significance during times of conflict, and may constitute a war crime.” All healthcare workers arbitrarily detained in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories must be released immediately, independent and impartial investigations must be conducted urgently, and those who unlawfully detained and killed them must be held accountable.

February 19, 2024 Statement: UN experts appalled by reported human rights violations against Palestinian women and girls

UN Special Rapporteurs **Reem Alsalem**, Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls, its Causes and Consequences, and **Francesca Albanese**, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Dorothy **Estrada Tanck**, Chair of the Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls, and members **Claudia Flores**, **Ivana Krstić**, **Haina Lu**, and **Laura Nyirinkindi**, have expressed their concern over credible allegations of horrific human rights violations that Palestinian women and girls continue to face in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The information obtained indicates that Palestinian women and girls in Gaza have been arbitrarily executed, often along with family members, including children. The Special Rapporteurs stated, “We are shocked by reports of the deliberate targeting and extrajudicial killing of Palestinian women and children in places where they sought refuge, or while fleeing. Some of them were reportedly holding white pieces of cloth when they were killed by the Israeli army or affiliated forces.”

The statement expressed serious concern about the arbitrary detention of hundreds of Palestinian women and girls, including human rights defenders, journalists, and humanitarian workers, in Gaza and the West Bank since October 7, 2023. Many were reportedly subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment, denied sanitary pads, food, and medicine, and severely beaten. In at least one case, it was alleged that Palestinian women detained in Gaza were held in a cage in the rain and cold without food.

The Special Rapporteur stated, “We are particularly distressed by reports that Palestinian women and girls in detention have been subjected to various forms of sexual assault, including being stripped and searched by male Israeli military personnel. At least two Palestinian female detainees were reportedly raped, while others were threatened with rape and sexual violence.” It has also been reported that photographs of female detainees in degrading conditions were taken by the Israeli army and uploaded to the internet.

The Special Rapporteurs stated, “We remind the Government of Israel of its obligation to uphold the right to life, safety, health, and dignity of Palestinian women and girls and to ensure that no one is subjected to violence, torture, ill-treatment or degrading treatment, including sexual violence. Taken together, these alleged acts may constitute grave violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, and amount to serious crimes under international criminal law that could be prosecuted under the Rome Statute. Those responsible for these apparent crimes must be held accountable and victims and their families are entitled to full redress and justice.”

March 13, 2025 Report and Statement: “More than a human can bear”: Israel’s systematic use of sexual, reproductive and other forms of gender-based violence since October 2023”

Following two days of public hearings held in Geneva on March 11-12, the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry released its 2025 report covering the Occupied Palestinian Territory, East Jerusalem, and Israel. Prior to the report, the Commission heard from victims and witnesses of violence against sexual and reproductive health, as well as healthcare workers assisting them, civil society representatives, academics, lawyers, and medical experts.

According to the Special Report shared on the latest situation in Gaza under Israeli attacks and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, within the framework of the 60th Session of the UN Human Rights Council; Israel is increasingly using sexual, reproductive, and other gender-based forms of violence against Palestinians as part of a broader effort to undermine their right to self-determination, and is committing acts of genocide by systematically destroying sexual and reproductive health facilities.

The report documents various violations committed against Palestinian women, men, girls, and boys in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since October 7, 2023, which constitute a significant element of the ill-treatment of Palestinians and are part of the illegal occupation and oppression of Palestinians as a group.

As stated by Chair of the Commission, Navi Pillay, “The evidence collected by the Commission reveals a deplorable increase in sexual and gender-based violence.” Accordingly, “There is no escape from the conclusion that Israel has employed sexual and gender-based violence against Palestinians to terrorise them and perpetuate a system of oppression that undermines their right to self-determination.”

The report states that gender-based violence, which is increasing in frequency and severity, is being perpetrated in the Occupied Palestinian Territories as a war strategy employed by Israel to dominate and destroy the Palestinian people.

Indeed, there is an environment of impunity for crimes based on gender and sexual orientation committed by Israeli settlers in the West Bank. The aim is to instill fear in Palestinian society and force them to emigrate.

As stated by Chair of the Commission, Pillay, “The exculpatory statements and actions by Israeli leaders and the lack of effectiveness shown by the military justice system to prosecute cases and convict perpetrators send a clear message to members of the Israeli Security Forces that they can continue committing such acts without fear of accountability,” said Pillay. “In this context, accountability through the International Criminal Court and national courts, through their domestic law or exercising universal jurisdiction, is essential if the rule of law is to be upheld and victims awarded justice.”

The Commission found that Israeli forces systematically destroyed sexual and reproductive health facilities throughout Gaza. Israel also obstructed humanitarian aid, including the provision of medicines and equipment necessary for safe pregnancy, childbirth, postnatal care, and newborn care under siege. These actions violate women’s and girls’ reproductive rights and autonomy, as well as their rights to life, health, family formation, human dignity, physical and mental integrity, freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, self-determination, and non-discrimination.

Women and girls in Gaza have lost their lives due to complications related to pregnancy and childbirth as a result of Israeli authorities blocking access to reproductive health services. These actions amount to ethnic cleansing, a crime against humanity.

The Commission has determined that Israeli authorities have partially destroyed the reproductive capacity of Palestinians in Gaza by systematically eliminating sexual and reproductive health services, which corresponds to genocide in two categories under the Rome Statute and the Genocide Convention. These actions include deliberately imposing living conditions that would lead to the physical destruction of Palestinians and implementing measures aimed at preventing births.

The Commission found that as a result of Israel’s strategy of deliberately targeting residential buildings in densely populated areas and using heavy explosives, female deaths in Gaza have increased on an unprecedented scale. The Commission also documented cases in which women and girls of all ages, including women in labor, were targeted. These actions amount to the crime against humanity and war crime of intentional killing.

The Commission Chair stated, “The targeting of reproductive healthcare facilities, including through direct attacks on maternity wards and Gaza’s main in-vitro fertility clinic, combined with the use of starvation as a method of war, has impacted all aspects of reproduction,” said Commissioner Pillay. “These violations have not only caused severe immediate physical and mental harm and suffering to women and girls, but irreversible long-term effects on the mental health and reproductive and fertility prospects of Palestinians as a group.”

July 17, 2025 Statement: UN expert denounces genocidal violence against women and girls

The UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, Reem Alsalem, has called for urgent global action to stop the increasing “femi-genocide” in Gaza. Alsalem stated that the scale and nature of the crimes committed by Israeli forces against Palestinian women and girls are extreme, and that existing concepts within legal and criminal frameworks are no longer sufficient to adequately define or cover them.

In Alsalem’s words, “What is happening to Palestinian women and girls is not collateral damage of war. It is the intentional destruction of their lives and bodies, for being Palestinian and for being women.”

In her latest report to the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur reiterated her findings that Israel deliberately kills Palestinian women and girls with the aim of eliminating them and the continuity of the Palestinian people, characterizing this as a “femi-genocide.” Women and girls constitute 67% of the 57,680 Palestinians killed as of July 9, 2025.

As the Special Rapporteur stated, “There is more than one way to subject a people to genocide. Destroying them in whole or in part psychologically is one of them,” the expert said. “The horrors that Palestinian mothers, in particular, continue to endure — watching their children slowly starve, killed, maimed, and buried alive — is killing them repeatedly in a single day. The psychological trauma they, and all Palestinians in Gaza, are suffering knows no boundaries.” Moreover, many women, including mothers, have been killed while searching for food and water for their families.

Alsalem stated that part of Israel’s campaign involves the use of violence against reproduction. The destruction of Gaza’s health infrastructure has prevented 150,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women from accessing basic care. Approximately 17,000 of these women and 60,000 children under the age of five are suffering from acute malnutrition. Following Israel’s blockade of food, medical supplies, and humanitarian aid, at least 60 children died of starvation between March 2025 and July 2025. This number is in addition to the 50,000 children reported killed or injured since October 2023.

The Special Rapporteur condemned the Israeli authorities’ practice of blocking the entry of baby formula. She reported that the ongoing fuel shortage further endangered the lives of newborns in incubators. She stated that dozens of babies were born prematurely, died shortly after birth, and some were born with unprecedented genetic mutations caused by starvation, trauma, and exposure to radioactive and toxic substances.

The Special Rapporteur also expressed concern about reports of sexual violence, including rape, committed by Israeli forces. The despair, overcrowding, and lack of aid and protection services in Gaza have led to an increase in sexual violence and other forms of abuse, often committed by family members and other individuals in the community.

The report states, “The violence and atrocities that Palestinian women are subjected to have become so normalised that they are now the new accepted reality, even in other conflicts. No one seems to bat an eyelid anymore when hearing about the terror women are experiencing,” the expert said. “With the dismantling of the law-based order and the protections it guarantees to civilians, the situation for women and girls is metastasising beyond Gaza and Palestine, with devastating consequences for all.”

UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Reem Alsalem, has called on states to do everything in their power to end the genocide in Gaza, ensure justice for all, and include the distinct experiences of women and girls in all accountability processes. As Alsalem stated, “The continuity of Palestinian life depends on this. Our collective humanity and our future depend on this.”

Statement dated August 28, 2025: UN experts alarmed by reports of enforced disappearances at Gaza Humanitarian Foundation aid distribution sites

Gabriella Citroni, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, Grażyna Baranowska, Vice-Chair, Aua Baldé, Ana Lorena Delgadillo Pérez, and Mohammed Al-Obaidi, Francesca Albanese, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, and Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food Michael Fakhri, condemned the enforced disappearance of Palestinian civilians, who were seeking food aid at distribution centers run by the Gaza Humanitarian Relief Foundation and were on the verge of starvation, and called on Israeli authorities to put an end to this heinous crime against an already vulnerable population.

The UN Special Rapporteurs stated, “Reports of enforced disappearances targeting starving civilians seeking their basic right to food is not only shocking, but amounts to torture. Using food as a tool to conduct targeted and mass disappearances needs to end now.”

Accordingly, the UN has received reports that numerous individuals, including a child, were forcibly disappeared after visiting aid distribution points in Rafah. Airstrikes and daily armed clashes in and around crowded facilities have resulted in mass casualties. The Gaza Humanitarian Relief Foundation is responsible for providing secure distribution points and it has contracted private military security companies for this purpose. However, information received indicates that the Israeli Defense Forces have also been operating in and around aid distribution points and have played a direct role in the enforced disappearance of people seeking aid.

In their statement, UN special rapporteurs said, “We are particularly concerned that once again the Palestinian people have been targeted and punished as such, and in the most desperate moment of man-made starvation, denied the aid they are forced to rely on, already laden with obstacles to access, the distribution points pose additional risks for devastated individuals of being forcibly disappeared. We fear that increased reports of enforced disappearances at aid distribution points will discourage individuals from accessing essential food assistance, further aggravating the risk of starvation.”

As stated in the statement, the Israeli Defense Forces are clearly violating the absolute and unconditional prohibition on enforced disappearances. They refuse to provide information about the fate and whereabouts of those deprived of their liberty. “The failure to acknowledge deprivation of liberty by State agents and refusal to acknowledge detention constitute an enforced disappearance.”

“The international community cannot stay silent in the face of such an apparent constellation of abhorrent crimes. Israeli authorities must clarify the fate and whereabouts of disappeared persons and investigate the enforced disappearances thoroughly and impartially and punish perpetrators. The obligation to conduct such investigations is a norm of jus cogens that must not be curtailed or impeded in any way. Any delay should be promptly addressed by international justice.”

This inhumane aid system must be urgently dismantled, and close and independent monitoring must be conducted to reestablish a UN led humanitarian aid system.

September 2025 Statement: Israel has committed genocide in the Gaza Strip, UN Commission finds

Gabriella Citroni, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, and the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, stated that Israel committed genocide in Gaza and called on all countries to share responsibility to stop it.

The Commission shared its report on the latest situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and Gaza under Israeli attack, during the 60th Session of the UN Human Rights Council on September 16, 2025.

The report states that Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and calls on Israel and all states to fulfill their legal obligations under international law to end the genocide and punish those responsible.

The report, which states that the Commission investigated events from October 7, 2023, to September 2025, concludes that “Israeli authorities and Israeli security forces committed four of the five genocidal acts defined by the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, namely killing, causing serious bodily or mental harm, deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the destruction of the Palestinians in whole or in part, and imposing measures intended to prevent births.”

The report emphasizes that the statements of Israeli civilian and military officials, as well as the behavior of Israeli security forces, indicate that the acts of genocide were committed with the intent to destroy the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, in whole or in part, as a group.

The report mentions that the actions of Israeli political and military leaders can be attributed to Israel, stating, “Therefore, the Commission has concluded that the State of Israel is responsible for the failure to prevent genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, for committing genocide, and for failing to punish the perpetrators of genocide.” The Commission also concluded that Israeli President Isaac Herzog, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant incited genocide and that Israeli authorities failed to act to punish this incitement.

Navi Pillay, Chair of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, whose views are included in the report, said, “The Commission finds that Israel is responsible for the commission of genocide in Gaza. It is clear that there is an intent to destroy the Palestinians in Gaza through acts that meet the criteria set forth in the Genocide Convention.”

Pillay emphasized that responsibility for these atrocities lies with the highest-level Israeli officials who have been conducting a campaign of genocide aimed at eliminating Palestinians in Gaza for nearly two years. She stated that Israel has failed to prevent and punish genocide because it has not investigated acts of genocide and has not prosecuted the alleged perpetrators. She stated, “The international community cannot stay silent on the genocidal campaign launched by Israel against the Palestinian people in Gaza. When clear signs and evidence of genocide emerge, the absence of action to stop it amounts to complicity.”

As Pillay stated, “All States are under a legal obligation to use all means that are reasonably available to them to stop the genocide in Gaza.” Failure to act on this issue will result in further loss of life every day and undermine the credibility of the international community.

Report by UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese entitled “Torture and Genocide”

In her report dated March 23, 2026, entitled “Torture and Genocide,” UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese, who monitors the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories since 1967, examined the systematic torture inflicted by Israel on Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories since October 7, 2023.

The report states that Israel’s acts of torture encompass both detention and non-detention practices that **meet the threshold of genocide** under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The Special Rapporteur states that **torture** has become an integral part of the oppression and punishment inflicted on men, women, and children, both through human rights violations in detention and through an unrelenting campaign of forced displacement, mass killings, deprivation, and the destruction of all means of survival.

The Special Rapporteur gathered relevant information through written submissions, including over 300 testimonies collected by numerous organizations, as her mandate was obstructed by Israel. As noted in the report, torture has always been a fundamental feature of the dispossession of Palestinians by Israel. However, since October 2023, Israel has employed torture on a scale suggestive of collective reprisal and destructive intent. In the words of Israeli President Isaac Herzog, **targeting Palestinians as “an entire nation responsible”** is clearly reflected in the brutality of Israel’s detention system and the broader imprisonment regime imposed on all Palestinians.

A persistent and widespread regime of psychological terror is being imposed across the Palestinian territories. This regime is designed to deprive a people of their dignity and forcibly remove them from their land. These actions are built upon a foundation of dehumanization and constitute the architecture of settler-colonial domination, sustained through policies of oppression and mass torture.

In her report, the Special Rapporteur made the following assessment:

- Israel must immediately cease all acts of torture and ill-treatment against the Palestinian people, whether in detention or outside of detention. As a fundamental precondition, this requires the dismantling of the apartheid regime in the occupied Palestinian territories, which the International Court of Justice and the UN General Assembly have found to violate the Palestinian people’s right to self-determination. This process should begin with the immediate end of Israel’s unlawful presence in the region and be accompanied by measures to preserve memory through accountability, full reparations, guarantees of non-repetition, and institutional and educational reform.

- Israel must grant the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN experts, and lawyers the necessary access to monitor violations and investigate all crimes committed, including torture and other forms of ill-treatment.
- States must comply with their obligations not to assist or be complicit in Israel's crimes and, instead, take measures to prevent serious violations of international law, as set out in the UN Charter and the Genocide Convention; they must also fulfill their obligations to investigate and prosecute acts of genocide, torture, and ill-treatment.
- States should develop mechanisms and allocate resources for evidence collection for prosecutions, clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing Palestinians, and ensure that Israel provides adequate reparations to Palestinian victims.
- States should activate mechanisms of universal jurisdiction to prosecute individuals and companies accused of involvement in serious violations and other international crimes, including genocide and torture.
- States should support psychosocial assistance programs for survivors, particularly former detainees and victims of torture and sexual violence. These programs should be funded internationally, for example through allocations by the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture to Palestinian NGOs, and facilitate the transfer of survivors to third countries.
- States should ensure that companies and their executives sever all ties with Israel to avoid causing, contributing to, or being directly linked to genocide, torture, and other human rights violations.
- The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court should investigate and prosecute acts of genocide, torture, and ill-treatment and, in this context, should immediately seek arrest warrants for Israeli officials suspected of committing and/or ordering the atrocities outlined in this report, including Itamar Ben-Gvir, Israel Katz, Bezalel Smotrich, as well as the Chief of Staff of the Israeli Defense Forces and senior officials responsible for detention centers within the Israel Prison Service.
- The Special Rapporteur calls on States and international institutions to do everything in their power to prevent the destruction of the remaining parts of Palestine. This obligation must be urgent and ongoing. Any delay further exacerbates irreversible harm and entrenches a system of oppression that international law and the United Nations are meant to prevent, halt, and punish.

Report dated November 8, 2023: Horrifying cases of torture and degrading treatment of Palestinian detainees amid spike in arbitrary arrests

Amnesty International's report titled "Israel/OPT: Horrifying cases of torture and degrading treatment of Palestinian detainees amid spike in arbitrary arrests" published on November 8, 2023, shows that Israeli authorities have significantly increased the use of administrative detention, a form of arbitrary detention against Palestinians throughout the occupied West Bank; extended emergency measures that facilitate inhuman and degrading treatment of prisoners; and failed to investigate incidents of torture and deaths in custody over the past four weeks.

According to the Palestinian Prisoners' Society, Israeli forces detained more than 2,200 Palestinian men and women between October and November 2023. According to the Israeli human rights organization HaMoked, the total number of Palestinians held in administrative detention without charge or trial rose from 1,319 to 2,070 between October 1 and November 1.

As stated in the report, statements from released detainees and human rights lawyers, video footage, and images reveal some of the torture and other forms of ill-treatment inflicted by Israeli forces on detainees in just the first four weeks. These include **severe beatings, forcing detainees to bow their heads, forcing them to kneel on the ground during roll call, and forcing them to sing Israeli songs.**

Heba Morayef, Middle East and North Africa Regional Director, said, "Over the last month we have witnessed a significant spike in Israel's use of administrative detention – detention without charge or trial that can be renewed indefinitely – **which was already at a 20-year high before the latest escalation in hostilities on October 7. Administrative detention is one of the key tools through which Israel has enforced its system of apartheid against Palestinians.** Testimonies and video evidence also point to numerous incidents of torture and other ill-treatment by Israeli forces including severe beatings and deliberate humiliation of Palestinians who are detained in dire conditions."

Amnesty International researchers interviewed 12 people, including six released detainees, three relatives of detainees, and three lawyers involved in the latest arrests. Researchers also reviewed statements from other released detainees and analyzed video footage.

According to the data identified in the report:

Regarding torture and humiliation, Amnesty International documents torture practices that have been widely used by Israeli authorities in detention centers in the West Bank for decades. However, over the past four weeks, **videos and images showing horrific scenes of Israeli soldiers beating and humiliating Palestinians while detaining them blindfolded, naked, and handcuffed have been widely shared online.** This is a particularly chilling public display of torture and humiliation of Palestinian detainees.

In an image examined by Amnesty International’s Crisis Evidence Lab, three Palestinian men, blindfolded and stripped of their clothes, are seen next to a soldier wearing the olive green uniform of the Israeli ground forces. An investigation by the Haaretz newspaper published on October 19, 2023, revealed that the photo was taken on October 12 in the village of Wadi el-Sek, east of Ramallah. One of the three victims seen in the photo told Amnesty International that he was initially detained and beaten by settlers, and that an Israeli military jeep arrived two hours later.

The Palestinian said, “One of the Israeli officers who came, approached me and kicked me on my left side, then jumped on my head with his two legs pushing my face further into the dirt and then **continued kicking me as I was head down, into the dirt, with my hands tied behind my back.** He then got a knife and tore all of my clothes off except for my underwear and used part of my torn clothes to blindfold me. The beating to the rest of my body did not stop, at one point he started jumping on my back – three or four times – while yelling ‘die, die you trash’ ... in the end before this finally stopped, another officer urinated on my face and body while also yelling at us ‘to die’.”

In a video first published on social media on October 31, 2023, and analyzed by Amnesty International’s Crisis Evidence Lab, nine male detainees with distinct Palestinian accents are observed. Some are naked, others half-naked, blindfolded and handcuffed, wearing olive green uniforms and surrounded by at least 12 soldiers armed with M4A1 or Tavor X95 assault rifles. Both the uniforms and weapons are standard equipment of the Israeli ground forces. **One of the soldiers is seen kicking one of the detainees in the head.**

A Palestinian detainee recently released from occupied East Jerusalem, speaking to Amnesty International on condition of anonymity, described how Israeli interrogators subjected him and other detainees at the Russian Compound (Al-Moskobiya), a detention center in Jerusalem, to severe beatings, resulting in bruises on his body and three broken ribs.

Regarding inhumane and degrading treatment in prisons, Israel Prison Services reported to the human rights group HaMoked that as of November 1, 2023, 6,809 Palestinian detainees were being held. On October 31, 2023, Israeli authorities extended the **“state of emergency in prisons”** for another month, granting the Israeli Minister of National Security almost unlimited powers to prevent prisoners from meeting with lawyers and family members, hold detainees in overcrowded cells, prevent them from exercising outdoors, and impose **cruel collective punishment measures** such as prolonged water and electricity cuts. This situation effectively allows for the intensification of cruel and inhuman treatment of detainees, violating the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has reported that Palestinian detainees have been prevented from meeting with their families and lawyers since October 7. Sanaa Salameh, wife of Palestinian detainee Walid Daqqa, who has a terminal illness, told Amnesty International that since October 7, neither she nor his lawyer has been allowed to see Daqqa or obtain information about his health. Salameh told Amnesty International, “I don’t know if he is receiving the medical care he needs; I have absolutely no contact with him, I don’t even have a scrap of information to comfort me.”

Palestinian lawyer Hassan Abadi, who has visited at least four detainees every week since October 7, 2023, told Amnesty International that Palestinian detainees are denied their right to exercise outdoors and that one form of humiliation they are subjected to during roll calls is being forced to kneel on the floor. He reported that all personal belongings of Palestinians in custody are confiscated and sometimes burned, including books, diaries, letters, clothing, food, and other items. He said that Palestinian female detainees in Damon Prison had their sanitary pads confiscated by prison officials, and that a client he represented had been **threatened with rape by an officer** when she was detained at the Kiryat Arba police station near Hebron and blindfolded.

Regarding the increase in arbitrary detention, the Israeli human rights organization HaMoked reported that the number of Palestinians held in administrative detention increased throughout 2023, reaching 1,319 as of October 1, 2023. As of November 1, this number exceeded 2,070. Palestinians classified as “security prisoners” by Israel are held without charge or trial under administrative detention orders, which are renewable indefinitely, usually every six months.

Amnesty International states that **Israel uses administrative detention not as an extraordinary and selective preventive measure, but as a systematic tool to oppress Palestinians.**

Israeli authorities have also chosen to detain at least 105 Palestinians from the occupied Gaza Strip who entered Israel during the October 7 attack led by Hamas, indefinitely and without charge or trial, by applying the “Unlawful Combatants” Law, **a category not recognized under international law.** It remains unclear how many of these detentions are linked to the attacks.

Israeli authorities have also subjected **thousands of Palestinians from Gaza**, mostly workers, to a third arbitrary detention method with Israeli entry permits. These individuals were held without communication for at least three weeks in two military detention centers in Israel and the West Bank. Although many were later released, Israeli authorities have not provided transparency regarding how many remain in detention.

As stated in the report,

Israeli authorities must immediately rescind the inhumane emergency measures imposed on Palestinian detainees and allow them immediate access to their lawyers and families. All Palestinians arbitrarily detained should be released. Israel should allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to conduct urgent visits to prisons and detention centers and monitor the conditions of Palestinian detainees. Israeli judicial authorities must investigate allegations of torture and other ill-treatment impartially and independently, and prosecute those who ordered and carried out torture in fair trials.

Report dated December 20, 2023: Urgently investigate inhumane treatment and enforced disappearance of Palestinian detainees from Gaza

In its report dated December 20, 2023, Amnesty International reiterated its deep concern about the fate and whereabouts of Palestinians detained amid reports of enforced disappearances in the occupied Gaza Strip by Israeli forces.

On December 16, 2023, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) stated that it had received **“numerous disturbing reports” that “thousands of Palestinians, including children, were collectively detained, ill-treated, and forcibly disappeared”** from northern Gaza.

Photographs and video footage verified by Amnesty International’s Crisis Evidence Lab show inhumane and degrading treatment by Israeli forces of detainees in the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahia. The fate and whereabouts of most of these detainees remain unknown.

Other Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, including workers and others with permits to enter Israel, continue to be forcibly disappeared. Israeli authorities have confirmed that **at least six Palestinians, including two Gazan workers, died in custody in October and November.**

Middle East and North Africa Regional Director Heba Morayef said, “We are currently investigating the reports of mass enforced disappearances of Palestinian detainees by Israeli forces. The Israeli military must urgently disclose the fate and whereabouts of everyone that it has detained since October 7 including Nidal Al-Waheidi and Haitham Abdelwahed, two journalists from Gaza who have been forcibly disappeared for more than two months. Israeli forces must specify the grounds of arrest for those detained, and make every effort to provide families of those in its custody with information, particularly in light of the telecommunications blackouts that have cut off Gazans from each other and the rest of the world.”

Two journalists from the occupied Gaza Strip, Nidal Al-Waheidi and Haitham Abdelwahed, were detained by Israeli forces on October 7. They were last seen at the Erez border crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel. Since then, Israeli authorities, police, and Prison Services have refused to disclose their whereabouts or the legal grounds for their detention, which **amounts to enforced disappearance**.

Amnesty International’s Crisis Evidence Lab has geolocated three photographs and one video shared on social media on December 7 showing dozens of men being detained by Israeli forces on the streets of the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahia. The photos show the detainees stripped down to their underwear, with some apparently holding identity documents in front of them. One photo shows the detainees, their hands tied, being taken away without being given clothes.

As stated by Heba Morayef, Middle East and North Africa Regional Director, “These men were stripped of their dignity and **dehumanized** in violation of international law. Nothing can justify mocking or deliberately humiliating detainees. The right of detainees not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way is absolute and applies to all people, regardless of whether or not they take part in the hostilities. Torture, inhuman treatment, enforced disappearances, and outrages upon personal dignity committed in situations of armed conflict and occupation are war crimes, when committed as part of a systematic or widespread attack against civilians they amount to crimes against humanity.”

As emphasized by Amnesty International, “All detainees must be treated humanely and guaranteed the right to a fair trial and due process. All those detained arbitrarily must be released. **Israel has an appalling track record of impunity for violations by its forces**, underscoring the urgent need for an independent and effective investigation into all deaths in custody, reports of enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment of Palestinians from Gaza.”

April 8, 2024 Report: Death in custody of Walid Daqqah is cruel reminder of Israel's disregard for Palestinians' right to life

Erika Guevara-Rosas, Senior Director of Research, Advocacy, Policy, and Campaigns at Amnesty International, issued a statement on the death in custody of **Walid Daqqah, a Palestinian writer** who had served 38 years in Israeli prisons and was the longest-held Palestinian prisoner. According to her, “It is heart-wrenching that Walid Daqqah has died in Israeli custody despite the many calls for his urgent release on humanitarian grounds following his 2022 diagnosis with bone marrow cancer and the fact that he had already completed his original sentence. Walid Daqqah’s death is a cruel reminder of Israel’s **systematic medical neglect and disregard for Palestinian prisoners’ rights**. For Daqqah and his family, the last six months in particular were an endless nightmare, during which he was subjected to torture or other ill-treatment, including beatings and humiliation by the Israeli Prison Service, according to his lawyer. He was not permitted a phone call with his wife since October 7. His final appeal for parole on humanitarian grounds was rejected by the Israeli Supreme Court, effectively sentencing him to die behind bars. Even on his deathbed, Israeli authorities continued to display chilling levels of cruelty against Walid Daqqah and his family, not only denying him adequate medical treatment and suitable food, but also preventing him from saying a final goodbye to his wife Sanaa Salameh and their four-year-old daughter Milad. Walid’s death means that he was only allowed to see his daughter Milad once in person in October 2022, after a daunting legal battle.”

Walid Daqqah’s lawyer, who last visited him on March 24 at the Ramleh prison clinic, reported to Amnesty International that he was shocked by Daqqah’s sudden weight loss and visible fragility. As stated by the Amnesty International, denying **prisoners access to adequate medical care** violates international standards regarding the treatment of detainees and may constitute torture.



February 7, 2025 Report: Release of Palestinian aid worker after nearly nine years of unjust imprisonment ends appalling miscarriage of justice

Amnesty International has stated that the long-awaited release of **Palestinian aid worker and** prisoner of conscience **Mohammad Al-Halabi** under the October 2025 prisoner exchange agreement has ended his agonizing ordeal and blatant injustice. The organization reiterated its call for the immediate release of all civilian hostages in Gaza and Palestinians arbitrarily detained in Israel.

According to the statement, Al-Halabi, former Gaza director of the humanitarian aid and development organization World Vision, was arrested by Israeli security officers at the Erez border crossing between Israel and occupied Gaza on June 15, 2016. He was interrogated without a lawyer, tortured, tried in secret hearings, and sentenced to 12 years in prison by the Beersheba District Court in August 2022, based on undisclosed evidence and an extremely unfair trial, on charges of transferring money to Hamas.

When Al-Halabi was released on February 1, 2025, he showed **visible signs of torture and starvation** and had suffered alarming weight loss.



As stated by Erika Guevara Rosas, Senior Director of Research, Advocacy, Policy, and Campaigns at Amnesty International, “Mohammed AL-Halabi was unjustly targeted by Israeli authorities for his humanitarian work. He never should have been arrested in the first place, let alone been forced to spend almost nine years unlawfully imprisoned. The Kafkaesque proceedings against him, including his prolonged pretrial detention, the multiple postponements of his trial, which lasted six years, and wrongful conviction, which heavily relied on a statement by a prisoner informant, were an appalling miscarriage of justice. Mohammed Al-Halabi’s wrongful conviction must be quashed. The torture and other ill-treatment to which he was subjected both during interrogation and while in prison must be independently investigated and those responsible held accountable.”

“His horrifying ordeal behind bars demonstrates how Israel’s **discriminatory justice system helps to maintain the cruel system of apartheid against Palestinians**. It also underscores the urgent need for Israeli authorities to release all Palestinians who are arbitrarily detained in Israeli prisons.”

Throughout the proceedings against him, the Israeli prosecution failed to substantiate allegations that Al-Halabi was guilty of diverting funds to Hamas and the charges against him relied on “secret” evidence and a coerced statement by a prisoner informant. Despite enormous pressure, Al-Halabi repeatedly refused to enter in any plea bargain, which would have given him a significantly reduced sentence in exchange for “confessing” to charges that he vehemently denied.

Al-Halabi made a statement to Amnesty International after his release and return to his heavily damaged home in Gaza City. “They [Israeli authorities] tortured me but never broke my spirit. I maintain my innocence of any of the charges levelled against me and I remain adamant to prove that in court even after my release,” he said.

He explained that after October 7, 2023, he was transferred to Nafha Prison in southern Israel, where prisoners’ radios were confiscated and most lawyer visits, family visits, or visits from independent observers were blocked. He stated that during the 15-month conflict, he was only able to receive news about his loved ones in Gaza during a single meeting with his lawyer.

“That was the worst: not knowing whether my wife and children are alive, not knowing how they were coping? Have they been displaced? Have they been bombed? Will I ever see them again? That was even worse than the starvation and torture that we were subjected to [in prison].”

Al-Halabi told Amnesty International that he wanted to resume his humanitarian aid work. “The need for humanitarian relief, the type of work I used to do before my arrest, is greater than ever. In previous wars, we used to divide damaged buildings into fully and partially destroyed, but when I went back to Jabalia refugee camp, [in North Gaza governorate] **I found out that the category ‘partially destroyed’ is virtually nonexistent. Almost every building is flattened.**”

Al-Halabi said of the public support he received from around the world after his arrest, “Even during my darkest hours, I knew that many people believed in my innocence, that supporters of justice were campaigning for my release. Their solidarity will always be engraved in my heart.”

March 13, 2025 Report: UN report on Israel’s gender-based violence and genocidal acts against women’s health facilities must spur action to protect Palestinians

Lauren Aarons, Senior Advisor on Gender, Conflict, and International Justice at Amnesty International, commented on the report published by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel, stated that Israel has systematically used sexual, reproductive, and other gender-based violence against Palestinians since October 2023, committed “genocidal acts” against Palestinians in Gaza, destroyed women’s health services and reproductive health facilities, and blocked access to reproductive health services.

As noted in the report, “These damning findings are another clear illustration of the devastating impact of Israel’s genocide in Gaza and its use of gender-based violence to oppress Palestinian women and girls across the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to **use sexual violence to perpetuate oppression on Palestinians** of all genders, especially in Israeli detention centers.”

The Report, which follows the findings of Amnesty International’s December 2024 report, once again **highlights the horror of Israel’s crimes in Gaza and how they particularly affect women.** Among the acts documented by Amnesty International as part of Israel’s genocide are the killing and serious injury of tens of thousands of women and girls, and the deliberate exposure of Palestinians in Gaza to living conditions designed to bring about their physical destruction in whole or in part. The report concludes that Israeli authorities have committed and continue to commit genocide in Gaza.

“Palestinian women in Gaza have been subjected to a range of gendered forms of bodily and mental harm, including reproductive and other gender-based violence.”



Even after the first phase of the ceasefire came into force horrific living conditions inflicted by Israel during the offensive have continued to disproportionately affect women and girls. This includes damaging and destruction of homes, and medical facilities, including maternity wards, maternal care clinics, and other life-sustaining infrastructure as well as shelters protecting women and girls from gender-based violence. Israel's decision to completely block the entry of humanitarian aid to Gaza for the past 12 days has already exacerbated the catastrophic conditions facing women and girls. Even prior to the imposition of these measures as a **clear form of collective punishment**, Israel had banned the entry of mobile homes and heavy machinery to remove the rubble. This means that hundreds of thousands of women and girls continue to live in dire conditions in tents or crowded schools, exposed to violence and with scarce access to clean water contributing to a hygiene crisis.

Palestinians released from Israeli detention centers have also told Amnesty International that they were subjected to torture and sexual violence while in detention.

The publication of the COI report must prompt the international community to take urgent action to protect the rights of Palestinian women and address gendered crimes committed against women and men. In addition to a long-lasting ceasefire, urgent measures are needed to repair hospitals, clinics and sanitation facilities. Israel must lift its genocidal siege on the occupied Gaza Strip and restore the electricity supply. It must also repeal its ban on UNRWA, whose work is vital to addressing the humanitarian catastrophe including the needs of women and girls.

No discussion of human rights is possible **without tackling Israel's decades long impunity** for its violations against Palestinians. The world must act to ensure that justice becomes a reality for all Palestinians and to restore some faith in international law for all.



Detainees inside Sde Teiman. Photograph: Obtained by the Guardian

Report dated November 29, 2023: Why Does Israel Have So Many Palestinians in Detention and Available to Swap?

As Human Rights Watch has stated, as of November 28, 2023, under the short-term ceasefire agreement reached between Israeli authorities and Palestinian armed groups, 180 Palestinian prisoners were released in exchange for 69 civilians held hostage in Gaza. While many have **rightly hailed the release of civilians held hostage** by Hamas after the killings of hundreds of Israelis and other civilians on October 7 — hostage-taking is a war crime — less attention has been focused on exactly why Israel has so many Palestinians in detention and available to exchange, and even less on how they got there.

As of November 1, Israeli authorities held nearly 7,000 Palestinians from the occupied territory in detention for alleged security offenses, according to the Israeli human rights organization HaMoked. Far more Palestinians have been arrested since the October 7 attacks in Israel than have been released in the last week. **Among those being held are dozens of women and scores of children.**

As stated in Human Rights Watch's August 29, 2023, report titled **“Why Does Israel Have So Many Palestinians in Detention and Available to Swap?”**;

The majority have never been convicted of a crime, including more than 2,000 of them being held in administrative detention, in which the Israeli military detains a person without charge or trial. Such detention can be renewed indefinitely based on secret information, which the detainee is not allowed to see. Administrative detainees are held on the presumption that they might commit an offense at some point in the future. Israeli authorities have **held children, human rights defenders, and Palestinian political activists, among others, in administrative detention, often for prolonged periods.**

The large number of Palestinian detainees is primarily the result of separate criminal justice systems Israeli authorities maintain in the occupied territory. The nearly 3 million Palestinians who live in the occupied West Bank, excluding East Jerusalem, are ruled by military law and prosecuted in military courts. By contrast, the nearly half a million Israeli settlers in the West Bank are governed under civil and criminal law and tried in Israeli civil courts.

Discrimination pervades every aspect of this system. Under military law, Palestinians can be held for up to eight days before they must see a judge — and then, only a military judge. Yet, under Israeli law, a person has to be brought before a judge within 24 hours of arrest, which can be extended to 96 hours when authorized in extraordinary cases.

Palestinians can be jailed for participating in a gathering of merely 10 people without a permit on any issue “that could be construed as political,” while settlers can demonstrate without a permit unless the gathering exceeds 50 people, takes place outdoors and involves “political speeches and statements.”

In short, **Israeli settlers and Palestinians live in the same territory, but are tried in different courts under different laws with different due process rights and face different sentences for the same offense.** The result is a large and growing number of Palestinians imprisoned without basic due process.

Discrimination also pervades the treatment of children. Israeli civil law protects children against nighttime arrests, provides the right to have a parent present during interrogations and limits the amount of time children may be detained before being able to consult a lawyer and to be presented before a judge. Israeli authorities, however, regularly arrest Palestinian children during nighttime raids, interrogate them without a guardian present, hold them for longer periods before bringing them before a judge and hold those as young as 12 in lengthy pretrial detention. The Association for Civil Rights in Israel found in 2017 that **authorities kept 72 percent of Palestinian children from the West Bank in custody until the end of proceedings, but only 17.9 percent of children in Israel.**

While the law of occupation permits administrative detention as a temporary and exceptional measure, Israel’s sweeping use of administrative detention on the Palestinian population, more than half a century into an occupation with no end in sight, far exceeds what the law authorizes.

Even those charged with a crime are routinely deprived of due process rights in military courts. Many of those convicted and serving time for “security offenses” (2,331 people as of November 1) accepted plea bargains to avoid prolonged pretrial detention and sham military trials, which have **a nearly 100 percent conviction rate** against Palestinians.

Palestinian rights groups have reported a spike in arrests and deterioration in the conditions of Palestinian prisoners prior to October 7, including violent raids, retaliatory prison transfers and isolation of prisoners, reduced access to running water and bread and fewer family visits. The trends have worsened since.

Discrimination in detention and in prison is just one aspect of the systematic oppression that serves as the foundation of Israeli authorities’ policies. Israeli authorities should end their discriminatory and abusive detention practices, whether the exchanges continue or not.

Report dated August 26, 2024: A Palestinian Paramedic's Ordeal in Israeli Detention

Walid Khalili's nightmare began on the morning of November 10, 2023. The 36-year-old father of three, a Palestinian Medical Relief Society paramedic and **ambulance driver**, had been dispatched to the Tel al-Hawa neighborhood of Gaza City to rescue four wounded men. When his ambulance reached the Barcelona Garden, twenty meters from the Labor Ministry building, on Mughrabi Street, he saw four men surrounded by Israeli forces.

“I saw the four men being executed in cold blood,” Khalili said. “I saw it with my own eyes, I was three meters away. When they were shot, I hid under the ambulance, and next to it, there was a building, so then I ran inside the building. The Israeli forces raided the building and started yelling at me to raise my hands.” Soldiers kicked and beat him with their rifle butts, breaking his ribs.

Human Rights Watch could not independently verify Khalili's account of the killings. However, his subsequent ordeal – including deportation from Gaza to detention facilities in Israel, torture, and denial of medical care – are consistent with the abuses in Israeli detention described by seven other healthcare workers we interviewed. **His account is also consistent with reports by other rights groups, the United Nations human rights office, and journalists.**

The soldiers forced Khalili to strip naked in public, zip-tied his hands behind his back, blindfolded him, and took him to another location. “They kept telling me, ‘Say you're Hamas,’” he said. He recalled the bitter November cold. Soldiers then placed him in an open-back military vehicle, hit him, and drove him to an open area, where he was forced to lie face-down on sandy ground.

Soldiers repeatedly shoved his face into the sand with their boots and threatened to kill him, Khalili said. One soldier pushed the muzzle of an assault rifle to his head, another doused him with gasoline, threatening to set him on fire, and **others drove a military vehicle quickly toward him as if to run him over – a tactic that another former detainee separately described to us –** apparently to terrify him into confessing to being a member of Hamas.

Israeli soldiers then transferred Khalili to Sde Teiman military base in southern Israel, northwest of the city of Beersheba, about 30 kilometers from Gaza. He said that at the detention facility, Israeli soldiers dragged him on the ground, removed the cuffs from his ankles, dressed him in **adult diapers**, and removed his blindfold. He saw he was in a large building “like a warehouse,” with chains hanging from the ceiling. **Dozens of detainees, also in diapers, were suspended from the ceiling, with the chains attached to their square metal handcuffs.**



He said that personnel at the facility then **suspended him from a chain, so his feet were not touching the ground**, dressed him in a garment and a headband that were attached to wires, and shocked him with electricity. He said, “The world was spinning around, and I fainted. **They hit me with batons.** I kept fainting and hallucinating. He kept asking me about the hostages, and moving Hamas hostages, and where I was on October 7. With every question, I was electroshocked to wake me up. He told me ‘Confess and we will stop torturing you.’”

Khalili said he was given electric shocks every second day in addition to being suspended in stress positions and having cold water thrown on him. Khalili said that at three-day intervals, he was taken from the “warehouse” for interrogation. **Before each interrogation, a soldier administered an unknown drug to him in pill form.** “The pill made me feel weird, it was the first time I have felt like this, as if my inner mind was speaking what was in my heart, not me. I felt like I’m flying. I saw hallucinations.”

An Israeli official whom Khalili said spoke fluent, unaccented Arabic interrogated him, focusing on the hostages taken to Gaza. The official “told me how many children I have, all their names, my address,” Khalili said, and threatened they would be killed if he did not confess.

Despite his broken ribs, Khalili said he received no medical treatment at Sde Teiman. Another detainee “had his leg amputated,” apparently as a result of prolonged shackling and exposure to cold. He said he saw a detainee in the “warehouse” experience what he believes was cardiac arrest; a soldier brought in an Israeli medical worker who confirmed the detainee was dead. Israeli forces brought the dead body of another detainee into the warehouse, Khalili said. Prayer was prohibited.

After 20 days, Israeli forces transferred Khalili, alone, in a wheelchair and unable to stand, from Sde Teiman to a detention facility he called “al-Naqab” prison. He was cuffed and blindfolded, and said **soldiers threatened him with rape** while he was being transported. Upon arrival at al-Naqab, officials at the facility “took my fingerprints and gave me a number” to identify him. After a few days, he was given clothes. Another detainee, tasked by Israeli guards to act as a translator and go-between, was allowed to bring him food. He was questioned three more times but not physically tortured.

In Human Rights Watch’s August 26, 2024, report titled “A Palestinian Paramedic’s Ordeal in Israeli Detention,” ambulance driver Walid Khalili, whose testimony is included, stated that the other detainees at al-Naqab were also sick and wounded, and a man who was visibly “bleeding from his bottom” was brought in and placed next to Khalili. The man told Khalili that before he was placed in detention, “three soldiers took turns raping him with an M16 [assault rifle]. No one else knew, but he told me as a paramedic. He was terrified. His mental health was awful, he started talking to himself.”

Khalili was given over-the-counter anti-inflammatory painkillers and antibiotics but no other medical help at al-Naqab, he said. Bright lights were never turned off at the facility, making it difficult to sleep. Detainees slept on thin mats on the ground, without pillows, cuffed and blindfolded.

After more than 30 days at al-Naqab, Khalili said, he signed release papers at the prosecutor's office and was given back his Palestinian ID document, but not his phone or cash (the equivalent of US\$1,250) taken from him during his arrest in Gaza. Four days later, in late December 2023, he was released without charge at the Kerem Shalom/Karam Abu Salem crossing bordering the Gaza Strip and Egypt. He had weighed 80 kilograms when arrested, and now weighed 60, he said.

Back in Gaza, the Red Crescent Society provided Khalili with medical care and transferred him to Abu Youssef Al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah. The World Health Organization arranged permission for him to be transferred for care to Egypt in May, but Israeli forces closed the Rafah border crossing on May 7. When Human Rights Watch (HWR) officials were last in touch with him, Khalili was sheltering in the Mawasi area near Khan Yunis, and still awaiting possible transfer to Egypt for medical care, separated from his family who are in northern Gaza. "I cry every day without my family," he said. "I'm alone in the south, I have no one. I swear I don't need anything but to be with my family." He has not yet met his youngest son, who was born in Gaza while he was in detention. He still loses consciousness and feels "something in my head like microwaves, a loud sound," and his hands cramp up, Khalili said. He finds it hard to sleep due to the pain from his broken ribs. When he does sleep, he has nightmares.

Report dated August 26, 2024: Israel: Palestinian Healthcare Workers Tortured

Human Rights Watch's report titled "**Israel: Palestinian Healthcare Workers Tortured**" addresses allegations that Israeli forces have arbitrarily detained Palestinian healthcare workers in Gaza since hostilities began in October 2023, deported them to detention facilities in Israel, and allegedly tortured and ill-treated them. The detention of healthcare workers in the context of the Israeli military's repeated attacks on hospitals in Gaza has contributed to the catastrophic degradation of the besieged territory's healthcare system.

Released **doctors, nurses and paramedics** described to Human Rights Watch their mistreatment in Israeli custody, including humiliation, beatings, forced stress positions, prolonged cuffing and blindfolding, and denial of medical care. They also reported **torture, including rape and sexual abuse** by Israeli forces, denial of medical care, and poor detention conditions for the general detainee population.

"The Israeli government's mistreatment of Palestinian healthcare workers has continued in the shadows and needs to immediately stop," said Balkees Jarrah, acting Middle East director at Human Rights Watch.

From March to June 2024, Human Rights Watch interviewed eight Palestinian healthcare workers who were taken by the Israeli military from Gaza between November and December 2023 and **detained without charge for between seven days and five months**. Six were detained at work following Israeli sieges of hospitals or during hospital evacuations that they said had been coordinated with the Israeli military. None of the healthcare workers said they were ever informed of the reason for their detention or charged with an offense.

Human Rights Watch also spoke with seven people who witnessed Israeli soldiers detaining healthcare workers carrying out their duties. Human Rights Watch sent a letter to the Israeli military and Israeli Prison Services with the preliminary findings on August 13 but has not received a response.

All the healthcare workers interviewed provided similar accounts of mistreatment in Israeli custody. After being in Gaza, they were deported to detention facilities in Israel, including the Sde Teiman military base in the Negev Desert and Ashkelon prison, or, forcibly transferred to the Anatot military base near East Jerusalem and the Ofer detention facility, in the occupied West Bank. All said that they were stripped, beaten, blindfolded and handcuffed, for many weeks on end, and pressured to confess to being members of the Hamas movement through various threats of indefinite detention, rape, and killing their families in Gaza.

A surgeon said he was “wearing scrubs and Crocs” when Israeli forces detained him during their siege of Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahia, Gaza, in December. “We were 50 healthcare workers, including nurses and doctors,” he said. “The soldier on the microphone ordered men and **boys over 15 years old** to evacuate the hospital.... When they took us out of the hospital, they told us to undress and stay in our underwear.”

One paramedic said that at the Sde Teiman detention facility he was **suspended from a chain attached to handcuffs, electroshocked, denied medical care for broken ribs caused by beatings**, and administered what he believed was a psychoactive drug before interrogations. “It was so degrading, it was unbelievable,” he said. “I was helping people as a paramedic, I never expected something like this.” Healthcare workers also reported being punished in detention for moving or speaking, and collectively punished if other detainees spoke. “Sometimes if one spoke, they [soldiers] punished the whole warehouse [at Naqab prison], collectively,” one healthcare worker said.

The Gaza Health Ministry reported that Israeli forces have detained at least 310 Palestinian healthcare workers since October 7. Healthcare Workers Watch-Palestine, a nongovernmental organization, documented 259 detentions of healthcare workers and collected 31 accounts describing torture and other abuses by Israeli authorities, including the use of stress positions, deprivation of adequate food and water, threats of sexual violence and rape, and degrading treatment.

The healthcare workers' accounts are consistent with independent reports, including those by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), Israeli news media, and rights groups, documenting dozens of detainee accounts of incommunicado detention, beatings, sexual violence, forced confessions, electrocution, and other torture and abuses of Palestinians in Israeli detention.

Humiliation, Ill-treatment, and Torture

The healthcare workers interviewed all reported humiliation, ill-treatment, and torture, including being stripped and beaten, subjected to prolonged painful stress positions, near-constant cuffing, and blindfolding. Some said they were threatened with sexual violence and with attack dogs.

Abuses during Deportation, Detention

All eight men reported being forced to strip publicly immediately after being taken into custody and remain kneeling for extended periods, exposed to the cold, at various times throughout their detention.

Photographs and videos that Israeli soldiers shared online and that Reuters verified show Palestinian detainees unclothed or in underwear. **Publishing such images online is an outrage on personal dignity and posting sexualized images is a form of sexual violence.**

“We were forced to strip in the street and remain in our boxers, one by one,” said Osama Tashtash, 28, a doctor at the Indonesian Hospital in Beit Lahia who was arrested in early December at his home nearby. “For an hour and a half, we were on our knees.” He said that during that period, he and other detainees were exposed to danger from Israeli military operations in the area. He said shrapnel fell on them as Israeli soldiers threw grenades at nearby houses and set them on fire.



Dr. Khalid Hamoudeh, 34, was arrested on the morning of December 12 at Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahia. A photograph circulated late that evening by the Israeli broadcaster Channel 12 **shows Dr. Hamoudeh shirtless alongside four other men he identified as fellow healthcare workers.** The photograph shows the men standing in a row in front of an Israeli soldier holding a light panel, illuminating the detainees.

Dr. Hamoudeh said they were photographed, and then designated for release or detention. Behind them the photograph shows hundreds of men sitting in a large pit with at least 18 Israeli soldiers guarding them. **A detailed analysis by the investigative TechJournalist identified several detainees with their hands tied behind their backs, including Dr. Hamoudeh.**

First identified by the open-source researcher FDov on X (formerly Twitter) and later verified by Human Rights Watch, the footage was recorded approximately half a kilometer northeast of the hospital. Dr. Hamoudeh said that about 50 healthcare workers sitting together separately from internally displaced people. He said he was told to undress and stay in his underwear and was then blindfolded.

The healthcare workers described beatings and physical abuse after being detained, including being punched, kicked with steel-toed boots, slapped, and beaten with assault-rifle butts by Israeli soldiers.

Eyad Abed, 50, a surgeon at the Indonesian Hospital who was detained during a coordinated evacuation of the hospital in November, said: “Every minute we were beaten. I mean all over the body, on sensitive areas between the legs, the chest, the back. We were kicked all over the body and the face. They used the front of their boots which had a metal tip, then their weapons. They had lighters: one soldier tried to burn me but burned the person next to me. I told them I’m a doctor, but they didn’t care.” Abed said that he had broken ribs and a broken tailbone as a result of the physical assault by Israeli soldiers during his arrest and detention, which two months later still had not healed.

An ambulance driver who asked not to be named said that while he was being held with dozens of other men in a large metal “cage” near the Israel-Gaza border fence, he **saw guards beat two men to death, one of whom he recognized, with metal bars.**

The healthcare workers all described ill-treatment during their deportation from Gaza to detention facilities in Israel, including beatings, being forced to sit in prolonged painful stress positions while blindfolded and cuffed by the hands and feet, being “stacked above each other like sheep,” being pepper sprayed, and denied water.

Abuses in Detention Facilities

The healthcare workers said that Israeli authorities abused detainees at detention facilities inside Israel. Four said that when they arrived at detention facilities, the authorities forced them to wear adult diapers and denied them access to toilets.

Two doctors held at Sde Teiman said that other detainees came to them seeking care for wounds inflicted by Israeli authorities. When detainees “lifted their shirts, I saw signs of abuse and physical beatings,” one doctor said. The other said, **“I saw [men] who had cigarette burns on their arms, it was very clear. One had a dog bite on his stomach.”**

As punishment for moving or speaking, detainees said they would be forced to stand, sometimes for hours, with their cuffed hands held above their heads or fixed to a fence. Detainees could hear the screams of other detainees being beaten nearby. One said that after he asked a question, an Israeli officer **forced his fingers through a chain-link fence, he “told me to shut up and not say a word,” and pressed downward on the detainee’s fingers for several minutes,** causing severe pain until the detainee could no longer feel his fingers.

Three healthcare workers reported soldiers using **military dogs** to intimidate detainees. “They would threaten to shoot us and start loading their weapons,” one doctor said. “This felt like horror. They brought in military dogs. I screamed, that was the worst moment in my life, because I was still cuffed and **blindfolded, not seeing where the dogs are coming from.**” Another doctor said dogs were brought in late at night to wake and terrify detainees.

Threats and Acts of Sexual Abuse

Three healthcare workers said that Israeli authorities threatened them with sexual assault. Khader Abu Nada, 30, a nurse at Beit Hanoun Hospital in northern Gaza, said that when he denied any affiliation with Hamas during his first interrogation at a military base in Gaza, the commander threatened to rape him with an “electric stick.” When Abu Nada continued to deny any affiliation with Hamas, soldiers beat him until he was bleeding from his nose, hands, and mouth. Abu Nada said the commander then asked him where his mother was and threatened to bring her from the checkpoint where he was arrested and strip her in front of everyone. “When I heard this, I was psychologically broken. I felt humiliated,” he said. He said he was threatened with rape again prior to his release.

Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Conditions

All the healthcare workers described horrific conditions in detention. Abed, the surgeon, said the food was “horrible” and inadequate, and that he lost 22 kilograms during a month and a half in detention. The bathrooms were “not even fit for animals.” The mattresses and blankets were thin, and the cold nights were “unbearable.” In the cells, water for toilets and for drinking was available for only one hour a day, with a “disgusting” stench emanating from the non-flushable toilets. “They gave us a bag for the garbage. We used to fill it with water and drink from it later. It smelled horrible but we had no choice,” Abed said.

A nurse detained at Anatot said, “We got two meals [a day]. It was terrible food. I would just drink water; there were no fruits, not even apples. **They gave us food just to survive the day.**”

Khalili, the paramedic, said that at one point during his detention in Sde Teiman, an Israeli news crew arrived, and a detainee who understood Hebrew told him that a prison official told the journalists, falsely, that the detainees were members of a unit of Hamas’s armed wing responsible for the October 7 attacks. The next day, the paramedic said, soldiers brought food, placed it in front of the detainees, ordered them not to eat it, took photographs, and then took the food away.

Prolonged Cuffing and Blindfolding

The healthcare workers said that they were cuffed almost constantly throughout their detention. They said Israeli authorities often ignored detainees who complained about the tightness of their cuffs or tightened them further as punishment for complaining.

Abu Nada, the nurse, said he was arrested at the Kuwaiti Roundabout in Gaza on November 22 while evacuating from the north with his family. Soldiers ordered him to strip, cuffed and blindfolded him, then took him for questioning. He said his first interrogation ended with an Israeli military commander punching him in the face and kicking him all over his body, then ordering another soldier to tighten his cuffs and drag him to an open field, where he waited on his knees for an hour. When he asked a soldier to loosen his cuffs, he said the soldier instead repeatedly kicked him in the head. "My wrists hurt so much, they felt paralyzed and numb. I cried so much, I couldn't take the pain," Abu Nada said. "I told him, 'Kill me I can't take it anymore, kill me already.'"

Abu Nada said **his wrists later turned black**, and he feared his mistreatment may have caused permanent damage: "I still feel pain in my hands. My hands are weak, and I have no strength to hold or carry anything. Also, there's still pain from my shoulders all the way to my fingertips. I have severe neck pain from the pressure on my head when they kept pushing our heads down."

As Physicians for Human Rights Israel has reported, prolonged physical restraint causes intense pain and can result in permanent nerve damage that interferes with the use of the hands and in extreme cases can lead to death.

All of the healthcare workers also reported prolonged, near-constant blindfolding. According to Physicians for Human Rights Israel, "blindfolding can, even with short-term use, induce visual hallucinations in healthy individuals. Over extended periods, prolonged use of blindfolds can contribute to the onset of anxiety disorders, depression, substance abuse, and PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) in the medium to long term."

Medical Neglect

The healthcare workers described medical neglect despite the detainees' numerous requests and clear, urgent need for treatment for preexisting health conditions, or for injuries sustained during the hostilities in Gaza or from abuses in custody.

A nurse at Al-Awda Hospital in northern Gaza, who asked not to be named, said that on November 21 he was injured when an Israeli airstrike hit his hospital. He had emergency surgery at Al-Awda Hospital to stabilize broken fingers and a torn tendon in his right hand, which was then placed in a cast, and an open wound on his left hand was wrapped in gauze. The next day, the nurse left the hospital in an ambulance along with 15 other people, including patients, their companions, and hospital staff, in an evacuation arranged by the Red Cross and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF or Doctors without Borders). "The hospital shared our car license plate number, IDs, and names [with the Israeli military], and everything was approved," he said.

Shortly after their departure, **Israeli soldiers at the Kuwaiti Roundabout stopped the ambulance and ordered all passengers to exit.** The nurse and another doctor were taken aside and ordered to strip. “My right hand had a cast and titanium [implants]; I couldn’t use it. I couldn’t even pee alone. The doctor detained with me helped me take off my clothes, even my shoes,” the nurse said.

Cuffed and blindfolded, the nurse was taken to Anatot military base. He said that during intake, soldiers introduced a man as a doctor who examined his wounds but did nothing else. He said despite repeated requests; the dressing was changed for the first time only on the third or fourth day of his detention and rarely after that. “They only changed the gauze on the injuries – no scans, no proper medication, nothing. My injury, the skin was open, [but I was given] nothing to treat possible bacteria,” he said. The nurse also said that after a week of detention he was released and needed surgery to treat hemorrhoids due to constant sitting and being kicked during detention.

Dr. Hamoudeh said that during his detention at Sde Teiman in late December, he saw another detainee with apparent **“trauma from beatings, and I was terrified he would die.”** He alerted authorities who said they were paramedics – he never saw an Israeli doctor at the facility – and “they took pictures [of the injuries] and sent it to someone. The soldier then told them enough, and not to do any more medical care.” He said when he told soldiers about people in need of medical care, they would respond that they did not care if they died.

Dr. Osama Tushtash, 28, fell ill with a severe fever after a week in detention at what he believed was Al-Naqab prison, but Israeli authorities refused to allow him to see a doctor or even give him a painkiller. “They just told me to drink water,” he said.

Khalili, the paramedic, said he suffered broken ribs and a lung injury as a result of beatings, but received no medical treatment at Sde Teiman. He said he saw a detainee die from what he believes was cardiac arrest. When a soldier brought in a doctor, who confirmed the detainee was dead, the detainees shouted “Allahu akbar,” prompting a violent raid by an Israeli special unit tasked with prison raids.

Autopsies of Palestinians who died in Israeli detention facilities indicated medical neglect and signs of physical abuse, including bruising and broken bones, Haaretz reported in March. A report released by Physicians for Human Rights Israel documented treatment without consent, surgery performed without an anesthesiologist, and political interference in medical decisions in detention facilities.

In a letter to senior Israeli officials, an Israeli doctor at Sde Teiman field hospital described practices that endangered detainees’ health, including the lack of trained medical staff, and transferring patients back to the detention facility after only an hour of observation following **“major [surgical] operations,”** Haaretz reported.

Article 91 of the Fourth Geneva Convention requires facilities detaining civilians to “have an adequate infirmary, under the direction of a qualified doctor,” where those detained may receive “the attention they require, as well as an appropriate diet.” Under international human rights law, medical care for detainees should be at least equivalent to that available to the general population. Current conditions of detention violate the Israeli Incarceration of Unlawful Combatants Law, which provides for detainees’ right to medical treatment, hygienic conditions, healthy and dignified sleeping arrangements, and daily outdoor exercise.

Report dated January 3, 2024: Israel: Gaza Workers Held Incommunicado for Weeks

Israeli authorities **held thousands of workers from Gaza** in incommunicado detention for several weeks following the October 7 attacks, subjecting at least some of them to inhumane and degrading conditions, Human Rights Watch said. According to the report dated January 3, 2024, thousands more remain stranded in the occupied West Bank without valid legal status and vulnerable to arrest. Those detained after October 7 were held by Israeli authorities in Israel and the West Bank, some of whom were reportedly interrogated on alleged links to, or knowledge of, the attacks.

The report states that on November 3, **over 3,000 Palestinian workers** were released from detention and transferred to Gaza. Israeli authorities have yet to state the total number of workers from Gaza who were in Israel on October 7, or the number of workers who were detained or remain detained. Israeli authorities have not disclosed if any workers from Gaza were charged with any crime.

“Israeli authorities **detained thousands of workers for weeks without charge** in incommunicado detention, subjecting at least some to humiliating ill-treatment,” said Michelle Randhawa, senior refugee and migrant rights officer at Human Rights Watch. “The search for perpetrators and abettors of the October 7 attacks does not justify abusing workers who had been granted permits to work in Israel.”

An estimated 18,500 workers from Gaza had permits to work in Israel on October 7, though it is unclear how many were in Israel that day. To get permits, applicants from Gaza underwent stringent security evaluations.

On December 19 and 21, Human Rights Watch wrote to the Israeli military and Israel Prison Service with its findings asking for comment, but received no response, as the time the report was written.

Human Rights Watch spoke to four workers from Gaza detained by Israeli authorities after October 7. Three workers were part of a small group released to the West Bank before November 3, and one was released to Gaza on November 3.

One man attempted to go to the West Bank after he realized his work permit was cancelled and deleted from Al-Munasiq, the phone app where work permits are stored. He said he was stopped at a checkpoint on the way to the West Bank, blindfolded, hands tightly bound with zip ties, and taken first to Ofer prison, and then to an unknown second location.

There, he said, **“They [forced me to take] off all my clothes...and they took pictures of me...They beat me intensely, I was naked during this, it was humiliating. The worst part was when the dogs were attacking [me]. I was blindfolded and cuffed with metal shackles, I didn’t know if the dogs were controlled by someone or just left to attack me, I was terrified.”**

He was interrogated and asked to identify his home on an aerial map of Gaza and was also asked about specific people. He was then released on November 3 at the Kerem Shalom crossing into Gaza.

Another man said Israeli police in Rahat, a city in southern Israel, arrested him and other workers from Gaza after the October 7 attacks and took them to an army base in Ofakim, Israel. [The Israeli forces] “made us undress,” he said. “[We were] completely naked. They handed us Pampers to wear and thin white overalls.... We stayed blindfolded and cuffed [with zip ties on our hands and feet] for 10 days... We kept asking why we are detained. We never got an answer, only verbal assaults and death threats.”

He said **he was beaten for hours, then dragged face down on gravel and attached to a wall or fence by his cuffed hands, and then beaten again:** “Every time I fell on the ground I was forced to stand up, and again more beatings and I fell on the ground. With every beating and fall the plastic zip ties on my hands became tighter and more painful.” He was then transferred to Ofer prison where he spent another four or five days until he was released into the West Bank.

Another man who worked in Rahat said he and other workers were arrested and taken to the Rahat police station on or around October 9. While blindfolded with their hands zip-tied behind their backs, “Israeli forces constantly cursed at us...and threatened to kill us.... We were held for 12 hours. We were not allowed water or [to use] the bathroom.”

Israeli forces also transferred him to Ofer prison, where he said he was interrogated about Hamas in Gaza. On October 22, Israeli authorities released him to Palestinian Red Crescent paramedics, who took him by ambulance to the Ramallah Public Hospital, where staff treated his zip tie wounds. **Human Rights Watch saw the scars on his wrists.**

The Israeli military spokesperson confirmed to Haaretz two Gaza workers, one with cancer, one with diabetes, died in Israeli custody, saying, “The two died due to [...]complex medical condition[s] contracted before they arrived at the facilities. An investigation is being conducted into the circumstances of their death.” Both men were arrested after October 7. One of the men interviewed by Human Rights Watch said there was a cancer patient with him in Ofer who died after several days in pain.

The Israeli human rights groups Gisha and HaMoked told Human Rights Watch that families in Gaza contacted them after October 7 when they stopped hearing from relatives with work permits in Israel. Both organizations requested permission to visit the detainees, speak to them by phone, and receive information on their judicial status, yet to no avail. “We had no contact with the Gaza workers while they were detained,” said Nadya Daqqah, a lawyer from HaMoked. “It can’t get any more incommunicado than this.”

On October 23, six human rights organizations in Israel filed an urgent petition with Israel's High Court, which stated Israeli authorities had refused to provide any information about where workers were being detained, under what law, and for how long.

On November 2, Gisha and HaMoked submitted a second urgent petition to Israel's High Court stating that "the detainees were being held...without access to legal representation" and allegedly subjected to "physical violence and psychological abuse, as well as...inhumane conditions." On November 2, the Israeli cabinet voted to return "Gaza workers who were in Israel on the day the war broke out" to Gaza. The next day, Israeli authorities released 3,026 Palestinian workers to Gaza via the Kerem Shalom crossing. On November 13, the Court rejected the petition, given the release of workers on November 3

Gisha interviewed two brothers who had similar accounts of being blindfolded, beaten, and held without any communication with either their families or lawyers.

On November 9, the Israeli government published an emergency regulation on the "detention and deportation of unlawful residents of [Gaza]." The regulation states that Gaza workers no longer have a legal basis for being in Israel – since Israeli authorities canceled their work permits – and that they will be held in custody until removal. While the regulation sets time limits on detention, it also allows for extensions based on security needs.

The situation of the thousands of workers from Gaza who fled or were released to the West Bank remains unclear. Many are living in temporary shelters provided by the Palestinian Authority and nongovernmental organizations. There are reports from late November that Israeli Defense Forces have arrested workers from Gaza who had been sheltering in private homes. On November 10, Israel, in coordination with the Palestinian Authority, transferred another group of 982 workers from Gaza who had been sheltering in the West Bank to Gaza via the Kerem Shalom crossing. On November 28, Israeli authorities released 300 Palestinian workers to Gaza via the Kerem Shalom crossing. According to Osnat Cohen-Lifshitz, the head of Gisha's legal department, these workers were released from the Anatot military base.

As Human Rights Watch staff member Randhawa emphasizes; "Israeli authorities should disclose how many workers from Gaza were in Israel on October 7, how many were detained, whether any remain in detention and the basis for their detention. They should investigate reports of abuse in detention and ensure the humane treatment of all detainees."



Report dated July 23, 2024: Detainees Face Inhumane Treatment

As stated in Human Rights Watch’s report dated July 23, 2024, Israeli forces have been publishing degrading photographs and videos of detained Palestinians, **including children**, a form of inhumane treatment and an outrage on their personal dignity that amount to war crimes.



In many cases, detainees were stripped of their clothing, sometimes fully, then photographed or filmed, with the images published by Israeli soldiers, media outlets, or activists. **Forced nudity followed by capturing and sharing sexualized images on social media is a form of sexual violence and also a war crime.**

Human Rights Watch analyzed 37 of the posts depicting captured Palestinians, **predominantly men and boys in Gaza and the West Bank, often stripped to their underwear and in some cases completely naked, handcuffed, blindfolded, and injured.** Some posts included demeaning and humiliating captions by Israeli soldiers or journalists. Platforms like TikTok and YouTube have removed some of these posts.

“Israeli authorities have for months turned a blind eye as members of their military published dehumanizing fully or seminude images and videos of Palestinians in their custody,” said Balkees Jarrah, acting Middle East director at Human Rights Watch. “Senior officials and military commanders can be held criminally responsible for ordering these crimes, or for failing to prevent or punish them, including at the International Criminal Court.”

Israeli military officials have publicly denounced some of their members for publishing images of the detainees, but as far as Human Rights Watch has been able to determine, the government has not publicly condemned the underlying treatment of Palestinian detainees depicted in the images. Judicial authorities have not announced any prosecutions for these crimes. On July 15, Human Rights Watch wrote to the Public Diplomacy Office of the Israeli military but has not received a response.

As of July, 2024, since October 2023, Israeli forces have reportedly detained thousands of Palestinians from Gaza at Sde Teiman, an army base in southern Israel, where they have been reportedly ill-treated and tortured, and where at least 36 died in custody, according to media reports.

As of July, 124 Palestinians remained at Sde Teiman, according to the Times of Israel, despite the Israeli attorney general calling on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to transfer detainees out of the facility due to the reports of abuse and deaths in custody.

Between October 25 and December 28, one Israeli soldier, who according to his social media holds United States citizenship, published at least seven photos and videos of Palestinian men detained by his unit in the West Bank. In the images, the clothed detainees are handcuffed, many of them are blindfolded, and some have Israeli flags placed on them.

In two videos, published on October 28 and 29, the soldier places US dollar bills on the knees of two handcuffed, blindfolded, and squatting men, as a “blessing” while mocking them and asking them to repeat phrases in Hebrew.

In another case, an Israeli soldier in Gaza published a photo on Facebook on December 8, showing at least 22 detained males in a single file, all stripped to their underwear, some of them blindfolded. **At least two detainees appear to be children.** The caption says: “As part of our mission we kept Hamas terrorists under arrest. **We’ll settle for this picture, there are pictures not for publication ...**”

Another image posted on Instagram, by an Israeli soldier, who according to media reports holds US citizenship, shows what appears to be a photograph of himself **standing in front of at least six men** with their backs to the camera, stripped to their underwear and **kneeling on the ground** while handcuffed and blindfolded, with their arms above their heads. The caption of the now deleted photo says: “Mom I think I freed Palestine”.

Two separate investigations by the BBC on the conduct of Israeli soldiers, one in February in Gaza, and another in May in the West Bank, found that Israeli soldiers uploaded dozens of images and videos to social media platforms intended to humiliate Palestinians, including images of detainees who had been stripped to their underwear and others who had been draped in Israeli flags. In a response to another BBC investigation, the Israeli military said it had instructed soldiers “to avoid uploading footage of operational activities to social media networks,”

In its May 2024 report, the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel concluded that the forced public stripping, nudity, and related “specific persecutory acts” against Palestinian men and boys in Israeli custody were either ordered or condoned by Israeli authorities, given the frequency of these abuses, the way these acts were filmed and photographed, and that they occurred in several locations.

Sexual violence and committing “outrages upon personal dignity” against detainees are serious violations of international humanitarian law, or the laws of war, applicable to all parties to the hostilities in Israel and Palestine.

Report dated July 10, 2023: Stripped, beaten and blindfolded: new research reveals ongoing violence and abuse of Palestinian children detained by Israeli military

According to a Save the Children report dated July 10, 2023, Save the Children and a partner organisation **consulted 228 former child detainees** from across the West Bank, detained from one to 18 months, and found that most children are beaten, handcuffed and blindfolded during arrest. They are also interrogated at unknown locations without the presence of a caregiver, and are often deprived of food, water and sleep, or access to legal counsel, according to the research. **The main alleged crime leading to these detentions is stone throwing, which can carry a prison sentence of 20-years for Palestinian children.**

According to this study, Palestinian children in Israel's military detention system are subjected to physical and emotional abuse. Some are subjected to sexual violence, while others are **transported in small cages** between courts and detention centers.

The research comes as the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 presents evidence today to the Human Rights Council on Palestinian children in detention. It is estimated that there are between 500 and 1,000 children held in Israeli military detention each year.

Save the Children says these practices are a major and long standing human rights concern and is calling for the Government of Israel to end the detention of Palestinian children under military law and their prosecution in military courts.

The 2023 research that consulted 228 former child detainees follows Save the Children's 2020 report "Defenceless" and finds that the impact of physical and emotional abuse during detention has soared, with profound consequences on children's ability to recover.

Khalil, who was detained when he was 13, said that he did not receive essential healthcare: ***"I had an injury in my leg, I had a cast, and had to crawl to be able to move. I felt my body being torn apart. I had no canes to help me walk, I kept asking soldiers for help during the transfer, but no one helped me."***

Khalil continued, *"The soldier threatened to kill me when he arrested me for the second time. He asked me, 'Do you want the same fate as your cousin?' as he had been killed. He promised me that I would have the same fate and die, but that he would send me to prison first. He told me that he's coming back for me – and every day, I wait for that day to come."*

Some children reported that they believed different types of abuse were intended to pressure them into making false confessions in order to incriminate others, including family members.

Yasmeen, the mother of Ahmed detained when he was 14, said, *"During interrogation, they convinced Ahmed* to tell on his brother in exchange for his release. He was naive and didn't understand what was happening. He said what they told him to say; a few days later, they came to our house and arrested my other son."*

According to the research by Save the Children in which the organization consulted 228 former child detainees;

During arrest, **42% of children were injured, including by gunshot wounds and broken bones**, and **65% of children were arrested during the night**, mostly between midnight and dawn. Half of all arrests took place in the children's homes.

The majority of children experienced appalling levels of physical and emotional abuse, including **being beaten (86%), being threatened with harm (70%), and hit with sticks or guns (60%)**.

Some children reported violence and abuse of a sexual nature, including being hit or touched on the genitals and **69% reported being strip searched**.

60% of children experienced solitary confinement, with durations ranging from one day to as long as 48 days.

Children were denied access to basic services, **70% said they suffered from hunger** and 68% said they did not receive any healthcare.

58% of children were denied visits or communication with their families while detained.

The majority of children detained are boys – a trend reflected in the survey, with boys representing 97% of the respondents.

Children are increasingly unable to fully return to normal life following release from detention, with the number of children having frequent nightmares rising from 39% to 53% and those suffering from insomnia or difficulty sleeping rocketing from **47%** to **73%**, compared to the children surveyed in 2020.

Lana the mother of Mohammed who was detained when he was 14, said: *"After my son was released, he wanted to stay by my side and sleep next to me. He refuses to leave the house. It has been a challenge for us; I feel that he is traumatized. He was arrested Tuesday night, **now every Tuesday he feels they are coming for him.**"*

Save the Children's research also showed that children's sense of care and hope for the future decreased from 96% in 2020 to 68% in 2023, an alarming decline in a context with limited psychosocial support available.

Jason Lee, Save the Children's Country Director in the occupied Palestinian territory, said, ***"Each year approximately 500-700 Palestinian children come into contact with the Israeli military court system; they are the only children in the world to experience systematic prosecution in military courts. Our research shows - once again - that they are subject to serious and widespread abuse at the hands of those who are meant to be looking after them. There's simply no justification for beating and stripping children, treating them like animals or robbing them of their futures. This is a child protection crisis that can no longer be ignored. There must finally be an end to this abusive military detention system."***

Save the Children called on the Government of Israel to respect all children's rights and international law. No children should be prosecuted in military courts or any court that lacks comprehensive fair trial rights and juvenile justice standards. Save the Children called for an immediate moratorium on Israeli military authorities arresting, detaining and prosecuting children.

Report dated February 29, 2024: Palestinian children in Israeli military detention report increasingly violent conditions

In its report dated February 29, 2024, Save the Children stated that rising numbers of Palestinians including children detained without charge in the Israeli military system since October 7 have reported facing violence and abuse while imprisoned.

Three organizations monitoring the detention of children in the occupied Palestinian territories have stated that they have collected children's testimonies—which were also reviewed by Save the Children—and that these testimonies indicate an increase in the level of violence following the introduction of stricter rules in October that barred visits by parents or lawyers. Some children reported broken bones and cases of physical abuse.

The Palestinian Commission for Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs, a prisoners' organisation established in 1998, estimates that about **460 children were detained in about five months**. This is a jump from previous estimates of about **500-700 Palestinian children being held** in Israeli military detention each year.

The Palestinian Commission has said that about 9,000 Palestinians were being held in Israeli jails as of the end of January 2024 compared to 5,250 before October 7 but it did not have updated numbers due to restricted access to detainees.

The Palestinian Commission also said that conditions for children held in prisons have significantly deteriorated, **with children who used to be housed with five detainees now sharing rooms with about 10 other detainees including adults, putting them at risk**.

Other testimonies from children gathered by the organisations Defense for Children International (DCI) and YMCA - also shared with Save the Children - told of starvation, abuse and inhumane treatment with **some children released with injuries and blood stained clothing**.

DCI, a non- governmental organisation that promotes and protects the human rights of Palestinian children, reported one incident in which Israeli forces made children hold an Israeli flag before ordering them back to their cells hunched over, **beating and cursing them as they walked**.

In another incident, a YMCA social and psychological specialist was told by one of the children released in an exchange deal in November that he was left terrified when he was called from his cell for release, as **prison guards made him believe that he was going to be executed**.

Recently, UN experts said they have received credible allegations of Palestinian women and girls being arbitrarily executed in Gaza, and reports of inhumane and degrading treatment of girls in detention, including being beaten and denied menstrual pads, food and medicine.

In December, reports emerged of Palestinian boys as young as 15 being detained, stripped and moved from a school in Gaza to unknown locations.

Human rights groups have reported that new regulations implemented last October imposed even stricter limits on family and humanitarian visits. Lawyers were initially prohibited from visiting the prisons and now face restrictions preventing them from visiting children regularly. The International Committee of the Red Cross has said that its humanitarian visits to Palestinian prisoners were suspended.

Save the Children has said the practice of detaining children was a long-standing human rights concern. The child rights organisation has repeatedly called for the government of Israel to end the detention of Palestinian children under military law and their prosecution in military courts. **Israel is the only country in the world that automatically and systematically prosecutes children in military courts.**

During the October 7 attacks on Israel, children were abducted and held hostage in Gaza, causing severe emotional and mental distress. Last November saw three exchanges of 150 Palestinian women and children prisoners from Israeli jails with a total of 112 hostages released, including 78 Israeli women and children.

Jason Lee, Save the Children's Country Director in the occupied Palestinian territory said, ***"What we know about how these children are being treated is unacceptable, but what we don't know could be even worse. The government of Israel's blanket secrecy has left hundreds of families across Gaza and the occupied West Bank completely in the dark, unaware of where their children are, whether they are safe and the conditions and treatment that they are being subjected to. There's no justification for beating and stripping children, dehumanising and terrorising them. The abuse of Palestinian children in military detention was a child protection crisis before 7 October, and it has only become worse. With the world's focus understandably on the unparalleled horrors children are facing in Gaza, we must not let abuse of children in the West Bank go unnoticed. There must be an end to this abusive military detention system and a definitive ceasefire now."***

Report dated July 22, 2024: Physical abuse, infectious disease spreading as conditions for Palestinian children in Israeli military detention deteriorate

Save the Children's partners interviewed approximately 49 former child detainees in Gaza between October 2023 and July 2024. The children reported physical abuse and interrogations where some said they were forced to strip naked and stand in extreme temperatures. During their arrests, their parents had no information on their whereabouts and once released, **children showed clear signs of violence and ill-treatment, including bruises, shock, traumatic stress, and weight loss. Some children reported being sexually assaulted, harassed, strip searched, and violently beaten.**

Israel is the only country in the world that systematically prosecutes children in military courts. On Friday, July 19, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) **delivered an Advisory Opinion declaring the State of Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory unlawful, directly challenging the legal status of Israeli policies and practices related to military detention.**

Save the Children said the ICJ's conclusion reinforces the need for an immediate end to the detention of hundreds of Palestinian children, many of whom have reported ill-treatment - a child protection concern that has persisted for decades.

Palestinian children in Israeli-run prisons have told Save the Children of facing increasing hunger and abuse, including sexual violence, with conditions deteriorating markedly since October 2023 and contagious diseases such as scabies on the rise.

The Palestinian Commission for Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs has reported that more than 650 children from the West Bank and an unknown number of children from Gaza have been detained since October, a finding echoed by recent UN reports. Of these, around 250 are reportedly still in prison. **The main alleged offence is stone-throwing, which can carry a sentence of up to 20 years in prison.**

With legal and family access to Palestinians in Israeli-run prisons further restricted since October, testimonies from children and adults released from detention are some of the few available sources on the conditions faced.

Firas and Qusay, both 17, are from the occupied West Bank and were detained in two different Israeli-run prisons before the war in Gaza started. They were released at the end of 2023 and spoke to Save the Children about the conditions in detention.

Qusay said he saw a child with head injuries from a beating so severe that he would faint every time he tried to stand. He also said new detainees brought to the prison were as young as 12 and 13 years old: ***“The younger children were really scared and kept crying, I wanted to take care of them, but when I asked the prison guard to allow me to stay with them, I was violently beaten.”***

The Palestinian Commission a governmental prisoners' organisation established in 1998, recently confirmed the spread of contagious skin diseases such as scabies among prisoners due to a lack of hygiene and shared bedding.

Firas recalled using a lighter to burn ticks that would come near him, while Qusay was released with tick bites covering his body.

Qusay said, *“[After October 2023], they took everything. We didn't have enough blankets and I shared my pillow with another prisoner. In the winter, they opened the windows so we would feel cold. One child prisoner had a severe rash, so we asked the guard to allow him to sit in the sun or clean his body. The guard said, ‘Call me back when he's dead.’”*

According to Israeli media reports, the recent increase in mass detentions has led to ‘intolerable’ overcrowding in Israeli prisons, with reports of widespread abuse including detainees being deprived of medical treatment and kept in cages, and human rights organisations documenting cases of torture.

Firas said the number of child detainees where he was held rose noticeably in the first five days after the war started on October 7. Both children said conditions in detention deteriorated significantly after the war began. They said they would not be allowed to speak to or see their parents.

Child psychologists are warning that children released from detention are increasingly struggling to recover, **unable to cope with the shock experienced in prison and the fear of being re-arrested**. A psychologist from a partner of Save the Children said, *“Their symptoms this time around are **more intense and severe than in the past**, partly because of the social conditions around them. The whole community is tense and stressed about what is happening. The children we talked to think a lot about their peers who are still in prison. They say, ‘we are safe now, but they are still not’. They feel guilty for being freed, and **the constant fear of being re-arrested prevents them from thinking about the future**. They can’t make decisions, they say, ‘Why would I think of tomorrow if they will re-arrest me?’ **Their families describe them as ‘frozen.’”***

Save the Children’s Regional Director for the Middle East, Jeremy Stoner, said: *‘We’ve been working alongside our partner on the ground and speaking to hundreds of former child detainees in the past years, and we have never seen such devastation and hopelessness. These children are trapped, unable to move or see the sun, forced into crowded cells with appalling, unsanitary conditions, and subject to severe abuse and violence. The children we spoke to have endured horrors an adult should never witness, let alone a child. The abuse and ill-treatment of Palestinian children must end. The decades-old protection crisis for Palestinian children can no longer be ignored. For too long, the Israeli occupation has severely impacted the lives of Palestinian children.’*



Ismail, a 10-year-old Palestinian boy, who was beaten and detained by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank city of Hebron in September 2021.

Palestinian Center for Human Rights' Report on Children, Dated July 27, 2025: Israeli Forces' Arrest and Torture of Starved Children Seeking Food is a Heinous Act Demanding Accountability

According to testimonies from children interviewed by the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), Israel uses hunger to force children to go to aid centers, where they are detained, tortured, stripped, and beaten.

After weeks of detention following their arrest while trying to obtain food from the Israeli-American aid distribution center in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, children released by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) shared their painful testimonies with PCHR staff about the torture they were subjected to by the IOF. The released children were identified as: Imad Mustafa Mohammed Abu Tu'aimah (16), Mahmoud Essam Mahmoud Abu Hadayed (17), Mo'men Hani Abdulaziz Abu Hajras (17), Hilal Ibrahim Mansour Al- Besheiti (17), and Omar Nizar Mahmoud 'Asfour (16), all from Khan Yunis; Fares Suleiman Saleh Abu Jazar (15) from Rafah; and Karam Hamdi Abdulrahman Hussein (16), Qusai Kaid Tawfiq al-Zaza (16), Ahmed Mohammed Fadel al-Helou (17), and Mo'az al-Sayyed Saber Salem (15), all from Gaza City.

According to information obtained by PCHR, at around 17:00 on Thursday, July 24, 2025, **ten children** arrived in a miserable health condition at Nasser Medical Complex in central Khan Yunis. They had been released by the IOF **weeks after their arrest** near the aid distribution centers established by IOF in Rafah. They were released via Karm Abu Salem Crossing following their detention and maltreatment and were then taken to Khan Yunis by the aid trucks.

The children's journey to obtain food after enduring weeks and months of severe starvation was marked by life-threatening risks before, during and after their arrest, which was accompanied by torture, abuse, and degrading treatment. This stands as a stark reflection of violations and crimes committed by IOF against Palestinian civilians of all ages and genders.

One of the children described how, on June 29, 2025, at around 6:00 a.m., he left the tent and arrived in the Iqlimi area at 7:00 a.m., where Israeli soldiers, heavily armed, surrounded them; they then ordered them to take off their clothes and sit on the ground, and after telling them to put their clothes back on, tied their hands behind their backs with plastic zip ties. He stated that the soldiers marched them south to the barracks area in Rafah; upon arrival, **they were made to sit on the ground, which was covered with stones and thorns, for three hours, and were not allowed to move or change their sitting position, even though the pain was unbearable.** He described how, with their hands bound with plastic ties, they were forced to bend forward into an extremely painful position with their heads tucked between their legs, and then an Israeli officer came and interrogated them one by one. He explained that the officer selected ten people and took them to an unknown location—he still does not know what became of them—while the remaining nine were taken by military vehicles to the Karm Abu Salem crossing.

Another child said he was taken by military vehicles to Hamad Hospital, which was under construction in the Tal al-Sultan neighborhood of Rafah; that a soldier beat him because he could see where they were from under his blindfold; that they lined him up in front of the hospital building and fired between his legs, then took him inside and brought him up to the fifth floor with five others, that one of the soldiers said he would grab him by the leg and throw him off the fifth floor, and that he was interrogated; when he said he was a young child, **the soldier said, “You’re lying,” tied a rope around his neck and feet, and pushed him off the fifth floor, though he thought he had died from fear at that moment, but the rope was likely attached to a winch, so he did not hit the ground; he remained suspended about half a meter above the ground;** then they pulled him back up and said, “I’m going to kill you,” after which they made him wait, and finally, he was left in an area filled with trucks at the Philadelphi Corridors in Rafah, transported there in three military vehicles.

Another child described being thrown onto a gravel floor along with five other detainees, with his hands and legs bound by metal shackles, and **being beaten by soldiers with their hands and military boots for about an hour;** he was then taken to another location after roughly a one-hour journey, where he was placed in a 1×1-meter metal cage in which it was impossible to lie down comfortably or sleep, remained in this cage for three days. He then described being taken to a separate location, where Israeli special units raided the detention facility five times; around 2:00 a.m., they stormed the room, **threw stun grenades inside, beat him with batons, and each raid lasted approximately two hours;** stating that the physical assault took place amid intense fear and deafening noise, that **visible marks from electric shocks remain on his left hand,** and that the other detainee, Imad Abu Ta’ima, fainted repeatedly and experienced temporary hearing loss.

In his testimony about the circumstances of his interrogation, the released child stated, *“After spending four days in that room, I was taken for interrogation from 6:00. until 19:00 at the intelligence service. The interrogation lasted for a full week, with daily sessions of four non-consecutive hours, while the rest of the time was spent waiting and being transported in a military vehicle. The questions focused on Hamas, tunnels, hostages, cameras, handmade bombs, and identifying houses in my residential area. The interrogator was dissatisfied with my answers because I had no answers to his questions. He beat me with his hands while my hands and feet were tied to a chair. Sometimes the interrogation was done without anger or threats, **because the investigator already knew detailed information about my family**, which made me fear for them. He told me, “You are in Sde Teiman prison.” After the interrogation ended, I was taken to what is known as the “disco room,” where Hebrew songs were played loudly, and the air conditioner was set to a high temperature. **I was blindfolded and my hands and feet were tied to a pipe all day.** I remained there for seven days on the floor. I was given a very small amount of poor-quality food and had to eat while handcuffed. They then returned me to the previous room, where I stayed until my release. Upon our arrival at Nasser Medical Complex, the doctors examined me; I was suffering from shortness of breath and severe muscle spasms. After X-rays and a respiratory steam treatment, I felt somewhat better. Later, my father and relatives arrived and took me with them to our tent.”*

As stated by PCHR, driven by extreme hunger, these children have been forced to turn to aid distribution centers in the hope of securing a livelihood for themselves and their families. Children and adults who go to these aid centers face the risk of being shot, injured, arrested, and tortured, or of returning home—whether they receive some aid or none at all—burdened by the humiliation of having their human dignity trampled upon. However, the testimonies of children arrested near aid centers reveal that Israel targets Palestinian children even in their most vulnerable moments, while they are seeking basic necessities for survival, such as food. This reflects the alarming extent and severity of violations of children’s rights in the occupied Palestinian territories.

What the children endured reflects a recurring pattern faced by starving civilians who are instructed by the IOF to go to aid distribution points that are operated by them. **Since the operation of these distribution points in early May 2025, the IOF have killed 1,121 Palestinians, 14% of whom were children,** and injured more than 7,485 others.

PCHR condemns in the strongest terms the targeting of children at aid distribution centers, which are supposed to be safe havens for them amid the dire humanitarian conditions across the Gaza Strip. PCHR calls on the international community to take serious and immediate action to halt these violations and the ongoing genocide, release all children in Israeli detention, and ensure respect for their human and legal rights in accordance with relevant international laws.

In a BBC report dated May 22, 2024, **healthcare workers in Israel told the BBC that Palestinian patients detained in Gaza and taken to Israel are routinely kept chained to hospital beds, blindfolded, sometimes naked, and forced to wear diapers; a doctor described this situation as “torture” in a letter he wrote.**

As reported in the BBC’s July 29, 2024, news report, a series of developments have unfolded following the arrest of nine Israeli soldiers accused of subjecting a Palestinian detainee to severe torture. A group flying the Israeli flag attempted to storm the facility where the soldiers being held for questioning were located. Some members of the group protesting the soldiers’ arrest entered the military base.

The Sde Teiman base was established to hold Palestinians detained following October 7. It is reported that a Palestinian held at the facility sustained severe injuries in the rectal area as a result of torture. The military prosecution announced that the investigation was launched on suspicion of “serious mistreatment of a detainee.”

Meanwhile, a protest demanding the release of Israeli soldiers detained by military police at the same facility in connection with the torture investigation was broadcast live on television. The broadcasts showed that some individuals managed to enter the base.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has also condemned the raid. **Bezael Smotrich, a minister in his own cabinet, has hailed the detained soldiers as heroes.** Reports in the Israeli media indicate that a struggle took place between the military police who came to arrest the soldiers and the soldiers stationed at the base. It has also been reported that some soldiers laid down their arms in response to the investigation into allegations of torture against them.

Amnesty International has called on Israel to put an end to the “widespread torture” of Palestinians in Gaza who are being held in indefinite detention and in prisons.

According to a news report compiled by the BBC from the August 2024 report titled “Welcome to Hell” released by the organization B’tselem, statements from 55 Palestinian prisoners released from Israeli prisons indicate that conditions in the prisons have deteriorated significantly since the start of the attacks.

B’tselem Executive Director Yuli Novak stated, **“They all told us the same thing over and over again: ongoing torment, daily violence, physical and psychological abuse, humiliation, sleep deprivation, and starvation.”** Novak’s conclusion is: “The Israeli prison system has, in its entirety, **turned into a network of torture camps** when it comes to Palestinians.”



Israeli Arab lawyers from Haifa, such as Sari Huriye, have also testified that they experienced the same treatment. Huriye spent 10 days in November at Megiddo Prison in northern Israel. The police alleged that he had praised Hamas's actions in two Facebook posts, but the charges were quickly dropped. However, his brief and first experience in prison has left Huriye nearly devastated. (fotoğraf yanı)

Huriye describes the scenes he witnessed at Megiddo as follows: **“They had lost their minds; there was no law inside, no order.”** Although Huriye did not suffer severe mistreatment himself, he noted that the treatment of the prisoners shocked him. “They were beating the prisoners for no reason. The prisoners would say, ‘We didn’t do anything; there’s no need to hit us.’ **They told me they hadn’t received the best treatment even before October 7. But afterward, everything was different.**”

Huriye described what he witnessed in Megiddo, saying, “I am an Israeli. I am a lawyer. I had seen the world outside the prison. When I went inside, I saw a different world.” He explained that his faith in his citizenship and the rule of law had been shaken, stating, “After this experience, it all crumbled and vanished.”



Reports by Israeli Civil Society Organizations and News Reports by Media Outlets

According to a report titled **“Welcome to Hell: Israeli Prisons Have Become a Network of Torture Camps,”** published in August 2024 by the Israeli human rights organization **B’Tselem**, 4,781 of the detained Palestinians are being held in prison under “administrative detention” without trial or any charges. While there is no official information regarding the number of Palestinians detained by the Israeli military in the Gaza Strip in 2024, the Israeli press reports that at least 4,500 Palestinians have been detained in Gaza.

The civil society organization “Israeli Doctors for Human Rights” has stated that Palestinians detained in security prisons are subjected to systematic violence, torture, and humiliation. In a written statement, the human rights organization Doctors for Human Rights reported that it had informed the Israeli Prison Service of the situation regarding “violence, torture, and humiliation” in security prisons located in southern Israel. The organization emphasized that the practices of Israeli prison guards violate both Israeli law and international law. They reported that some prison guards treated Palestinian prisoners in a manner that was **“unlawful, vindictive, violent, humiliating, and degrading.”**

The organization has included statements from Palestinian detainees made during their meetings with their lawyers. The report states that outside of prison cells , particularly in areas without security cameras, detainees are subjected to “physical assaults resulting in injury, sexual assault, humiliation, and verbal harassment” while being transported to doctor and lawyer visits or court hearings; consequently, Palestinian detainees are reluctant to attend doctor and lawyer visits.



A Palestinian detainee who wished to remain anonymous stated that after being taken from his cell for a lawyer visit, **he was placed in a cage by guards, forced to kneel on a stone floor with his eyes blindfolded for hours, and beaten during that time.**

Another detainee at Ketziot Prison in southern Israel stated that **prison guards poured urine from bottles over the prisoners' heads.**

According to the detainee's statement, his request to use the restroom was denied for four days. When he was finally taken to the restroom, **Israeli guards escorted the Palestinian prisoner in handcuffs and returned him to his cell naked.**

Another detainee at Ramon Prison, S.H., reported being beaten while being transferred to another prison, noting that all Palestinians who boarded the prison transport vehicle returned with fractures and injuries.



Members of the Israeli Prison Service's intervention unit stand guard over Palestinian detainees at a prison in southern Israel on February 14, 2024.

(Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

According to a December 19, 2024, report by the Israeli magazine +972, Rami was arrested by the Israeli military at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza in February. The 42-year-old Palestinian was taken to the notorious Sde Teiman detention center and, like thousands of other Gazans held there, was subjected to severe torture at the hands of guards. In a statement to +972 and Local Call, he said, "I thought I was going to be sent back to Gaza, but I found myself in another prison." This prison is **Ofer Camp**, a military facility established by Israel in the occupied West Bank—located between Jerusalem and Ramallah—to hold Gazan detainees following October 2023.

Rami stated that he was "subjected to severe torture" there. "From sunrise until midnight, we were forced to kneel with our hands tied. The guards beat us all over our bodies. **They administered electric shocks every two days. This treatment is not exceptional. All detainees at Ofer were tortured, beaten, and humiliated.** We were given only one meal a day."

Palestinians in Ofer report that, apart from a brief shower permitted no more than once a week, they are shackled 24 hours a day and chained by their ankles even while sleeping, eating, and using the restroom. They also state that they are regularly beaten by guards and face constant humiliation, overcrowding, and a lack of basic hygiene.

Rami was released on March 24 and returned to Gaza after being held in detention for weeks under these conditions, without any charges being filed against him.



Detainees at Ofer Prison near Jerusalem in the occupied West Bank, August 28, 2024.

(Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

Rafiq, a 59-year-old man from northern Gaza, was arrested in November 2023. After spending a week in Sde Teiman, he was transferred to Ofer. In an interview with +972 and Local Call, he said, “We were all subjected to the same torture, humiliation, and insults.”

“One of the young men arrested with us was killed during his release: **(The soldiers) struck him on the head, and he died instantly.**” **“During my detention, I lost 43 kilograms due to food shortages,”** he stated. Rafiq was returned to Gaza after spending about a month in Ofer, but his “hands are paralyzed due to the torture.”

A meal served to Palestinian detainees in the courtyard of a prison in southern Israel on February 14, 2024.

(Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)



Torture of Healthcare Workers: Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, Director of Kamal Adwan Hospital, Remains Detained

Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya is a pediatrician and **the director of Kamal Adwan Hospital**, the last functioning hospital in northern Gaza, despite the dire conditions.



For eight months, Kamal Adwan Hospital has effectively served as the last lifeline for those remaining in northern Gaza (estimated at only 75,000 people). It has been attacked repeatedly and reduced to rubble by relentless bombardment. Initially, on December 12, 2023, Israeli forces raided the hospital, detaining staff and patients and rendering the hospital inoperable. However, thanks to the efforts and dedication of Abu Safiya and other medical staff, the hospital was able to reopen and resume operations. Between January and September 2024, the hospital was the only facility capable of treating the wounded in northern Gaza—including those in Gaza City—who could not receive care elsewhere due to the Netzarim Corridor, established by the Israeli military to split the Gaza Strip in two. In October 2024, Israeli forces raided the hospital again and detained medical staff and patients.



Abu Safiya nevertheless worked with superhuman dedication alongside his colleagues. **He lost his son** in one of the attacks carried out by Israeli forces on Kamal Adwan. He was **wounded by shrapnel** in another Israeli attack. Even after being detained and released, he continued his duties so as not to leave his family and fellow staff members alone. As a model of patience and perseverance, he managed the last remaining hospital in the region despite the Israeli army's relentless bombardment. He worked until the very last moment to provide vital medical care to children and intensive care patients.



Most recently, on December 27, 2024, Israeli forces launched a major operation against the hospital, rendering it inoperable. On that date, the Israeli military raided Kamal Adwan Hospital and detained dozens of people. **Abu Safiya was last seen standing alone in front of a tank.**

It was later revealed that 51-year-old Hussam Abu Safiya was taken by the Israeli military as an **administrative detainee** to the Sde Teiman military detention camp in Israel's Negev Desert. He was later transferred to Ofer Prison near Ramallah. On January 9, the Ashkelon Magistrate's Court extended Dr. Abu Safiya's detention without charge until February 13 and the ban on lawyer visits until February 22, pursuant to the Unlawful Combatants Law.



The family of Abu Safiya, **whose reason for arrest or the charges against him are unknown**, has reported that the doctor was subjected to torture by Israel. As stated in Amnesty International reports, Israeli authorities did not allow Dr. Abu Safiya to meet with his lawyer until February 11, 2025. When the meeting finally took place, Samir Al-Mana'ama, the lawyer for the director of the Kamal Adwan Hospital in Gaza, stated that Dr. Abu Safiya had been **subjected to various forms of severe torture and inhumane treatment** while in an Israeli military prison.

A lawyer from the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights stated that Abu Safiya suffers from “enlarged heart muscle and high blood pressure,” that he was beaten and **denied treatment for his heart condition**, that he was transferred to the prison on January 9, and that he has been subjected to continuous interrogation by the Israeli army, Israeli intelligence, and the police.

According to his lawyer, the lack of medical care and the horrific conditions in the “extremely cold prison cells” are “seriously affecting” his health, and he has been suffering greatly during his time **in prison and in detention**.

On March 19, Gheed Qassem, Abu Safiya’s lawyer, was able to visit the doctor at Ofer Prison in the occupied West Bank. According to Qassem, after being subjected to interrogations involving “**beatings, mistreatment, and torture**” in Sde Teiman, Abu Safiya was transferred to a cramped cell at Ofer for 25 days, where he was also interrogated. **As the lawyer stated, his client’s health condition is extremely concerning.**

During her last visit to Ofer Military Prison in early July 2025, the lawyer reported that Dr. Abu Safiya and other detainees were subjected to attacks and physical violence. The Israeli Prison Service continues to impose severe restrictions on Palestinian detainees’ access to food, adequate medical care, and hygienic conditions. **Dr. Abu Safiya has reported significant weight loss.**

Israel refuses to release Palestinian healthcare workers, including Dr. Abu Safiya. Dr. Abu Safiya’s arrest and **his continued arbitrary detention without charge or trial** under the Unlawful Combatants Law must be understood as part of Israel’s systematic targeting of Palestinian healthcare workers and its destruction of Gaza’s healthcare system.

Dr. Abu Safiya’s sole “crime” is treating the sick and wounded, yet Israel has stubbornly refused to release him for over a year despite all calls for his release. Israel has provided “no legal justification” for Abu Safiya’s detention. Moreover, Abu Safiya is being subjected to torture in detention and is struggling with numerous health issues, including an enlarged heart. Abu Safiya’s lawyer has stated that, despite his denial of all charges against him, he was beaten with an electric baton by the Israeli army in an attempt to extract a confession. Given his serious health condition, Abu Safiya’s fate is likely to mirror that of **Dr. Adnan al-Bursh and Dr. Iyad al-Rantisi**, who were killed in prison—it is only a matter of time.

CONCLUSION



In March 2026, Israeli soldiers detained the father of 18-month-old Karim Abu Nassar in central Gaza and, during interrogation, subjected the child to torture in an attempt to force the father to confess. **According to a medical report, the baby's leg was burned with a cigarette, needles were inserted into his body, and nails were driven into his leg.** Karim was later handed over to officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross in El-Maghazi ten hours later, while his father remains in detention.



Article 7 of the Rome Statute defines acts of imprisonment or other forms of deprivation of physical liberty, as well as acts of torture and sexual violence, committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population and in violation of the fundamental rules of international law, as crimes against humanity.

Israel has detained more than 800,000 Palestinians since 1967. Since October 2023, 21,000 Palestinians—including 1,655 children and 650 women—have been detained. As of December 30, 2025, the number of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons exceeds 9,300, including 360 children.



Local and international reports indicate that the Israeli government has subjected the Palestinian people to unprecedented inhumane treatment, disregarding human dignity and violating all provisions of human rights law regarding the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment. **Numerous cases and testimonies regarding detainees who have been released from Israeli prisons in an unrecognizable state, with their physical and mental health permanently impaired,** unequivocally expose the reality of what has occurred.

Reports from local Israeli civil society organizations indicate that Israeli prisons have been **turned into hellish places through systematic torture.** Interviews with former inmates reveal that thousands of Palestinians have been subjected to **torture, sexual assault, starvation, systematic harassment, attacks by dogs, having urine poured on them, electrocution, beatings, deprivation of food and sleep, being tied to a bed while wearing adult diapers, being held in humiliating and degrading positions, medical neglect, and suffering serious injuries—including cases of hand amputation due to prolonged use of tight handcuffs—**and other various human rights violations.

Dozens of national and international reports have documented torture in Israeli prisons through hundreds of specific incidents. **The testimonies of hundreds of witnesses who have spoken to various journalists and researchers include the “ghosting” method (where a detainee is tied to a high point and left suspended in the air), attempts to drown detainees in toilet water for hours on end, being dragged on one’s knees over broken glass, performing surgical procedures without anesthesia or with insufficient painkillers, the amputation of detainees’ limbs due to prolonged restraint, sexual assault and abuse of various degrees, and torture and ill-treatment in the form of collective starvation leading to weight loss of between 10 and 30 kilograms.**

Human rights reports, statements from detainees in the prison—as reflected in local and international newspapers—along with those of lawyers meeting with their clients and doctors providing medical care, all corroborate one another; **photographs and videos published directly by Israeli media outlets; the appearance of those who have managed to escape the prison;** deaths within the prison and autopsy results, unequivocally reveal the severe torture taking place in Israeli prisons. The videos that have emerged are so clear that they leave no room for doubt.

Despite the videos of sexual torture aired on television, just as with the genocide and war crimes committed by the Israeli government, there has been no significant accountability for those responsible for acts of torture and ill-treatment that constitute crimes against humanity.

Most recently, in February 2026, Israeli National Security Minister Ben Gvir, who is responsible for prisons, stated on his social media accounts and in interviews conducted in front of prisoners lying on the ground—referring to a law passed by the Knesset—that Palestinian prisoners **“should be executed by hanging, lethal injection, or the electric chair.”**



On November 21, 2024, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for acts constituting war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Court has identified reasonable grounds to believe that the aforementioned individuals, along with others, bear criminal responsibility as accomplices for crimes stemming from acts such as starvation as a method of warfare, murder, persecution, and other inhumane acts. On December 16, 2025, the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC) rejected Israel’s appeal against the arrest warrants issued for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

However, even these developments have not prevented the continued occurrence of torture and ill-treatment in prisons or the rise in prison deaths. Despite all international demands, Israel continues to refuse to release even administrative detainees against whom no charges have been filed and no trials have been conducted. Even following the October 2025 ceasefire, Palestinians—including children—continue to be detained and subjected to torture.

Israel has not spared children, women, the elderly, people with disabilities, or even healthcare workers from these acts of torture. However, international law does not exempt Israel from responsibility for actions classified under international humanitarian law and international treaties as genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

This torture and inhumane treatment must now come to an end. As repeatedly stated in national and international reports:

Israel has a horrific history of impunity regarding human rights violations. This situation underscores the urgent need for independent and effective investigations into all deaths of Palestinians in detention in Gaza, reports of enforced disappearances, the use of dogs in prisons, and cases of torture and other ill-treatment.

Deaths in prisons, the amputation of prisoners' arms and legs, and the blinding of their eyes demonstrate the necessity of an independent investigation into this matter and the need to hold those responsible accountable.

The practice of “**administrative detention,**” which leads to Palestinians being subjected to torture for months without trial or charges, must be ended.

All Palestinians arbitrarily detained in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories must be released immediately. All detainees must be treated humanely, and their rights to a fair trial and due process must be guaranteed.

Israel must allow human rights organizations to monitor the conditions of Palestinian detainees. **The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and other independent human rights organizations** must be granted immediate, full, and unimpeded access to all detainees held by Israel.

Families must be informed about the fate and whereabouts of their detained family members, including through coordination with the **International Committee of the Red Cross.**

The apartheid-style judicial system targeting Palestinians—including children—who are tried in military courts must be brought to an end. The child protection system mandated by international law must be implemented. No child should be tried in military courts or in any court that lacks comprehensive fair trial rights and standards of juvenile justice. Israeli military authorities must immediately cease all activities involving the arrest, detention, and trial of children.

This report has been prepared to remind the international community once again that Palestinians—such as Dr. Abu Safiya and other innocent civilians—who are being held in Israeli prisons and subjected to **unimaginable inhumane torture and ill-treatment, killed, maimed, blinded, had their bones broken, and suffered physical and mental health damage**—are also protected under human rights law. This report was prepared to remind the international community of this fact and to document these acts of genocide for posterity. It is the shared responsibility of the international community toward the Palestinian people to ensure that the perpetrators of this genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes are tried in international courts and receive the penalties required by international law.



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
THE OMBUDSMAN INSTITUTION



“GAZA”

NAKBA OF HUMANITY



GAZA 2023

GERMANY 1945

FROM THE WORLD'S LARGEST OPEN-AIR PRISON
TO THE WORLD'S LARGEST CHILDREN'S CEMETERY

SPECIAL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024



www.ombudsman.gov.tr

OMBUDSMAN INSTITUTION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE

Kavaklıdere Mah. Zeytin dalı Cad. No.4 Çankaya/ANKARA
Phone: +90 (312) 465 22 00