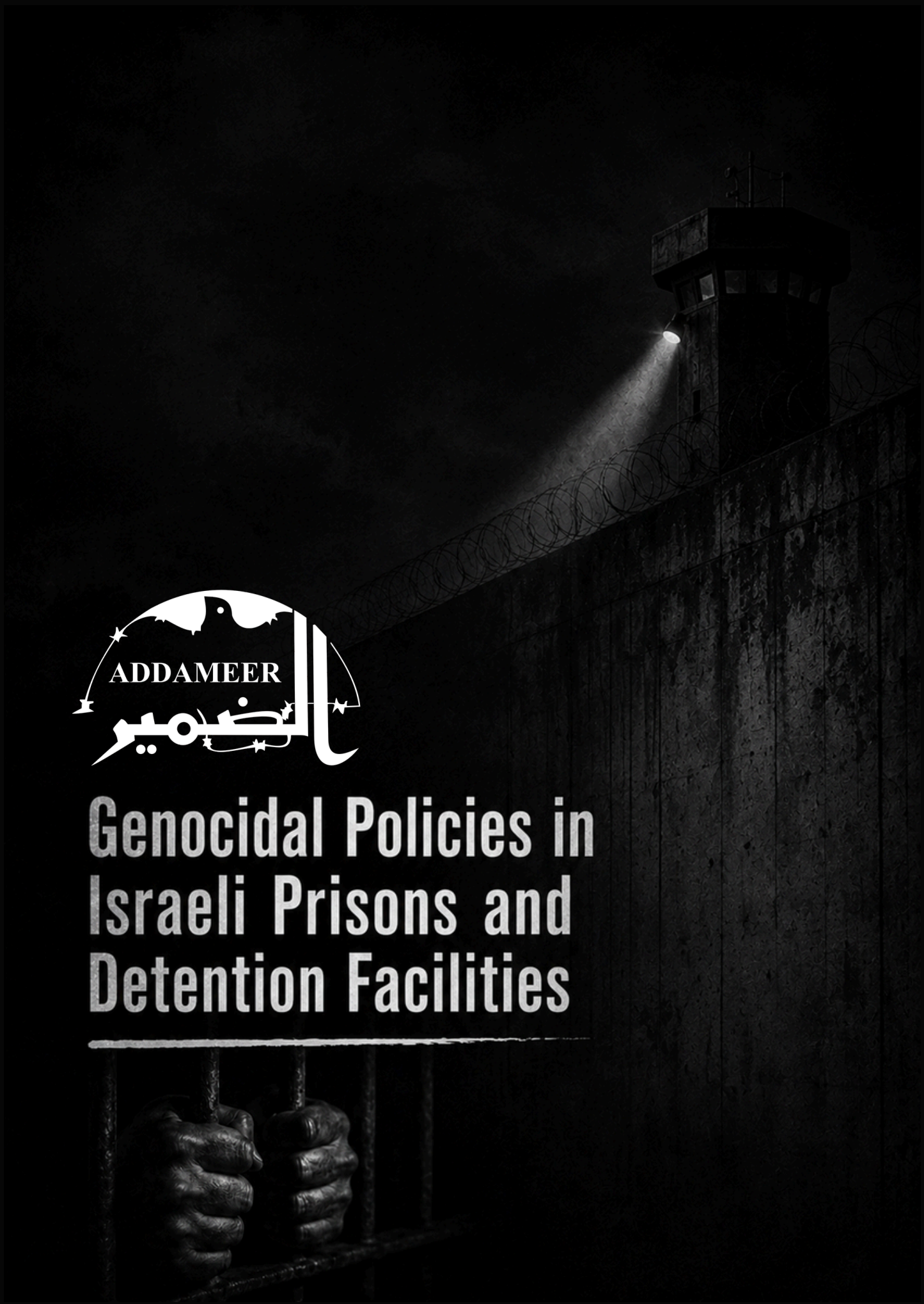


Genocidal Policies in Israeli Prisons and Detention Facilities

For the second consecutive year, the Israeli occupying authorities have persisted in executing systematic policies within Israeli prisons that, by their very nature and consequences, equate to genocide, mirroring the genocide enacted in the Gaza Strip. Since 7 October 2023, prisons have been converted into open arenas for torture and the gradual execution of prisoners, where severe and systematic violations have been perpetrated. Collectively, these violations form a comprehensive system of oppression aimed at the very existence of the prisoners and eroding their most fundamental rights.

During this period, there has been a notable escalation in patterns of violence, with both physical and psychological torture being inflicted daily and systematically, in addition to intentional medical neglect employed as a means of slow extermination. The offenses were not confined to these acts but also encompassed sexual assaults, systematic degradation, and the intentional deprivation of food, water, and essential life necessities. This situation transforms daily existence within prisons into an unending cycle of torture and attrition, culminating in a slow death, within a context that approaches systematic extermination.

This situation unveils a detailed framework of institutionalized violence, rooted in the complicity of various state mechanisms—security, judicial, and administrative—in either committing or concealing these violations. What is occurring cannot be viewed as mere isolated incidents; instead, it represents a definitive manifestation of an official policy enacted within a unified system that guarantees its persistence. Within this complicity, a distinct system of impunity is established, where pathways for redress are obstructed, and offenders are effectively granted immunity. This not only sustains but also intensifies and broadens the extent of these crimes.

Considering the principles of international humanitarian law, particularly the Geneva Conventions, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and the Convention against Torture, these actions amount to serious violations that qualify as international crimes, including genocide and torture as both a war crime and a crime against humanity.

Moreover, the alignment of these policies within prisons with the genocide occurring in the Gaza Strip and the persistent aggression in the West Bank is situated within a larger framework of systematic violations, suggesting a widespread pattern of policies aimed at Palestinians regardless of their location.

From 7 October 2023 to the conclusion of 2025, approximately 21,000 arrests were executed in the West Bank, affecting all sectors of society, including 1,655 children and 650 women. In 2025 alone, the West Bank experienced around 7,000 arrests of Palestinians, comprising over 600 children and nearly 200 women. By the end of December 2025, the total number of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli facilities had surpassed 9,300, including those under the jurisdiction of the Israeli Prison Service. Among these, 3,350 were classified as administrative detainees, along with 1,220 individuals categorized by Israel as "unlawful combatants." Nevertheless, there is a lack of clear and precise information regarding the number of detainees in Israeli military detention centers.

This year saw the announcement of the deaths of 32 Palestinian prisoners, followed by the declaration of three additional prisoner deaths by 21 April 2026. This period has been recorded as the most violent in the history of the Palestinian prisoners' movement since 1967, raising the total number of martyrs within the prisoners' movement in Israeli prisons since that year to 326. Furthermore, the Israeli occupation authorities persist in withholding the remains of 97 martyrs associated with the prisoners' movement.

In terms of collective punishment, the year 2025 experienced the demolition of 30 homes belonging to prisoners, which is part of a systematic approach aimed at collectively punishing their families. From the standpoint of international humanitarian law and human rights, this act of demolition represents a blatant violation of the sanctity of the home and is regarded as a prohibited form of collective punishment, as it impacts family members and targets the broader community.

This policy evidently seeks to intimidate, forcibly displace, and expel the indigenous population from their territory. Furthermore, it places direct accountability on the occupying power for infringing upon the fundamental rights of the populace, which encompass the rights to housing, security, and stability. These actions signify a systematic approach to targeting prisoners and their families as part of a broader strategy of collective punishment.

This report serves as a crucial element of the organization's ongoing efforts to document and expose the practices of the occupation, while also advocating for accountability for those responsible. This accountability pertains not only to the rights of prisoners but extends to all policies, procedures, modifications, laws, and proposed legislation enacted by the occupying power's legislative body (the Knesset) regarding prisoners specifically, and the rights of the Palestinian people more broadly.

This report is part of Addameer's continuous efforts to facilitate the release of all Palestinian prisoners detained in Israeli facilities. Despite the significant obstacles faced by the organization, particularly the US sanctions, it remains committed to unveiling the transgressions of the occupation and ensuring that all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli custody are afforded their rights as stipulated by international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

The report employs a descriptive analytical approach, drawing on the outcomes of monitoring, documentation, and legal follow-up activities conducted by the organization to assess the degree to which international human rights law and international humanitarian law are upheld at the legislative, judicial, and executive levels, particularly in relation to detainees and their living conditions, as this forms the theoretical framework that governs the rights of prisoners and the principles guiding their treatment. This document is founded on the records compiled by Addameer. In the year 2025, the organization gathered 386 testimonies from prisoners and released detainees, some of which are examined in this report.

The Reality of Everyday Existence in Israeli Prisons: Inhumane Conditions and Constant Torture

Since their establishment, Israeli prisons and detention centers have experienced a painful and severe reality, which has significantly escalated since the onset of the genocide in the Gaza Strip. Following this, the occupying authorities have converted everyday existence into a form of systematic torture through policies aimed at undermining the physical and psychological well-being of prisoners. These policies encompass a range of abuses, including beatings, sleep deprivation, starvation, and humiliation, as well as sexual assault, all occurring within a framework of institutionalized violence. For more than two years, the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) has also persistently obstructed visits from the Red Cross and the families of prisoners, while imposing stringent limitations on visits from legal representatives.

The manifestation of these policies is starkly apparent in the systematic repression campaigns executed by specialized units of the Israeli Prison Service, particularly the Keter, Metzada, and Nahshon units. These actions involve brutal physical attacks, excessive deployment of tear gas, stun grenades, and electric shock devices, in addition to systematic humiliation tactics such as strip searches, alongside severe sexual assaults that constitute rape.

Prisoner Gh. B., who is detained at the Sde Teiman Detention Camp, reported that repressive operations are conducted regularly, occurring once or twice weekly. He remarked: "The raids occur frequently, once or twice a week. During these raids, they deploy stun grenades to instill fear in us, compel us to exit our cells, and subsequently initiate searches. Although we are not restrained with handcuffs, we are forced to bow our heads and kneel, with our hands raised above our heads for extended durations, sometimes lasting fifteen to twenty minutes, in positions that are both humiliating and painful. Throughout these procedures, the experience transcends mere humiliation; we are often subjected to physical assaults, either through strikes or by twisting and bending our arms, even while we are in motion. This pattern of behavior is recurrent, suggesting a calculated strategy to inflict torture and undermine our dignity."[1]



[1] A lawyer's visit to prisoner Gh. B. in Sde Teiman Detention Camp on 25 August 2025.

Furthermore, illness has been weaponized as an additional form of torture through the intentional withholding of medical assistance. This is particularly evident in the scabies outbreak, which has evolved into a severe form of torture, causing significant physical and psychological distress among prisoners. This situation is exacerbated by systematic psychological and physical torment, where security checks or roll calls have transformed into daily rituals of degradation and mistreatment. These oppressive policies do not stop here. They further encompass the deprivation of essential human needs, including clothing and hygiene products, as well as restrictions on showering. One prisoner attested that they are allocated merely two rolls of toilet paper each month[], and another indicated that they are permitted to shower only twice weekly, using cold water, for a maximum of three minutes.[3]

Certain prisoners have faced intimidation tactics aimed at compelling them to cooperate with the occupying forces, despite their unwavering refusal to comply. One prisoner describes: "In April, I had an encounter with an intelligence officer. He pointed out my house and marked it with an X. He displayed a photograph of my mother and wife, stating that if I cared for them, I needed to collaborate with them."[4]

The windows are consistently left ajar, resulting in the spread of illnesses among the majority of prisoners due to the harsh cold, particularly as some are compelled to sleep on the floor.[5]

A Perilous Escalation in Administrative Detention: Unprecedented Expansion and an Indefinite Policy

In the year 2025, there was a notable rise in the implementation of arbitrary and administrative detention. By the end of the year, the total number of individuals held under administrative detention had reached around 3,350, indicating an unwarranted escalation of policies that strip individuals of their freedom for prolonged periods without formal charges or trials.

Administrative detention serves as a fundamental component of the colonial framework and functions as a systematic mechanism for the oppression and mistreatment of Palestinian prisoners. This practice allows for the detention of individuals for lengthy durations without any charges or trials, relying on confidential files that are inaccessible to both the detainees and their legal representatives. The repercussions of this practice extend beyond the detainees, affecting their families who endure a perpetual state of anxiety and uncertainty regarding the length of the detention and the well-being of their relatives. Consequently, this constitutes a form of collective punishment and ongoing psychological torment.

[2] A lawyer's visit to prisoner A. F. in Ganot Prison on 16 November 2025.
[3] A lawyer's visit to prisoner A. H. in Ofer Camp on 2 April 2025.
[4] A lawyer's visit to prisoner M. J. in Sde Teiman Detention Camp on 25 August 2025.
[5] A lawyer's visit to prisoner A. H. in Ganot Prison on 16 November 2025.

Despite the surge in the application of this measure in 2022, which saw 2,409 orders issued compared to 1,595 in 2021, existing data suggest a further intensification in the following years. By 2025, the estimated number of administrative detention orders is projected to be at least 10,000, signifying an unparalleled rise in the utilization of this method and a considerable expansion in its application.

Administrative detention, characterized by the absence of charges or a fair trial, represents a serious infringement of fundamental fair trial rights. When implemented en masse in the context of occupation, it constitutes a war crime, violating international humanitarian law, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention. Furthermore, it serves as a mechanism to conceal the magnitude and actual nature of violations. This intentional lack of transparency undermines accountability and creates an environment of impunity by withholding critical information necessary for effective legal or human rights monitoring.

In this regard, Addameer has documented the excessive and repeated issuance of administrative detention orders, with certain detainees experiencing renewals of their detention for durations surpassing three consecutive years. One notable case is that of journalist Nidal Abu Aker, who was released after enduring three years and three months in administrative detention.

The case of Wisam Abu Zaid is particularly noteworthy. He was arrested on 10 June 2021, following being shot by Israeli special forces in Jenin. He suffered two gunshot wounds to his right leg, leading to a fractured kneecap. He underwent two surgical procedures at Afula Hospital to extract the bullets and had a metal plate inserted into his joint. Subsequently, he endured a four-month interrogation before being placed under administrative detention for a period of six months. The occupying authorities issued 16 administrative detention orders against him, amounting to a total of 56 months, exemplifying the arbitrary and indefinite nature of this practice.

The organization also documented the practice of the occupying authorities in transferring several prisoners directly to administrative detention immediately after they completed their court-mandated sentences, following their indictments. Among these individuals was E. N., a child prisoner, whose attorney negotiated a plea deal with the prosecution, resulting in a seven-and-a-half-month sentence. Upon finishing his sentence, he was swiftly moved to administrative detention for an additional six months, which was subsequently extended for the same duration. The prisoner remarked, "I was prepared to be released. I bid farewell to my cellmates and took messages from them to their families. I was anticipating the guard's arrival, but he never came."[6]

This action represents a calculated evasion of the law, as prisoners are placed in administrative detention without any new legal justification. This situation illustrates an arbitrary application of legal processes to circumvent fundamental protections and denies prisoners their right to be released

[6] A lawyer's visit to prisoner E. N. in Ofer Prison on 17 August 2025.

Administrative Detention as a Mechanism for Obliterating the Palestinian Narrative: The Case of Filmmaker Abdullah Motan



Administrative detention serves not only as a mechanism for restricting individuals' freedom without formal charges or trials; it transcends this function to act as a systematic instrument for obliterating the Palestinian narrative and silencing those who can document violations and relay the truth. By focusing on activists, students, journalists, and opinion leaders, the Palestinian public sphere is reshaped in a manner that diminishes the capacity for expression and organization, thereby constraining the development of a counter-narrative to the official narrative of the occupation.

In this framework, administrative detention functions as a means of controlling collective consciousness, not solely through overt repression but also by fostering an environment of fear and uncertainty that compels individuals toward self-censorship and deters them from participating in public life. The absence of transparency and the detention of individuals based on confidential files further obscure the truth and hinder accurate documentation of violations, thereby undermining accountability and suppressing the Palestinian narrative on both local and international fronts.

Abdullah Motan, a 30-year-old filmmaker from the Palestinian town of Burqa, located east of Ramallah, has been arrested. He embarked on a self-directed journey to learn filmmaking, channeling his enthusiasm into a vehicle for narrating the stories of his people to a global audience. Motan initiated his professional journey as a photographer in 2012, collaborating with various media outlets in Palestine. Subsequently, he transitioned into video production, working alongside television and film directors as a cinematographer, while also documenting the rich cultures encountered with Arab travelers in countries such as China, Tanzania, and Venezuela.

In 2017, Motan co-founded Qamat for Documenting the Palestinian Struggle, where he held the position of vice president until 2024. Throughout his tenure at Qamat, he directed multiple short documentaries, including "RPG Children," which received the award for Best Short Documentary at the Tyre Film Festival in Lebanon in 2023, and "Deferred Reclaim," which was honored with the Special Jury Prize at the Cinema Verite Festival in Tehran in 2024.

Arrest

On 13 January 2025, Israeli occupation forces arrested Motan while he was en route to Jordan through the Karameh Crossing. He intended to film a project focused on nature tourism on Socotra Island.[7] Currently, Motan is detained in Ofer Prison, where he endures extremely harsh conditions. The frequency of searches and raids has escalated, with prison guards entering the cells regularly to count the prisoners, equipped with pump-action shotguns[8] and rubber bullets. Furthermore, the food provided is limited and of poor quality; he reported that most of it is inedible. The detainee also faces a severe bedbug infestation, exacerbated by poor hygiene and high humidity. He voiced his discontent regarding the treatment of detainees, particularly during their transport to meetings with lawyers, as they are often subjected to violent handling.[9]

Administrative Detention

The occupying forces have issued an administrative detention order against Motan for six months, spanning from 21 January to 12 July. This order has been renewed twice, and he continues to be held in administrative detention to this day. Nevertheless, the decision to detain Motan administratively, based on suspicions regarding his involvement in the creation of incitement content, raises significant concerns about the degree to which the relevant authorities comply with legal and human rights standards in such matters. According to his account, he underwent a brief interrogation that consisted of merely three or four questions, none of which pertained to incitement. This situation casts doubt on the validity of the evidence—if any—on which his detention order was founded, as the evidence was neither disclosed to the accused nor deliberated upon in court.

It is important to highlight that administrative detention represents one of the most extraordinary legal procedures, as it is executed without formal charges or evidence being presented to the detainee or their legal counsel. This situation demands robust and specific justifications for its implementation. In the absence of transparency and clarity in the procedures, as seems to be the case with Motan, there is an increasing concern that this form of detention may be utilized as a means to curtail freedom, rather than serving as a temporary measure to address a genuine and imminent threat.



[7] A Yemeni island in the Indian Ocean.
[8] Gas shotguns.
[9] A lawyer's visit to prisoner A. M. in Ofer Prison on 3 April 2025.

Deferred Reclaim

During his detention, the documentary film he created, "Deferred Reclaim," received the Best Short Film award at the Italian Terra Film Festival. Directed by Motan, the film narrates the deep human suffering experienced by Palestinian mothers whose sons' remains are kept in Israeli morgues, under conditions that contravene fundamental human values and international law.[10] Produced by the Qamat Foundation for Documenting the Palestinian Struggle in collaboration with the Palestinian Ministry of Culture, the film serves as a poignant testament to the anguish of mothers of martyrs, emphasizing the prolonged periods of waiting and the psychological torment caused by the inability to say a final goodbye to their sons.[11]

Motan's arrest is part of a broader effort to undermine the Palestinian narrative and silence those who advocate for it. Since the onset of 2025, over 40 journalists have been detained, alongside numerous others who have been killed, assaulted, or injured amid the ongoing genocide, all in an effort to obliterate the Palestinian narrative. In this regard, the Israeli Knesset enacted a law on 1 April 2024, permitting the temporary closure of foreign broadcasting stations deemed "harmful to the state."[12] Subsequently, on 5 May, Al Jazeera's offices were shut down, and its channels were blocked in the occupied territories. The occupying forces continue to renew the closure order every 45 days.[13]

In a similar context, Palestinian stand-up comedian Nidal Badarneh encountered a vigorous incitement campaign orchestrated by Jewish far-right factions due to the themes of his satirical acts, which highlighted the genocide in Gaza and recent events. In reaction to this pressure, Israeli police resorted to intimidation tactics aimed at theater proprietors to compel them to cancel Badarneh's upcoming performances. This action represents a clear infringement on freedom of expression and artistic innovation.[14] Subsequently, on 24 February 2025, Israeli police arrested him at his residence in Haifa, releasing him the next day.[15]

These actions are part of a systematic repression campaign directed at Palestinian voices that oppose the genocide, which commenced on 7 October. This campaign has involved arbitrary detentions of scholars, journalists, and artists, alongside the closure of libraries and the banning of cultural and artistic events, including the screening of Palestinian films.

[10] Klyoum "Abdullah Motan: The captive filmmaker." 5 March 2025. (https://tinyurl.com/5bjyxywd)
[11] Ibid.
[12] Al Jazeera. "Al Jazeera Law: Legislation enacted by the Knesset aimed at limiting foreign channels." 7 April 2024. (https://tinyurl.com/yakb24tc).
[13] Al Jazeera. "Israel extends closure of Al Jazeera's Ramallah Office." 7 January 2025. (https://tinyurl.com/mr23wxsj).
[14] The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel – Adalah. "Adalah Bulletin." 9 March 2025. https://mailchi.mp/adalah/arabic-news-6-march-2025
[15] Arab48. "Stand-up comedian Nidal Badarneh released following a home raid, his arrest, and subsequent interrogation." 25 February 2025. https://tinyurl.com/3xj7nspw

Since the onset of 2025, Israeli occupation forces have conducted two raids on the Scientific Library in Jerusalem, resulting in the arrest of two young men, Ahmad and Mahmoud Muna, alongside the confiscation of numerous books. They were subsequently released. On 11 March, the library experienced a second raid, during which over 50 books were seized, and its proprietor, Imad Muna, was taken into custody. He was released later that same day, and the majority of the books were returned, with the exception of three titles, including "Israel and the Clash of Civilizations" and "Fatah and the First Intifada." When questioned about the rationale behind these repeated incursions, the library owner indicated that an Israeli had visited the library, examined the books, and taken photographs. This person subsequently lodged a complaint alleging that the library housed inciting literature. The complaint precipitated the raid, the owner's arrest, and the confiscation of the library keys. [16]

The Charge of Incitement: A Vague Tool to Stifle the Palestinians' Digital Rights

In addition to administrative detention, Addameer has noted the extensive application of incitement charges that rely on vague and ambiguous legal provisions. Consequently, thousands of Palestinians—including women, the elderly, journalists, activists, and human rights advocates—have been detained for exercising their rights to freedom of opinion and expression, and have been imprisoned in Israeli facilities based on outdated social media posts, some of which are several years old.

An analysis of reports, including those monitored by the Arab Center for Social Media Advancement – 7amleh, indicates a significant rise in hate speech and violent content aimed at Palestinians. From January to September 2023, around seven million posts categorized as violent content were detected, while in 2024, this figure surged to over 12 million Hebrew-language incitement posts, averaging 23.6 posts per second.[17] Furthermore, data reveal that between 7 October 2023 and 27 March 2024, the Israeli police lodged 13 complaints against Israelis for incitement, in contrast to 667 complaints against Palestinians. It is important to highlight that some complaints against Israelis may pertain to internal incitement and may not be specifically aimed at Palestinians.[18]

Reusing Old Posts: Incitement as a Means for Persecution – The Case of Prisoner Raja Eghbaria

On 13 November 2025, the Haifa Magistrate's Court found Raja Eghbaria, a 74-year-old resident of Umm al-Fahm, guilty on all counts concerning ten posts made on his Facebook account. The prosecution contended that these posts amounted to "incitement to terrorism" and "support for a terrorist organization," as defined by the Israeli Counter-Terrorism Law enacted in 2016. This ruling followed over seven years of legal battles.[19]

[16] An interview by the Wadi Hilweh Information Center – Jerusalem with the library's owner.
[17] The Arab Center for Media Development – 7amleh. "Racism and Incitement Index 2024." 11 March 2025. https://7amleh.org/post/racism-index-2024-ar
[18] Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. United Nations document A/79/363, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. 20 September 2024. https://tinyurl.com/3mhfa6s5
[19] Adalah. "The sentencing of Raja Eghbaria establishes a perilous precedent for the suppression of Palestinian political discourse in Israel." 13 November 2025. https://www.adalah.org/ar/content/view/11436

The defense argued that the prosecution did not present any evidence demonstrating that Eghbaria's posts had incited or could incite acts of violence, which is a fundamental criterion for classifying speech as incitement under the law. They also highlighted that the prosecution had intentionally exaggerated and misrepresented the intentions behind the posts, removing the statements from their broader political and social context. Moreover, no expert testimony was provided to clarify how the public interpreted these posts or their possible repercussions. Nevertheless, the court dismissed these significant arguments in its ruling, further reflecting the increasing judicial trend to formalize political repression through legal mechanisms, particularly the Counter-Terrorism Law..[20]

Furthermore, the posts under discussion originate from 2017–2018; they are relatively dated and did not initially present any assertions of an actual or impending threat. This significantly undermines the assertion of a causal relationship between these publications and the potential for violence, which is a crucial element in incitement cases. The revival of these publications after such an extended period enhances the perception that they are being utilized in a context that diverges from their original intent, thereby raising concerns regarding the motivations and criteria employed in the prosecution.

The situation involving Eghbaria supports the conclusion that the incitement charge has evolved into a mechanism for justifying arbitrary arrests, particularly in the absence of substantial evidence indicating a real or imminent threat and the lack of legal justification for criminalization. Moreover, the reliance on outdated publications, their decontextualization, and the neglect of independent professional evaluations all indicate that this charge is being applied excessively, surpassing its legal boundaries, thereby paving the way for the restriction of freedom of expression under a legal pretext.

It is worth noting that Eghbaria has faced multiple arrests in the past, with the most recent occurring on 9 April 2024, when he was subjected to administrative detention for a duration of four months. During this period of detention, he experienced a decline in health due to physical assaults by prison guards, which led to a fractured leg and reduced mobility.[21]

[20] Ibid.
[21] Adalah. "The Haifa Court: Raja Eghbaria's health condition is concerning, and his administrative detention order should be reassessed." 3 June 2025. https://www.adalah.org/ar/content/view/11276

Incitement as a Justification and Illness as Suffering: The Case of Prisoner F

F. was arrested on 25 February 2025 at a checkpoint located near the village of Jit, Qalqilya, while she was on her way home. A police vehicle halted her, instructing her to step aside, and subsequently placed her in handcuffs in preparation for her arrest. Shortly thereafter, another vehicle arrived to transport her to one of the occupation's camps. Upon her arrival at the Ariel Detention Center, she underwent an interrogation that lasted approximately two hours, conducted by a female interrogator, during which she was subjected to severe shouting while her hands remained restrained.[22]

The case file indicates that the prosecution has lodged an indictment against F., based on around 51 posts she made on her Facebook page, accusing her of incitement against the security of the occupying state. However, an examination of the content of these posts reveals that the overwhelming majority do not contain any overt incitement; instead, they pertain to the expression of grief or mourning for martyrs who died in the Gaza Strip. This situation raises significant concerns regarding the alignment of the legal characterization of the charge with the actual content of the posts and clearly illustrates the broadening interpretation of the term "incitement" in a manner that encroaches upon freedom of expression. After more than a year of detention, the occupying authorities sentenced her to 22 months' imprisonment, despite her deteriorating health condition and without due consideration for the serious medical circumstances from which she suffers.

Despite F's battle with leukemia, the occupation authorities continue to hold and prosecute her, failing to sufficiently acknowledge the gravity of her health status and her unique medical requirements. Her illness necessitates ongoing care and meticulous oversight of her treatment, which is inaccessible to her as a result of the medical neglect policies enforced in the prisons. Recent reports reveal that she endures extensive pain across her body, coupled with frequent bouts of high fever that interfere with her sleep, thereby worsening her already declining health.



[22] A lawyer's visit to prisoner F. in Damon Prison on 12 March 2025.

Solitary Confinement: An Instrument of Oppression and Mental Torture in Detention Facilities

In 2025, Addameer reported a significant increase in the use of prolonged solitary confinement, which was employed as a punitive strategy intended to undermine the resolve of prisoners and subject them to severe psychological and health issues. According to the occupying authorities, solitary confinement is imposed either as a disciplinary sanction or on alleged security grounds. The latter specifically targeted leaders of the prisoners' movement, who endured extensive periods of solitary confinement. It is noteworthy that Regulations No. (04.03.00) Regarding the Isolation of Prisoners stipulate that no prisoner should be held in solitary confinement for more than six months, nor should they be subjected to double isolation for over twelve months without a judicial order.[23]

During their time in isolation, these individuals also faced brutal beatings, with the intent to inflict fatal harm on some, including prisoner Z. Z., who recounted: "Upon my initial transfer to solitary confinement in Megiddo Prison, I lost consciousness multiple times during the intake process. Upon entering, I encountered approximately 16 guards accompanied by two police dogs and wielding sticks resembling axe handles. They struck my legs with these implements, attempting to break them. They took turns assaulting me in groups. I sensed that they intended to kill me. I can't ascertain the duration of the beating as I lost consciousness repeatedly, and I was covered in blood. All of my front teeth were knocked out, along with several of my lower teeth."

Punishment for Dignity: K. H. in Solitary Confinement

Prisoner K. H. endured four months of solitary confinement at Ofer Prison. Approximately 45 days following his arrest on 17 August 2025 in the Shakoush region of Gaza while searching for food supplies, he was interrogated at the Sde Teiman Detention Camp. During his time at the camp's disco room, a guard made derogatory remarks about his mother, which led K. H. to react. Subsequently, a large group of soldiers assaulted him for nearly five minutes while he was blindfolded, beating him with batons and kicking him. That same night, he was transferred to Ofer Prison. Upon arrival, he underwent a medical examination that was limited to the doctor asking him a few medical questions. Despite the visible bruises on his chest and shoulder, the doctor did not conduct a thorough examination and merely provided him with a painkiller.[24]

[23] To view Rules 04.03.00, see: https://tinyurl.com/yscbdzmy
[24] An interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner K. H. on 30 March 2026.

The prisoner was placed directly into an extremely cramped cell, measuring no more than two meters by two meters, resembling a cage constructed of open wire mesh on all sides. A sheet of corrugated iron, approximately two meters wide, separated him from the cage, obscuring his view of the outside. Behind this barrier were armed and masked soldiers who came to check on him every ten to fifteen minutes. He remained in this cell for three months before being moved to a concrete cell for an additional month.

The first cell was entirely devoid of any personal belongings. He was only given a hard mattress, no thicker than one centimeter, and two blankets during the night, which were taken away during the day. Consequently, he spent his entire day sitting on the cold cell floor without any comfort or entertainment. He was not provided with a Quran or any reading materials, leaving him to pass the time by staring at the walls. Regarding bathroom access, he had to wait nearly an hour after requesting until a guard arrived to escort him, compounded by a persistent shortage of toilet paper.

During his four-month period of isolation, he was permitted to shower merely three times daily, with each session lasting only three minutes. His underwear was replaced just once a month, and his outer garments were never changed. He received only a single bar of soap, with no additional cleaning products provided. Water was supplied in a one-liter bottle, which was refilled once or twice each day. His diet was restricted and monotonous, primarily consisting of canned food, predominantly peas, which were placed in a bag and occasionally accompanied by a spoonful of yogurt or rice, along with four to five pieces of bread each day—the same repetitive food served almost daily.

He was perpetually restrained; for the initial 35 days, his hands were cuffed behind his back, even during sleep. The handcuffs were only removed when he required access to the toilet. He was compelled to sleep on his side or stomach, enduring significant pain. Subsequently, the restraints were adjusted to the front, yet he remained bound throughout his detention, with the exception of the first 45 days at the outset of his detention. Public prayer was prohibited; thus, he engaged in silent prayer without movement, as he was forbidden from speaking or making any noise, facing punishment for any infractions.



The prisoner describes his experience in solitary confinement: "During my time in solitary confinement at Ofer Prison, I endured extremely harsh conditions. The prison resembled a doghouse; we were treated akin to how a dog handler treats dogs. Every two to three days, the cell would be raided by 15 to 20 masked and armed soldiers, all of considerable size. They would remove me and five to six other solitary confinement prisoners to the yard between the cages, force us onto our stomachs, and allow the dogs to walk over us. Although the dogs were muzzled, they occasionally scratched our backs with their claws. A soldier would position himself behind the cage and command me to stand, compelling me to stand, kneel, or lie on my stomach for three to four hours while he sat in a chair drinking coffee. He also coerced me into mimicking a duck's waddle or a dog's bark. This occurred approximately once or twice a week during the first three months of solitary confinement, and similar treatment was meted out to the other prisoners. They took turns beating us for their own entertainment."

The physical assaults would continue for approximately one hour, during which the detainees were struck every two to three minutes with various implements such as sticks, military boots, fists, and rifle stocks, primarily targeting the head. Consequently, the detainee sustained fractures in his shoulder and leg, along with four broken ribs, without being transported to a medical facility. Rather, he was merely carried and tossed back into the confinement area, receiving only a single painkiller. When he bled, he was provided with nothing more than water to clean the blood on his own.

Systematic Starvation of Prisoners: A Grave Violation Amounting to Genocide

The intentional starvation of Palestinian detainees in Israeli detention facilities represents a systematic strategy designed to undermine their physical and mental well-being by withholding adequate and suitable nourishment. This practice results in a decline in their health and living conditions, constituting a serious breach of international law, which can be classified as genocide, as it involves imposing living conditions aimed at the destruction, in whole or in part, of a particular human group, in accordance with Article 6 of the Rome Statute and Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

All detainees who were accessible for interviews reported experiencing this atrocity from the initial moments of their detention, underscoring its systematic nature. This situation is part of official policies that seek to tighten detention conditions to the absolute minimum necessary for survival, effectively leading to the gradual extermination of prisoners. As stated by the Minister of National Security, Itamar Ben-Gvir, "I am here to ensure that terrorists receive the absolute minimum of the minimum!"

Concurrently with these statements, a significant reduction in the weight of detainees has been noted, along with a marked decline in their health upon release. This illustrates the direct consequences of the intentional starvation policy implemented within the prisons. Documented accounts included numerous instances that highlight the effects of systematic starvation practices.

For instance, prisoner A. Z., after being moved to Rimon Prison, reported that food was served in uncovered containers, which soldiers frequently contaminated with water or dirt. The meals consistently contained hair, and birds would peck at the food in their presence before it was taken into the cells. He further noted that transporting food within the section was challenging, as soldiers would examine meals with sticks prior to permitting their entry. Despite the variety of food offered, the quantity was inadequate; three meals a day did not equate to a single proper meal. Drinking water was supplied directly from the tap.[25]

Other prisoners detailed the physical consequences of this policy, noting that prisoner A. Th. lost approximately 30 kilograms[26], while prisoner A. B.'s weight plummeted from 170 kilograms to 88 kilograms[27], and prisoner Y. R. experienced a reduction in weight from 120 kilograms to 80 kilograms[28]. These changes illustrate the severe physical and psychological distress endured by prisoners due to systematic starvation and harsh detention conditions.

Moreover, the prison administration neglects the requirements of ill prisoners, failing to provide sufficient nutrition to aid their recovery, particularly at the Ramla Prison Clinic, where there has been a notable lack of concern for their health. The food served is comparable to that in other prisons regarding both quantity and quality, despite the increased caloric needs of these individuals for recovery. For breakfast, each prisoner was given two teaspoons of yogurt and three slices of bread, occasionally supplemented with two slices of cucumber and a minuscule amount of jam, not exceeding a quarter of a teaspoon, which is inadequate for those who are unwell. Lunch comprised a meager portion of undercooked rice, two tablespoons of chickpeas, two tablespoons of beans, and three slices of toast.

At dinner, prisoners received a scant serving of chickpeas and, on rare occasions, two tablespoons of tuna. The special rye bread designated for diabetics was provided sporadically rather than consistently. Vegetables were allocated solely to prisoners undergoing dialysis. Each prisoner was meant to receive two carrots and two cucumbers weekly, as prescribed by the dialysis physician. However, the IPS routinely disregarded these directives, offering vegetables only every two to three weeks. This behavior demonstrates a blatant disregard for the pressing health needs of these prisoners.[29]



[25] An interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner A. Z. on 16 December 2025.
[26] A lawyer's visit to prisoner A. Th. In Naqab Prison on 7 May 2025.
[27] A lawyer's visit to prisoner A. B. In Naqab Prison on 6 March 2025.
[28] A lawyer's visit to prisoner Y. R. In Naqab Prison on 6 March 2025.
[29] An interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner H. J. on 10 March 2026.

On 11 September 2025, the Israeli Supreme Court delivered a significant ruling in response to a petition submitted by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) concerning the starvation of prisoners. The court determined that the Israel Prison Service is legally required to supply adequate and nutritious food to all prisoners and confirmed that the use of food deprivation as a form of punishment violates humanitarian and legal principles. This ruling followed reports highlighting malnutrition among Palestinian prisoners. The court underscored the importance of upholding fundamental human dignity and maintaining health, even in severe detention circumstances, emphasizing that humane treatment of prisoners is essential and must be enforced through legal accountability.[30]

Despite this ruling, the IPS has failed to regard it with the seriousness it warrants and has continued to supply inadequate amounts of food, which has resulted in continued malnutrition among Palestinian prisoners. These infractions evidently reflect efforts to evade the court's decision and a lack of complete adherence to the humanitarian and legal standards outlined in the judgment.

Israeli Violations Against Prisoners Amidst the Israel-Iran War

The initiation of Israeli hostilities towards Iran on 13 June 2025 resulted in a series of arbitrary actions against Palestinian detainees. The court ruled to suspend all court proceedings until the end of June, restricting its activities to hearings concerning the extension of detention, the confirmation of administrative detention orders, and appeals. Furthermore, the court resolved to extend the detention of administrative detainees who had been granted (substantive) release orders for an extra 15 days, based on a provisional decision intended to reevaluate the circumstances surrounding the extension of their administrative detention in response to 'security developments and ongoing escalation'.

In a further entrenchment of the policy aimed at isolating prisoners, a military order was enacted that barred the families of detainees from attending the hearings for the extension of their sons' detentions at the Ofer Military Court. Furthermore, lawyers were also prohibited from visiting the prisoners. This action exacerbates the isolation imposed on the detainees and raises significant concerns regarding their vulnerability to severe violations without any oversight.

During this period, the prisoners reported an increase in the intensity of repression and mistreatment. They were denied access to the yard and shower facilities, and their food rations were drastically reduced. The Israeli authorities took advantage of the state of emergency to intensify violations and exert additional pressure on the prisoners. In this context, prisoner R. B. remarked: "The period of the Israel-Iran War was the most harrowing time for us. They would raid our cells nearly every two or three days. At night, a contingent of guards would burst in, handcuff the female prisoners behind their backs, force their heads down, and subject them to extremely humiliating strip searches and verbal abuse."[31]

[30] The Association for Civil Rights in Israel. "The Supreme Court Rules: Prisoners cannot be starved." 11 September 2025. https://tinyurl.com/2kypc2ke
[31] An interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner R. B. on 21 August 2025.

Nitzan Prison, Rakefet Section: Darkness Buried Underground

Nitzan Prison was established in 1978 and is part of Ramla Prison. It features an underground section that had remained unused for an extended period, having been closed in the early 1980s due to its inhumane conditions. The Minister of National Security, Itamar Ben-Gvir, directed the Commissioner of the Israeli Prison Service, Katy Perry, to prepare this section for the reception of prisoners from the Gaza Strip[32], leading to the reopening of the Rakefet section after 7 October[33].

Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir has utilized the severe torture conditions in the Rakefet Section as a means of propaganda, with the intention of dehumanizing Palestinian prisoners and intensifying the policy of oppression and intimidation. In January 2025, Israeli media released images of Ben-Gvir during his visit to this section, where he proclaimed: "It is no secret that I advocate for the death penalty for terrorists. I contend that these scumbags should not be allowed to see the light of day. Until they face the death penalty, their rightful place is underground." On 30 July 2025, he returned to the section alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. During this visit, he addressed Netanyahu, stating: "In this prison are the prisoners of the Nukhba – which translates to 'elite', those responsible for the calamity of 7 October. This should be their final stop before execution."[34]

It is important to highlight that the majority of individuals detained in this facility are non-combatants, alongside prisoners from the West Bank. In October 2025, another video emerged from the same facility, depicting prisoners who were handcuffed and seated on the floor under degrading and severe conditions, while Ben-Gvir issued direct threats, claiming they were being stripped of their most fundamental rights. He mockingly stated, "They don't receive chocolate, jam, television, or radio; we have taken everything from them." Ben-Gvir concluded his statements by advocating for the execution of Palestinian prisoners.[35]

This facility is among the most heavily fortified and clandestine prisons; it was constructed underground and is outfitted with advanced surveillance cameras that monitor the prisoners continuously. The prisoners exist in total isolation, with attorney visits being restricted for prolonged durations. Even when a limited number of attorneys were permitted to meet with the prisoners, constant surveillance was maintained, as if the walls were eavesdropping. The instant a prisoner attempted to inquire about his family from his lawyer, a soldier would promptly intervene to prevent him, thereby undermining the fundamental purpose of these visits: to provide reassurance to the prisoners and mitigate their ongoing fear, anxiety, and anticipation. The meetings occur in a cramped underground room, measuring no more than one and a half square meters, accessible by descending approximately 10 steps below ground level, and strewn with the remnants of dead insects.

[32] The Guardian. "Israel's underground jail, where Palestinians are held without charge and never see daylight." Emma Graham-Harrison. 8 November 2025. https://tinyurl.com/4rknaxnd
[33] Al Jazeera. "Rakefet Prison: An Israeli underground box to hide Gaza prisoners." 5 August 2025. https://tinyurl.com/t6f4ecbe
[34] Ibid.
[35] Al Jazeera. "Video: Ben-Gvir threatens to execute Palestinian prisoners." 23 December 2025. https://tinyurl.com/3wps4kzf

During the limited visits that lawyers could conduct to this section, the prisoners conveyed that they are held in confined cells, each measuring no more than six square meters (3x2m), where four prisoners are accommodated despite there being only three beds available. This situation necessitates that one individual must sleep on the frigid floor. The blankets and mattresses are taken away each day from 4:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m., compelling the prisoners to spend their days seated on the metal beds without any opportunity for rest. The cell features a window that is no larger than 60x80 centimeters, positioned too high to provide any view of the outside world.

Regarding outdoor time, it occurs either daily or every other day for a maximum of thirty minutes. Prisoners from two to three cells are taken out together, during which they are subjected to assaults and humiliation by the guards. They are handcuffed with their hands behind their backs, their heads bowed, and they are deprived of sunlight, as the outdoor time is conducted in a confined space no larger than ten square meters (3x3.5 meters), rather than in an open yard as is typically expected. They are permitted to speak only in whispers and are forbidden from engaging in any physical activities, such as exercising or jogging. After their outdoor time, they may have to endure an hour before their handcuffs are removed.

The prisoners face relentless repression, physical beatings, and mistreatment at all hours, in addition to enduring daily verbal insults. Certain guards have implemented a systematic approach to breaking fingers, particularly on Fridays and Saturdays, exploiting the absence of an officer or supervisor during those periods. Furthermore, the prisoners are compelled to participate in roll call four times a day, during which they are subjected to further insults and verbal abuse.

The policy of the Israeli Prison Service to deprive prisoners of adequate food has now affected this particular prison section. Prisoners receive minimal rations that lack both nutrition and satisfaction, amounting to three meals that do not equal one healthy meal. Each meal comprises four pieces of bread, along with a very limited quantity of additional food. Breakfast consists of merely a spoonful of jam and a spoonful of yogurt. Lunch varies throughout the week. Dinner typically includes hummus, tahini, and rice, with tuna being served twice weekly. During Ramadan, the pre-dawn meal (suhoor) and the iftar meal are prepared well in advance of sunset, compelling prisoners to consume them cold.

The unsatisfactory hygiene conditions have led to a spread of scabies among the prisoners, as they are given very few personal hygiene products. Tissues and shampoo are distributed every two days, with one roll of tissues shared among four prisoners, and each prisoner receives a small packet of shampoo that lasts for two days. Prisoners are permitted half an hour for showering each day, with four detainees taking turns, which limits each individual to no more than seven minutes for their shower. Hot water is accessible for only 20 minutes daily, occasionally necessitating that prisoners shower with cold water.

Regarding clothing, prisoners are permitted to change their garments every Wednesday. However, some choose to retain their clothing due to the poor quality of the provided items, which are often worn and torn. Outer garments are exchanged weekly, while undergarments are not replaced and must be washed by the prisoners themselves. Some prisoners lack socks or shoes, compelling them to borrow footwear for legal visits, and they remain barefoot during outdoor time. Towels are available in limited numbers and are not regularly replaced. Nail clippers are issued to prisoners every three weeks, and razors approximately every six weeks, which forces prisoners to shave their heads completely when they are available. Each prisoner is allotted only two blankets for sleeping, and some have had to endure a considerable portion of the winter with just one.

Concerning prayer, individuals are barred from participating in communal prayers and, at times, even from engaging in solitary prayer. They lack a clock to accurately ascertain the specific times for prayer; instead, they are required to make estimations. The cells are devoid of any copies of the Quran, and they were merely notified of the commencement of Ramadan, without any information regarding the times for initiating or breaking the fast.

The violations mentioned above represent merely a fraction of the profound suffering experienced by the prisoners. It is difficult to articulate the depth of their daily anguish. Prior to the visit, all prisoners faced threats, physical assaults, and were coerced into making statements that falsely claimed their living conditions had improved. Nevertheless, their facial expressions and body language conveyed a powerful narrative about the harsh reality and the severe injustices they endure. The Rakefet section can only be characterized as a living graveyard.



Palestinian Children Under Occupation: Systematic Violations in Prisons

In the context of increasing violations against children, the plight of numerous minors suffering in Israeli prisons is being brought to light. Their fundamental human rights are being infringed upon in an atmosphere lacking the essential elements of justice and protection, in clear violation of all international norms and agreements that safeguard children's rights.

As part of the genocide carried out by the occupying force against Palestinians since 7 October, extensive retaliatory arrest operations have been initiated as a means of collective punishment aimed at subduing the Palestinian populace in its entirety, particularly targeting children. Since the onset of this genocide, around 1,655 children have been detained. By the end of 2025, approximately 351 of these minors were incarcerated in Ofer and Megiddo prisons, except for two girls held in Damon Prison. Notably, these statistics do not account for children from Gaza.

All child prisoners endure exceedingly harsh conditions. The Israel Prison Service (IPS) subjects them to various forms of torture. Following 7 October, the IPS has adopted a starvation policy as a punitive measure against the detainees, resulting in considerable weight loss. They are also confined in cells that are unsuitable for human habitation, marked by their limited space relative to the high number of prisoners and the absence of basic needs. The lack of regular access to showers has facilitated the outbreak of skin diseases, including scabies. This situation is exacerbated by the prison authorities' persistent policy of medical neglect. Furthermore, the prison authorities have resorted to torture and other forms of ill-treatment, culminating in the tragic death of a child prisoner, Walid Ahmad.

The occupying power persists in rejecting its legal responsibilities as outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), asserting that this Convention is not applicable beyond the national borders of the State and that it was not intended for application in situations of armed conflict.[36] Nevertheless, this assertion is unfounded, as the occupying power cannot invoke the inapplicability of this Convention as a justification for its continuous infringements of human rights, especially those of children. Citing the advisory opinion delivered by the International Court of Justice on 19 July 2024, concerning the "Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory," it was established that international human rights law applies to the occupied Palestinian territory, and therefore, human rights conventions, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, are also applicable.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child further corroborated this position in its concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports (of Israel). In its report on 16 October 2024, the Committee articulated: "The Committee, consistent with the stance of the International Court of Justice, reaffirms that the Convention applies to all children at all times and is directly applicable in all territories where the State party (the occupying power) exerts effective control. It reminds the State party of its legal obligations under the Convention and under international humanitarian law concerning children in the occupied Palestinian territory." Consequently, the Committee urged the occupying power to ensure the comprehensive implementation of the CRC and to guarantee that all children under its jurisdiction and control fully enjoy the rights enshrined in the Convention.

[36] Responses from Israel regarding the list of concerns pertaining to its combined fifth and sixth periodic reports, dated 19 October 2024. https://docs.un.org/en/CRC/C/ISR/RQ/5-6

The Committee has also acknowledged the reports it receives regarding the torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian children during their arrest and detention. This includes practices such as solitary confinement, electric shocks, handcuffing and/or leg binding, denial of food, water, or access to toilets, exposure to harsh weather conditions, verbal and physical abuse including beatings, forced nudity, sexual violence, psychological intimidation, and attempts to recruit detained children as informants. Such actions constitute a breach of the occupying power's human rights obligations. The Committee finds no justification, nor any armed conflict, that could warrant the torture or ill-treatment of children.

Although children have historically been subjected to oppressive policies, the aftermath of 7 October has signified a perilous turning point. Violations have intensified and become systematic, with children being targeted with an unprecedented level of severity. The Israeli occupation has transitioned from a pattern of ongoing violations to a more extensive and severe strategy, which includes practices that can be classified as genocide. Child prisoners have been central to these retaliatory measures within the prison system.

Testimonies from incarcerated children reveal that the occupying authorities intentionally enforced total isolation from the rest of the prison population from the very outset, aiming to psychologically break them and sever their connections to any form of support. Addameer, along with various human rights organizations, has documented numerous testimonies that detail the severe beatings and direct abuse experienced from the moment of their arrest until their release, throughout their time in detention. The documentation shows that a significant majority of detained minors faced at least one type of physical or psychological torture, within a systematic pattern of violations that starkly contravenes international law, humanitarian standards, and all conventions designed to protect children and uphold their rights.

In this regard, prisoner M. Sh. attests that he was brutally struck with soldiers' rifle stocks at the time of his arrest, leading to a serious head injury.[37] Prisoner I. D. endured harsh interrogation at the Al-Mascobiya Interrogation Center, where he was detained for three months. Throughout this period, he was interrogated for eight to nine days, being taken to interrogation rooms from 5:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. His interrogation sessions lasted three to four hours, followed by severe beatings, before he was transferred to a room devoid of surveillance cameras. In that location, he was assaulted by one or more guards[38] in a calculated effort to obscure evidence and evade any form of accountability.



[37] A lawyer's visit to prisoner M. Sh. in Ofer Prison on 13 November 2025.
[38] A lawyer's visit to prisoner I. D. in Damon Prison on 6 March 2025.

Following the ceasefire agreement in the Gaza Strip, reports from child prisoners indicate a rise in the frequency of searches and raids conducted in prisons. In Ofer Prison, prisoners have confirmed that their cells are subjected to violent raids almost daily. They have not received any winter clothing or extra blankets until late in the winter season. Furthermore, their daily outdoor time is restricted to a maximum of thirty minutes, and there are instances where they are denied this time for several consecutive days. Due to a policy of medical neglect, child prisoners have been afflicted with scabies, which has spread extensively among them and was only addressed in its advanced stages. It has been confirmed that this illness continues to be widespread among the entire prison population.

As of the end of 2025, there are 180 child prisoners aged between 14 and 18 years. This figure indicates that 51% of the total number are being held in administrative detention without any charges or trials, marking the highest percentage observed in decades. This trend signifies an unprecedented increase in the application of this "exceptional measure," which is intended for use only in the most restricted circumstances, rather than as a primary means of detaining minors without due process. This situation supports the assertion that detention has never been an exceptional security measure; instead, it has consistently served as a mechanism within a broader strategy of control and deterrence, where exceptional legal frameworks are systematically and methodically utilized in ways that undermine the principles of justice and starkly contradict fundamental human rights, particularly following 7 October 2023, when violations escalated significantly and disproportionately affected children.

Moreover, the Israeli occupation forces persist in infringing upon the educational rights of Palestinian students. The Ministry of Education has documented serious and systematic violations perpetrated by the occupation forces against students, educators, and educational institutions, which encompass both schools and universities. From 7 October 2023 to 21 April 2026, a total of 418 students were detained in the West Bank, with 67 of these students barred from participating in their high school graduation examinations. Furthermore, at least 171 educational staff members were also detained.[39] In addition to that, 152 schools were attacked and damaged, including the destruction of school walls in regions such as Jenin, Tulkarm, and Bruqin and Kafr ad-Dik in Salfit. Moreover, eight universities and colleges faced repeated assaults and systematic acts of vandalism.[40]

During the final examinations for high school, Israeli occupation forces detained several students, thereby obstructing their ability to take the exams. On 3 July 2025, the occupation forces detained seven students mere hours before their scheduled examinations, thus preventing them from completing their assessments and egregiously violating their fundamental right to education.[41] In the Gaza Strip, the precise number of detained students remains uncertain due to the Israeli occupation authorities' practice of enforced disappearance concerning Gazan detainees. High school students in Gaza have been denied the opportunity to take their final exams for the second consecutive year.

[39] Documentation issued by the Ministry of Education regarding Israeli infringements on education in Palestine on 21 April 2025.
[40] Human Rights and Democracy Media Center – Shams. "The occupation's instruments to destroy education in Palestine." 21 June 2025. https://www.wattan.net/ar/news/464563.html
[41] The Prisoner's Club. "At dawn, the occupation detained at least 30 citizens, some of whom were subsequently released." 3 July 2025. https://www.ppsmo.ps/home/news/17544?culture=ar-SA

An Injured Prisoner with Persistent Shrapnel: Prisoner A.M. – Injured and Arrested[42]

"You should be thankful we arrested you. It's better than killing you," remarked the officer overseeing the Jenin region as he welcomed prisoner A. M. at the Beit El Detention Camp. The prisoner's injuries, incurred on 3 July 2023 due to an Israeli airstrike that left him critically injured, did not exempt him from further suffering. He was detained on 4 August 2024 at a mobile checkpoint near the village of Ein Sinya – Ramallah, and remains in custody as of the date of this report (21 April 2026).

On 3 July 2023, the occupying forces targeted the Jenin Camp, resulting in injuries to several residents. While A. M. was present in the affected area, he suffered a grave injury that necessitated the amputation of his left leg below the knee, several toes on his right foot, and inflicted damage to his genitals. To this day, he endures the presence of shrapnel in his leg and an infection in the primary artery of the amputated limb, which causes him excruciating pain. Consequently, he was provided with a prosthetic limb to facilitate walking and the performance of his daily tasks. Despite his challenging health condition, he was arrested while traversing a mobile checkpoint near the village of Ein Sinya, Ramallah. Following his arrest, he was brutally kicked on his injured leg and genitals, after which his hands were restrained behind his back, his eyes were blindfolded, and he was transported to a facility later recognized as the Beit El Detention Camp.

Upon his arrival at the camp, Israeli soldiers assaulted him, striking him on the back of the head with their rifles. This resulted in bleeding from his head, and he was also hit in the face, which led to the breaking of one of his front teeth. The prisoner recounts the torture and mistreatment he experienced in this camp: "They kept me on my knees the entire time. At night, a soldier entered while I was handcuffed behind my back, seized my hands from behind, and stabbed me in my left palm, inflicting a minor wound. Although the wound has since healed, the scar remains. The beatings in the camp were incessant; a soldier would come in every few minutes to strike me."

The following day, he was transferred to Ofer Prison. Upon his arrival, the guards confiscated his prosthetic leg, in a blatant disregard for his health condition and the injury he had sustained, and provided him with a crutch instead. This has made walking difficult for him, and the prison authorities are neglecting his medical needs, failing to supply him with the necessary medications. Despite suffering from inflammation in the main artery of his amputated leg, which causes him severe pain, particularly at night, he has not been given any medication or painkillers. Since his arrest, he has only received a painkiller – Acamol – on two occasions.

[42] A lawyer's visit to prisoner A. M. in Ofer Prison on 18 September 2024.

The prisoner's ordeal did not stop at that point. On 10 September 2024, he endured additional maltreatment at the hands of a unit of prison guards who forcibly entered his cell accompanied by a dog. The muzzled dog was unleashed within the cell while the guards maintained their position at the entrance. The dog proceeded to attack all the juvenile prisoners present, including A. M. This assault resulted in A. M. collapsing onto his bed, with the dog positioned atop him, intensifying the agony in his amputated leg, as the nerve was in severe distress. Another prisoner suffered a forehead injury due to the impact of the dog's muzzle. This brutal episode continued for five minutes before the guards removed the dog and left.



Administrative Detention: The Occupation State's Safe Haven

On 18 August 2024, the military commander of the region issued a six-month administrative detention order against A. M., commencing on 20 August 2024 and concluding on 3 February 2025. A confirmation hearing took place on 26 August at the Salem Military Court. This hearing was divided into two parts: the first being public, during which the judge asserted that the military commander had indeed issued the administrative detention order; the assertion that the detainee represents a threat to regional security, despite his youth, is a recurring statement found in numerous administrative detention orders.



The second part, which is based on confidential documentation, is presented by the prosecution to the court's judge. In this context, the judge consistently maintains that he cannot disclose the intelligence materials from various sources provided by the prosecution to protect the identity of the informants, thereby keeping the information confidential between the judge and the prosecution, without informing the defense attorney or the detainee. The judge stated: "The confidential materials adequately establish the necessary foundation to justify the defendant's detention." After examining this documentation, the judge resolved to uphold the administrative detention order against the detainee "to safeguard the security of the region and to avert any potential threats posed by the defendant." Consequently, he issued a ruling to confirm the administrative detention order for the entire duration of six months. Notably, despite the prisoner's serious health issues, four administrative detention orders have been enacted against him, each lasting six months, with the potential for further orders, as the prisoner remains in custody to this day (21 April 2026).

It is evident from the assertions made by the military judge that the underlying reason for the child's arrest was not due to any specific action he had taken, but rather to avert the potential threat he represented in the future. This categorizes his arrest as a quintessential example of arbitrary detention. The military judge failed to consider the young age of the detainee as well as his health status. Despite the child's severe injury and urgent need for medical care, the judge sanctioned the continuation of his administrative detention and its subsequent renewal. This decision hindered the child's ability to receive necessary treatment, led to a decline in his health, and complicated his capacity to engage in activities within the prison, particularly due to the seizure of his prosthetic limb.

Despite the military courts' claims of impartiality and justice, they consistently demonstrate their complicity in these violations with each new case of arrest. Regardless of the efforts made by these courts to lend a veneer of legality to administrative detention, it remains an arbitrary form of arrest that contravenes international laws and standards. The Fourth Geneva Convention, along with other international guidelines regarding fair trial procedures, underscores the prohibition of utilizing administrative detention as a substitute for a proper trial.

M. S.: A Childhood Deferred by Administrative Order

M. S. was arrested on 19 February 2025 at his residence in Beit Fajjar, Bethlehem, and subsequently placed under administrative detention for a duration of four months. This period was later extended multiple times, rendering him the youngest administrative detainee at merely 14 years of age. During his arrest, occupation soldiers conducted a raid on his family's home at dawn, forcibly breaching the front door and detaining family members. They then proceeded to search his room, damaging property and seizing phones and computers, all without presenting any arrest warrant.[43] He was later transferred to the Etzion Detention and Interrogation Center and subsequently to the Al-Mascobiya Interrogation and Detention Center, where he remained for 21 days before being moved to Megiddo Prison.

In Megiddo Prison, where he is currently held, the number of prisoners in each cell varies from six to ten, with four individuals sleeping on the floor. Concerning living conditions, he reports that they are typically allowed outside to the yard daily, although this is not guaranteed, for approximately half an hour, which includes time for showering, as there are five showers available, shared among three cells during the same timeframe. Each cell is also allocated one bottle of shampoo every few days.[44]. Moreover, the prisoner is experiencing toothaches and is receiving no medical treatment or pain relief, nor has he been transferred to the clinic. As of the date of his visit, the most recent incident of repression occurred on 13 November 2025 when tear gas was deployed in two rooms, followed by another incident on December 2. In terms of his legal situation, four administrative detention orders, each lasting four months, have been issued against him, culminating in a total of sixteen months.



[43] An interview conducted by Addameer with the child's mother on 29 March 2026.
[44] A lawyer's visit to prisoner M. S. in Megiddo Prison on 22 January 2026.

Mohammad Al-Zalbani: The Story of a Child Sentenced to Years Exceeding His Age

"A day of tragedy that will remain etched in my memory," remarked the mother of prisoner Mohammad Al-Zalbani, revealing her disbelief following the unjust sentence handed to her son. Mohammad was arrested by the Israeli occupation forces on 13 February 2023 at the tender age of thirteen[45]. Two years post-arrest, during which he endured severe interrogation along with psychological and physical abuse, an Israeli court condemned the child to 18 years in prison for the alleged "murder of an Israeli soldier." He faced accusations of stabbing an Israeli border police officer on a bus at a checkpoint leading into the Shuafat Refugee Camp in occupied East Jerusalem. Notably, despite Mohammad being restrained, an Israeli private security guard inadvertently shot and killed the officer shortly thereafter, a detail corroborated by autopsy findings.[46]

The verdict was predicated on Amendment 22 to the Israeli Child Law of 2016 (Trials, Punishments and Treatment Mechanisms), which permits the incarceration of Palestinian minors under actual imprisonment if convicted of murder, causing murder, or attempted murder before reaching fourteen years of age. Should a prison sentence be imposed on minors under fourteen, they are confined in a closed institution, with the actual sentence commencing only after they turn fourteen.[47] In 2024, the occupying authorities broadened their authority to detain children and enforce unjust penalties by instituting a law that permits the imposition of such penalties on children from the age of fourteen if the offense is categorized by the occupying state as a "terrorist act" or a nationally motivated offense. This legislation is classified as an emergency law, with an initial duration of five years, subject to potential extension later.[48]

The targeting of Mohammad's family extended beyond initial actions. As part of the collective punishment strategy implemented by the occupying authorities, the Israeli Supreme Court authorized a demolition order for the family residence on 28 August 2023, even though it was home to his parents and three siblings, including a toddler. An appeal lodged by the Israeli human rights organization HaMoked against this demolition order was dismissed by the court, which constitutes a blatant breach of international law that forbids collective punishment.[49]

[45] Al Jazeera interview with Mohammad Al-Zalbani's mother. https://www.youtube.com/shorts/hovY-6R1cdA

[46] Amnesty International. "Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territories: Supreme Court approves punitive demolition of child detainee's home." 28 August 2023. https://tinyurl.com/ype3mrnx

[47] For additional details regarding this legislation, refer to the 2016 report on the violations of the rights of female and male prisoners in Israeli detention at https://tinyurl.com/577njbw4

[48] For additional details regarding this law, refer to the paper on newly introduced Israeli laws for 2024 at https://addameer.ps/media/5552

[49] Amnesty International. "Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territories: Supreme Court approves punitive demolition of child detainee's home." 28 August 2023. https://tinyurl.com/ype3mrnx

What Mohammad experienced represents a multifaceted infringement of human rights and international humanitarian law, starting with the violation of his rights as a minor, progressing through the application of torture and severe interrogation methods, and culminating in a punishment that surpasses his age, alongside the collective punishment imposed on his family. This situation underscores the urgent need to hold the occupying forces accountable for their transgressions and to ensure adherence to international standards, particularly the Convention on the Rights of the Child.



Children of Gaza: Caught Between Imprisonment, Torture, and Use as Human Shields

The indiscriminate arrest campaigns initiated by the occupying forces since 7 October 2023 in the Gaza Strip have targeted minors. The practice of enforced disappearance has obstructed any understanding of the precise number of children detained in Israeli prisons and military facilities. Accounts from detained minors reveal that they have endured systematic torture, been used as human shields during arrests, and faced various violations, including intentional medical neglect, starvation, solitary confinement, and coordinated assaults, such as raids and oppressive operations. Furthermore, the occupying authorities have classified some of these minors as "unlawful combatants," a categorization that contravenes international law regarding children's rights and international humanitarian law, thereby reinforcing the establishment of systematic torture practices against detained minors.

Upon their arrest, these children were subjected to strip searches, followed by field interrogations, prior to being transferred to military camps or prisons. Initially, they were confined in the Sde Teiman Detention Camp, where they were kept handcuffed for durations exceeding forty days, in addition to experiencing violent and degrading treatment, as well as deprivation of food and water.

F. Sh., a child prisoner, recounted: "Life in Sde Teiman was degrading. Food and water were limited, and I endured approximately forty days with my hands restrained in front of me by metal shackles, without any blindfolds. I spent some time in the barracks before being transferred to a concrete room. The food was inedible, consisting of slices of toast with a small amount of jam or a meager portion of tuna that did not satisfy my hunger. I rested on very thin mattresses, as if I were lying on stones. They only provided me with mattresses and blankets at night, while during the day, I sat on the cold floor without any covering. They would bring a mattress and four blankets for sleeping. There were raids on certain rooms approximately once a week, with masked units from outside storming the section. We were prohibited from looking at them. I received no special treatment; they treated me like any other adult."[50]



[50] An interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner F. Sh. on 28 March 2026.

The conditions at Sde Teiman mirrored those at Ofer Camp. Prisoner M. I. remained handcuffed for six months, only being released for showers, which occurred once a week or every three weeks. Throughout his eight months of detention, he was permitted to change his clothes only twice. He was not provided with underwear; he wore trousers and a short-sleeved shirt. A jacket was not given to him until near the end of winter. There were no blankets available, and the sheets provided were thin, torn, and unclean. The prisoners were required to wash these sheets themselves in cold water and hang them to dry on the windowsill. Over the course of six months, the prisoners were permitted to go outside for yard time only twice, with each session lasting ten minutes. The quality of the food was dreadful: breakfast consisted of three slices of toast with a small amount of cheese, lunch included either three slices of toast or sometimes just one slice, and dinner offered either chocolate or three slices of bread accompanied by a cucumber or tomato. Occasionally, the bread was found to be moldy.[51]

Subsequently, the prisoner was relocated to Megiddo Prison, where raids occurred nearly every day, averaging around three times weekly. He reported that the guards would occasionally bring dogs, hurl insults, and assault prisoners with belts and sticks, sometimes employing rubber bullets. They would also force prisoners into corners during these assaults. The prisoner also recounted that on 1 January 2025, prison guards invaded his section accompanied by dogs and the Yamaz unit, with roughly 11 soldiers per cell. They assaulted prisoners and utilized stun grenades and tear gas. The tear gas from the adult section caused the prisoners in his cell to experience suffocation. Within his cell, prisoners were called out, herded into a corner, beaten with shields, and sprayed with pepper spray. The assaults persisted in each cell for approximately fifteen minutes.

In a separate raid, the Keter unit invaded the juvenile section, where four to five stun grenades were deployed. Soldiers attacked the doors and sprayed pepper spray inside the rooms. The raid lasted from dawn until breakfast time. The prisoner noted that some prisoners experienced shortness of breath and were later transferred to the clinic after enduring beatings, including strikes to the genitals.

Among the instances of prisoners being used as human shields was the case of prisoner S. N. Despite a lawyer submitting a request to reveal his location, the Israeli army denied his arrest, and he was released after more than a month. Following his arrest on 23 March 2025, he received direct death threats if he refused to serve as a human shield during home searches. He was warned, "You must enter the house, and if you do not comply, we will shoot you in the head and end your life swiftly."[52]

[51] An interview with prisoner M. I. on 27 March 2025.
[52] An interview with prisoner S. N. on 18 May 2025.

During his detention, he was compelled to don a uniform that closely resembled military attire, which included an olive-green shirt, trousers, and a cap. Upon his completion of entering a house, soldiers would subsequently follow him inside. After they had conducted their search, they would proceed to handcuff him, shackle his feet, and blindfold him. This harrowing experience endured for 48 days, during which he faced repeated threats, including four instances where he came perilously close to death. On one occasion, while he was inside a house, a bulldozer was used to demolish it, resulting in part of the structure collapsing onto him. In another incident, he found himself on the first floor of a house when a tank discharged artillery at it.

Throughout the house-to-house searches, the soldiers would trail him for approximately 30 meters, occasionally even accompanying him inside the tanks. When he attempted to refuse entry into the houses, he would be forcibly returned to the location where he had previously been detained and subjected to beatings with hands and various objects.



Women Behind Bars: Systematic Oppression and Ongoing Suffering in Israeli Prisons



Since the onset of the genocide, Israeli occupation forces have intensified their systematic arrest campaigns targeting Palestinian women across various regions. This targeting is not confined to a particular age demographic; rather, it encompasses women from a wide range of social backgrounds, including minors. By the end of 2025, a total of 49 women were incarcerated in Damon Prison, among them two who had been detained prior to the genocide, two minors, 16 women held under administrative detention, and 24 mothers.

This year has seen an unparalleled increase in the severity of repression and maltreatment directed at female prisoners, beginning with the interrogation phase and extending through their temporary confinement in Hasharon Prison, ultimately leading to their permanent detention in Damon Prison, which has evolved into an arena of genocide. Such abuses include torture at various levels, starvation, denial of medical care and sleep, repression and humiliation, deprivation through various means, and sexual violence, particularly harassment and strip searches.

Since the start of the year, the searches on female prisoners in Damon Prison have taken on an exceedingly violent character. The cells of these women have been raided both day and night, occasionally with the use of tear gas. The prisoners were handcuffed with their arms behind their backs and their heads bowed, subjected to degrading strip searches in the bathrooms, and compelled to remain standing in the yard for prolonged periods during the late-night hours. These actions are part of a wider strategy involving starvation, physical assaults, and both arbitrary and administrative detention. Since the beginning of the year, the occupying authorities have markedly increased their reliance on administrative detention, while also broadening the application of incitement charges as an additional mechanism to heighten repression and target female prisoners.

Simultaneously, the female prisoners experience a critical lack of essential items, particularly prayer garments. These are not supplied adequately, and when they are, they often consist of small headscarves that fail to cover the body properly. Recently, one prisoner had to use a blanket for coverage when going outside due to this deficiency. Furthermore, the female prisoners face a significant shortage of sanitary pads, with each cell receiving merely one pack weekly, which is grossly inadequate to satisfy their basic requirements. The prisoners requested a clock to keep track of time, and the administration only partially addressed this need by providing a single clock for one cell. However, this clock was later confiscated during a search of the cell.[53]

The prison administration exhibits a lack of regard for pregnant female prisoners. In a testimony from one prisoner, she describes her harrowing experience upon her arrival at the prison, where she underwent a strip search followed by an assault from three female guards. She was struck in the eye and mouth until she bled, and her right leg was hit below the knee. The aftermath of the assault is still evident; her eye has turned a dark purple, and her leg is swollen with purple spots. She also endures ongoing pain in her scalp due to her hair being forcefully yanked. During the assault, she cried out, asserting her pregnancy, and placed her hand on her abdomen in a bid to shield her unborn child, yet this did not deter the aggression. Subsequently, the guards cleaned the blood from the floor, and one of them offered her a glass of water. When she declined to drink it because of the bleeding in her mouth, the guards splashed the water onto her face.[54]

Moreover, the female prisoners endure extreme cold within the prison. The blankets provided are thin and inadequate for warmth, and only a third blanket was issued in December 2025, while the windows remained perpetually open. During winter, the reinforced plastic was removed from the doors, worsening the cold conditions.[55]

[53] A lawyer's visit to prisoner F. M. in Damon Prison on 11 June 2025.
[54] A lawyer's visit to prisoner Z. K. in Damon Prison on 30 April 2025.
[55] An interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner D. H. on 28 February 2026.

Systematic Oppression of Female Prisoners in Israeli Jails: Physical Assaults and Strip Searches -The Case of D. H.[56]

Female prisoners in Israeli detention centers have experienced systematic physical and psychological violations, as the prison authorities have employed direct repression and abuse during raids and searches. Accounts from female prisoners disclose inhumane torture techniques, such as violent dragging, beatings, and strip searches, leading to physical injuries and enduring psychological trauma.

Prisoner D. H. reported that the cells in Damon Prison were often invaded by guards, sometimes accompanied by the Yamaz unit and dogs. The operation involved storming the cells sequentially, compelling the prisoners to lie face down with their hands bound behind their backs, and subsequently dragging them one by one to the yard, pulling their shoulders backward. This inflicted severe pain and resulted in fractures and other physical injuries for some prisoners.

During one such raid, D. H. was unable to stand, prompting the guards to violently pull her by the shoulder, which caused her prolonged suffering. Another prisoner experienced a dislocated shoulder during the same event, while a third sustained a leg injury. A fourth prisoner was dragged forcefully, exposing her back and hair to the guards, which caused her pain for several months without receiving medical attention at the prison clinic. One of the female prisoners was struck on her back and in the uterine area by a female soldier named Lauren, despite her existing health issues, which worsened her condition.

After being dragged, some prisoners were taken to the bathroom for strip searches, while others were compelled to kneel or lie face down in the yard for durations ranging from half an hour to an hour. Any attempt to alter their position was met with beatings. The prison director, Almond, also took part in these physical assaults against several female prisoners, employing kicks and punches. The purported objective was to 'search the rooms,' while the true intention was to inflict torture and humiliation. These occurrences were frequently recorded on camera.

Recording Visual Abuses Against Palestinian Detainees and Employing Them as a Means of Intimidation

Since 7 October 2023, Israeli occupation forces have have routinely taken photographs with Palestinian detainees during their arrests, transfers, or periods of detention, engaging in practices that undermine their human dignity. Furthermore, videos from within prisons have emerged, revealing various instances of torture and ill-treatment. These recordings are often paired with images disseminated by Israeli media, which depict soldiers grinning derisively alongside blindfolded detainees, including Umm al-Baraa Ayyash

[56] Ibid.

Such images and videos are integral to the apparatus of repression, designed to convert the physical presence and suffering of prisoners into instruments of public intimidation, thereby instilling fear within Palestinian society. This is particularly evident in the portrayal of scenes that illustrate the physical and psychological violence inflicted upon prisoners during their detention, as well as in images showcasing prisoners exhibiting severe malnutrition due to the brutal conditions of their confinement—an implicit warning that this fate awaits anyone who dares to oppose the occupation..[57]

The extensive quantity of these videos underscores the transformation of the arrest experience into a consciously orchestrated public spectacle, commencing from the moment of violent apprehension to the subsequent detention in cells that lack even the most fundamental needs. These depictions manifest as a recurring performance, perpetuated to strengthen a system of domination, wherein the body of the prisoner is used as a tool to reshape collective consciousness and enforce control—not merely in a physical sense, but also psychologically and cognitively—by fostering obedience and submission through overt intimidation..[58]

From Bars to Freedom: The Prisoner Exchange Deal

Over a year and a half following the genocide perpetrated by the Israeli occupation state in the Gaza Strip, a ceasefire agreement was established. Although this agreement was intended to enter into force on 19 January 2025, the occupying authorities their obligations under the agreementand resumed their genocidal campaign.

The agreement was designed in three successive phases, each spanning forty-two days. The initial phase called for a comprehensive ceasefire, the initiation of a prisoner exchange that included humanitarian cases, and the organization of humanitarian aid delivery to Gaza. The second phase sought to establish a permanent ceasefire and to continue the exchange of living prisoners, while the third phase concentrated on the exchange of remains and the establishment of mechanisms for the reconstruction of Gaza.

Nevertheless, the occupying power failed to uphold its contractual obligations, neglecting to implement the second and third phases of the agreement. The execution was confined to the first phase alone, during which 1,777 Palestinian prisoners were released in seven consecutive batches. An additional 1,968 prisoners were freed under the agreement finalized in October 2025, resulting in a cumulative total of 3,745 prisoners released throughout 2025. Among these, 383 were forcibly transferred or deported to Gaza or other countries.

[57] Mai Hamash and Basel Farraj. "Televised arrests: Violence and torture since 7 October." 14 April 2025. https://www.palestine-studies.org/ar/node/1657236
[58] Ibid.

Deportation under International Law

The deportation policy is central to the Israeli occupation project. This approach is not a novel occurrence; instead, it has been implemented by the occupying authorities for more than 75 years through methods of exile, transfer, deportation, and the forced displacement of the Palestinian populace, especially prisoners. The objective is to clear the Palestinian territories of their indigenous residents, modify their demographic structure, and reinforce control over the political, social, and cultural aspects of Palestinian life.

The former International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia characterized deportation as: "the forced displacement of civilians from the area in which they are lawfully present without justification permitted by international law."[59] Article 7(2)(d) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court describes it as: "the forced displacement of the persons concerned by expulsion or other coercive acts from the area in which they are lawfully present, without grounds permitted under international law."

As a result, deportation represents a blatant infringement of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention forbids the forcible transfer, whether individual or collective, of protected individuals, or their deportation from occupied territories to the territory of the occupying power, or to any other state, whether occupied or not, irrespective of the reasons. Additionally, deportation and forcible transfer are classified as serious violations under Article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and considered war crimes and crimes against humanity, as outlined in Articles 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts: "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile." This assertion affirms that deportation is an unlawful and prohibited act under international law, and its execution, irrespective of the circumstances or intentions, constitutes a crime against humanity and a war crime that necessitates international prosecution. Furthermore, it contravenes Articles 12 and 13 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which forbid forced exile and ensure the right to live freely and securely within one's own country.



[59] ICTY. "Prosecutor versus Radislav Krstic." Trial Chamber Judgment, 2 August 2001, paragraph 520.https://www.refworld.org/jurisprudence/caselaw/icty/2001/40159

The practice of deportation has been employed in prisoner exchange agreements as a tool to strip them of their national importance, leading to a qualitative shift in the negotiation philosophy. In contrast to the prisoner exchange agreements of the 1980s, where prisoners had the option to either stay in their homeland or depart, later policies, especially the 2011 agreement and those that followed, have established deportation as a prerequisite for liberation. This strategy seeks to displace prisoners from their militant surroundings and sever their connections to their social support base. Moreover, the occupying authorities intentionally diminish the symbolic value of these exchange agreements by converting the "victory of liberation" into "permanent exile," thereby attempting to undermine the accomplishments of the prisoner movement by keeping released prisoners in a state of both material and psychological instability, far removed from Palestine.[60]



[60] Al Jazeera Media Network. "Security ban deprives deported Palestinians of their families." 17 April 2026. https://tinyurl.com/32bae8k9

Violations Accompanying the 2025 Prisoner Exchange Deal

As is customary, the Israeli occupation authorities intentionally target prisoners who have been released as part of these agreements following each prisoner exchange with Palestinian factions. They do so by re-arresting these individuals, disregarding the guarantees that have been established and agreed upon with the parties facilitating the exchange deals. Frequently, the occupation authorities present what they refer to as secret files, based on which the released prisoners are prosecuted and returned to their previous life sentences, as was the case with the prisoners released under the Wafa al-Ahrar deal in 2011. After the release of 1,027 Palestinian male and female prisoners, approximately 70 were re-arrested, and secret files were presented against 49 of them to invalidate their release, reflecting the ongoing persecution of those who have been released. Currently, under the terms of the latest agreement, the occupation authorities have opted to permanently deport these 49 re-arrested prisoners abroad, thereby continuing a series of arbitrary measures imposed upon them.

Furthermore, the Israeli occupation has re-arrested at least 40 prisoners who were released in the 2025 prisoner exchange agreements. These individuals were interrogated in the field; some were subsequently released, while others remained in detention, with the majority subjected to administrative detention. Among those affected is Wael al-Jaghoub, who was rearrested on 6 May 2025 and subsequently placed under administrative detention for six months, a term that was later extended for an additional six months. Others include Ahmad Khashan, Ahmad Bashar Abu Aliya, and Samah Hajjawi. Moreover, the occupation authorities have brought charges against Reda Obeid, a minor from Jerusalem, resulting in a sentence of two years and eleven months in prison.

The policy of rearresting prisoners who have been released as part of exchange agreements, under the guise of breaching the conditions of their conditional release, has been formalized through Israeli military directives. In 2009, Article 186 of Military Order 1651 was introduced, permitting the rearrest of Palestinian prisoners released in exchange deals to serve the remainder of their original sentences, as dictated by a specialized military committee. The basis for these rearrests remains undisclosed; instead, it relies on a confidential file that is inaccessible to both the detainee and their legal representative.[61]



[61] Addameer. "Fact sheet: Article 186 of Military Order 1651." 27 August 2015. https://addameer.ps/ar/node/1990

The occupation's focus on prisoners released through exchange agreements does not stop with rearrest; it also encompasses their assassination, particularly those who have been deported to the Gaza Strip. Since the onset of the genocide in October against the Gaza Strip, the occupation forces have targeted the residences of released prisoners who were deported to Gaza. This has resulted in the deaths of several prisoners, along with their family members, including Mahmoud Abu Sirriya, Bilal Zaraa, Amjad Abu Arqub, Riyad Asaliya, Mahmoud Dahbour, and Basel Al-Himouni, all of whom were released in the 2011 prisoner exchange known as the "Wafa al-Ahrar" (Faithful to the Free) agreement and subsequently deported to Gaza. Among those killed was Naji Abayat, one of the individuals deported from the Church of the Nativity.

This targeting extends beyond just the released prisoners; it also affects their families. The occupation authorities have barred hundreds of relatives of prisoners from traveling to reunite with their sons upon their release as part of the exchange agreement. This tactic illustrates a systematic policy of psychological deprivation. The anticipated joy and reunion following years of incarceration have been transformed into an experience of disappointment and loss, underscoring the persistence of discrimination and collective punishment even after the release of prisoners. For instance, the intelligence services of the occupying forces obstructed the wife of former prisoner Nael Barghouti from traveling to Egypt to reunite with him, and similarly barred the family of former prisoner Ashraf Khalil Hussein Abu al-Rub from visiting their deported son, a predicament that affects numerous other families of deported prisoners.

In a heartfelt account, the brother of prisoner Khaled Khadish, who is serving a life sentence and has been incarcerated for nearly 23 years, stated: "I have not seen my brother for 23 years, and my mother—who is nearly 90 years old—has not seen him for about 20 years. Now, as the date for his release approaches as part of the prisoner exchange agreement, they have restricted my travel for security reasons. It is not only me; many families of prisoners here have faced similar travel restrictions."[62] Ashraf Abu al-Rub's mother, who is approximately eighty years old, conveyed her dismay after being banned from traveling to see her son, stating, "I have longed for the moment I would embrace him after all these years, but the occupation is robbing me of this happiness. I cannot understand how they can prevent me from traveling merely to visit my son, who has endured so many years in prison. This is a profound injustice that no human being should endure."[63]

[62] Al-Quds Al-Arabi newspaper. "The occupation authorities ban families from traveling to meet the deported prisoners," 21 February 2025.
[63] Ibid.

Ill-treatment of Prisoners upon Release

The accounts provided by the prisoners released as part of the agreement largely supported one another. They all concurred that their ordeal started from the very first moments of their release. Initially, they faced assaults in the prison where they were detained before being moved to Ofer or Naqab prisons, from which they were eventually freed.

Prior to his transfer, prisoner M. M. experienced severe violence in Rimon Prison. During a strip search, a guard seized his neck and forcefully slammed his head against the wall, while three other guards repeatedly kicked him in the stomach, inflicting intense pain in his lower abdomen. Subsequently, when he was moved to another section of the same prison, a guard dragged him to a corner and cautioned him, "Be careful," before forcefully hitting his head against the corner, resulting in a significant laceration on the top of his head. He was then violently pulled back into the section, during which he stumbled and fell, along with the guard. The prisoner recounted this experience as a living nightmare. The doors were shut, and four guards assaulted him, delivering repeated kicks. One guard struck him forcefully in the side. Upon entering the section, he discovered another prisoner lying on the floor, utterly exhausted from the beating he had received. Noticing the large wound on his head, he refrained from seeking medical assistance or disinfection due to the fear of being dragged out again and was compelled to endure the pain.[64]

Two days prior to his release, the prisoner was taken to the clinic for an examination, where it was revealed that he had lost approximately 11 kilograms. When questioned about his injury, he claimed it was due to a fall, omitting any mention of being assaulted by the guards, as he feared potential repercussions. Following the medical assessment, he was interviewed by the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency), alongside approximately 30 other prisoners. During this interview, he was not required to sign any documents, as the prisoners had previously consented to refrain from signing any papers that could result in their re-arrest and to meticulously review any document presented to them before affixing their signatures. The interview contained implicit threats, including assurances that the prisoner was under surveillance and could be targeted at any moment, even through drone strikes. An initial interview was arranged for 9 February 2025, with a subsequent one scheduled for 2 March as part of the procedures leading up to his final release.

On the day of his release, at approximately 2:00 a.m., the prisoner was escorted to the waiting areas at Ofer Prison, where signs displaying biblical verses in both Hebrew and Arabic were prominently featured. One such verse stated: "The eternal people will triumph, pursue their enemies, and seize them.

[64] An interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner M. M. on 16 February 2025.

The prisoners were also provided with wristbands bearing the same biblical verse, while their clothing was adorned with racist slogans such as "We will never forget, and we will never forgive," serving as a threat to pursue them even post-release. Every moment during that time was permeated with fear and anguish, both physical and psychological. The experience of release, which ought to have been a moment of joy and relief, was instead transformed into a continuous cycle of suffering. This situation has resulted in enduring consequences for the prisoner's physical and mental well-being, with feelings of fear and pain lingering even after his release.

The female prisoners experienced similar ill-treatment. On their release day, 19 January 2025, some underwent strip searches, while others were screened with a magnetometer. Subsequently, they were taken for medical evaluations. Following this, each prisoner met individually with the prison director before being handed over to the Nahshon unit, which conducted strip searches in the lawyers' room. Their hands were tightly restrained in front of them, inflicting severe pain, and these restraints remained until 11:00 p.m. The prisoners were then transferred to Ofer Prison. Upon their arrival at Ofer, their suffering commenced, as recounted by the female prisoners.

They were violently extracted from the prison van and were intentionally terrorized by dogs. The dogs were unleashed to attack the prisoners before being restrained. Given the advanced age of some prisoners and their inability to walk, they were dragged along the ground. They were yanked by their hair and compelled to raise their hands above their heads while bowing their heads, showing no consideration for their age or health. Subsequently, they were taken to the yard, where there was a significant presence of Nahshon and Yamaz forces, along with numerous prison guards. They were then confined in a cage that was open on all sides and filled with dirt. A large television screen exhibited images implying the assassination of Sinwar, Marwan Issa, Ismail Haniyeh, Hassan Nasrallah, Mohammad Deif, and Saleh al-Arouri, alongside footage depicting the devastation wrought upon the Jenin Refugee Camp, Tulkarm, Tubas, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, and Gaza, accompanied by the Hebrew phrase "This is not a victory," translated into Arabic.[65]

The ill-treatment, physical assaults, and degradation experienced by the prisoners upon their release were not simply random occurrences; instead, they constituted a calculated strategy designed to exact vengeance and deprive them of the long-anticipated joy of freedom. The suffering that the prisoners faced was a desperate effort to rob them of a fundamentally human experience, turning it into a moment of anguish and undermining their dignity even at the point of their liberation. Nonetheless, their dignity persists unyieldingly, for freedom, despite the taint of its moment, is ultimately more powerful than any efforts to

[65] An affidavit collected by Addameer from prisoner H. H on 27 January 2025.

Harassment and Threats Directed at Families of Prisoners Awaiting Release

The families of individuals released through recent prisoner exchange agreements have endured a range of systematic abuses, which include insults and overt threats, home invasions, and restrictions on receiving visitors and friends. These actions are intended to instill fear in the families and disrupt their psychological and social well-being. In one incident, approximately 15 soldiers, both male and female, invaded the residence of the father of prisoner A. Z. merely two hours following his release. The incursion commenced in the yard, where they damaged the stairs. When the prisoner's father attempted to inquire of the officer the reason for the raid, the officer forcefully shoved him in the chest with his rifle.

The soldiers then conducted a thorough search of the residence, seizing various possessions, including 6,000 shekels kept in a wardrobe. They also inflicted considerable damage on the property. The raid persisted for approximately thirty minutes, during which A. Z., the brother of the released prisoner, was taken into custody. Upon reaching out to the officer overseeing the arrests, it became evident that the accusation against him was related to his involvement in a flag-raising march, lacking any substantial charges or concrete evidence. This indicates that the arrest served as a tactic to intimidate the families of released prisoners, particularly immediately following their release.[66]

Later that same evening, soldiers once again stormed the home of the prisoner's father while the family was present. During this operation, they restrained all family members with handcuffs and compelled them to sit on the floor, subsequently proceeding to break and destroy various items within the house. This ordeal lasted for approximately two hours. On that same night, the residence of the prisoner's uncle in Beit Hanina, Jerusalem, was also invaded; his vehicle was wrecked, the house sustained damage, and his 24-year-old son was assaulted. The uncle was taken into custody as well. The home of the prisoner's paternal cousin was also raided, resulting in the arrest of two of his sons and the confiscation of money and jewelry.

After the gathering held for the freed prisoner, 13 individuals were arrested that evening, comprising nine relatives and four acquaintances. A few days later, the detainees were presented in court. The detention of the prisoner's brother and cousin was extended, while the remaining 11 were placed under house arrest for a week and mandated to pay a bail of 2,000 shekels each, as evidenced by photographs captured during the gathering. It is important to highlight that four of the detainees, who were family friends, had neither photographs nor charges filed against them and were detained as a precautionary measure.

[66] An interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner M. Z. on 12 February 2025.

Revocation of Jerusalem Residency and Israeli Citizenship from Jerusalemite Prisoners and Released Palestinians

Since the occupation of Palestinian territory, the Israeli occupation authorities have implemented a strategy of forced displacement and have systematically revoked residency permits for Palestinians in Jerusalem. This is particularly evident through a series of discriminatory laws and regulations that reinforce the apartheid system established since their unlawful occupation. These actions are part of a larger agenda to imposing a new demographic reality in Jerusalem, aimed at controlling the city and changing its demographic composition. In accordance with this strategy, in 2010, the authorities annulled the Jerusalem residency rights of several members of the Change and Reform bloc, including MPs Ahmad Attoun, Mohammad Abu Tair, and Mohammad Totah, as well as the former Minister of Jerusalem Affairs, Engineer Khaled Abu Arafeh. These individuals were forcibly expelled, which has been the center of their lives and residences.

International law recognizes Jerusalem as an occupied city, and the occupying power is prohibited from forcibly displacing its original residents or separating them from their families and children under any circumstances. The provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention concerning the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War apply to these residents. Consequently, the expulsion of Jerusalemites, including those who are imprisoned, represents a blatant violation of international law and humanitarian norms, categorizing these actions as discriminatory collective punishment policies.

These regulations fall within a number of laws designed to annul permanent residency (Jerusalem ID) or Israeli citizenship for Palestinians living in occupied Jerusalem or the territories seized in 1948. Among these, Article 11 of the Law of Entry into Israel stands out, as it grants the Israeli Minister of the Interior the power to revoke a permanent residency permit if he believes that the holder (Jerusalem ID) has engaged in actions that constitute a breach of trust towards the State of Israel. On 7 March 2018, this article was amended to empower the Minister of the Interior to revoke permanent residency (Jerusalem ID) from any individual accused by the occupying forces of perpetrating a terrorist act, as defined by Israeli law, or of committing an act deemed treasonous against the State of Israel, or of being an active participant in a terrorist organization as per Israeli criteria, or of an organization classified as terrorist by Israel.



This amendment impacts a significant number of Palestinian organizations. The residency of released prisoner Salah Hamouri was annulled, leading to his deportation to France in 2022. The Knesset enacted a new amendment on 15 February 2023, stipulating that the citizenship or residency permit of any individual convicted of what Israel designates as "terrorism," based on its definition of terrorism ratified by the Knesset in 2016, or in accordance with Articles 97, 98, and 99 of the Penal Code, may be revoked. This applies if the convicted individual has received direct or indirect financial support from the Palestinian Authority. Following the revocation, the individual is relocated to areas governed by the Palestinian Authority and its Legislative Council. Under this law, where the prescribed conditions are met, the Minister of the Interior must notify the person within seven working days of his intention to request the revocation of their citizenship from the court, or of his intention to revoke their permanent residency permit. The affected individual is allotted seven working days to reply. The court is mandated to render a final decision within 30 days.[67]

In accordance with the provisions and amendments of the law, the Israeli Minister of the Interior has initiated actions to revoke the Jerusalem residency/Israeli citizenship of numerous Jerusalemite prisoners, including those released in the 2025 prisoner exchange agreement and those currently detained. Among these individuals are Khaled Qatina, Ahmad Obaid (who was deported to Egypt), Majdi al-Zaatari, Murad al-Ajlouni, Musa Sarahnah, Ibrahim Sarahnah, Rashid al-Rishq, Mohammad Hammad al-Salihi, Mohammad Ahmad Hussein al-Halsa, Bilal Mohammad Mustafa al-Jabari, Mohammad Ali Musa, and Mohammad Ali Atoun. This information is based on documented evidence we have obtained, and we recognize that there are additional cases involving various authorities that we have not been able to investigate.

Moreover, on 7 November 2024, legislation was enacted authorizing the "expulsion" of a family member of a resistance fighter if they either publicly endorse or possess prior knowledge of an impending attack. According to this law, a family member of a Palestinian resistance fighter may be expelled to Gaza or to another location designated by the Israeli Ministry of the Interior, contingent upon the specific circumstances. This applies if the family member is aware or should be aware that their relative plans to carry out an attack, or if they have shown support for or commended the attack or any organization that Israel classifies as "terrorist." The duration of expulsion for Israeli citizens is set at a minimum of seven years and a maximum of fifteen years, whereas for individuals holding permanent or temporary residency permits, the expulsion period ranges from a minimum of ten years to a maximum of twenty years.[68]

[67] To review Article 11 of the Law of Entry into Israel, see: https://www.nevo.co.il/law_html/law01/189_003.htm#Seif40

[68] Madar. "Final reading: Expulsion of a member of a resistance family if they voice their support or knew about the attack before it occurred." 7 November 2024. https://tinyurl.com/5fepmhjz

In accordance with this law, the Israeli Minister of the Interior has declared his intention to revoke the residency of three individuals from Jerusalem and deport them from the city, citing the rationale of "supporting terrorism" and affiliation with "terrorist families." The individuals in question are Zeina Barbar, a former prisoner, Tasneem Odeh, who remains in detention, and Mohammad Abu Al-Hawa, who is also still detained. They have been notified of the Minister's intention to revoke their residency. This process is regarded as a significant infringement and a blatant violation of international standards, as the three detainees were prosecuted retroactively for actions attributed to them before the law's enactment, which has thus far hindered the occupying authorities from finalizing the review and revocation processes.

In relation to the revocation of permanent residency from residents of Jerusalem, HaMoked filed a request with the Ministry of the Interior in January 2025, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Law, seeking information regarding instances of permanent residency revocation affecting East Jerusalem Palestinians throughout 2024. In a response dated 1 September 2025, the Ministry indicated that Israeli authorities had revoked the residency of 60 East Jerusalem Palestinians in 2024, which included 33 women and three minors.

These statistics are comparable to those from 2023, during which 61 individuals lost their legal status. Based on data supplied by the Ministry of the Interior over the years, from 1967 to 2024, Israel has revoked the residency of 14,929 East Jerusalem Palestinians, citing the reason that their residency had "automatically expired."[69]

[69] HaMoked. "Revocation of permanent residency in 2024: 60 East Jerusalem Palestinians were stripped of their permanent residency status as part of Israel's "quiet deportation" policy." 2 September 2025. https://hamoked.org/document.php?dID=Updates2512