



**'YOU ARE THE ENEMY, WE ARE AT WAR, THERE
WILL BE NO RELEASE.'**

**THE MASS ARREST AND SYSTEMIC TORTURE OF
PALESTINIAN DETAINEES IN THE WEST BANK, THE
HIDDEN SIDE OF ISRAEL'S ONGOING GENOCIDE**





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Executive summary

Since October 7, 2023, Israel has dramatically escalated its use of mass arrest, arbitrary detention, and systemic torture against Palestinians. More than 18,500 Palestinians from the West Bank and East Jerusalem have been arrested in the biggest campaign of mass arrest since the second intifada. Today, more than 11 000 Palestinians are detained in Israeli occupation prisons and detention centers, including more than 3,500 administrative detainees held without charge or trial based on a “secret” file. Up until now, the number of Palestinian detainees from Gaza remain unknown.

While Israel is committing its genocide in Gaza, Palestinians all over the occupied territories, including the West Bank and East Jerusalem are being subjected to arbitrary arrests, detention and torture. This report particularly focuses on the arrest and detention of Palestinians from the West Bank and East Jerusalem to underline the continuity between the genocidal acts committed in Gaza and the violations committed in the West Bank.

Inside Israeli prisons and detention centers, Palestinians are subjected to constant violence, organized at every stage of the detention from their arrest to their release, including during their transport, arrival in prison, interrogation, movements, transfers, and in their daily life in prison. Torture is at the center of the Israeli occupation carceral system.

Addameer, based on testimonies of Palestinian detainees from the West Bank and East Jerusalem, has documented a drastic increase in the use of widespread physical torture, psychological abuse, sexual violence, and inhumane detention conditions since October 7, 2023. Violence is systemic with constant violent cell raids, intense beatings at prisoners' arrival in prison, violence during transfers and movement of detainees, including with the prison, as well as extreme inhuman detentions conditions: prolonged solitary confinement, overcrowding of cells, denial of family visits, starvation policies, and medical neglect. Testimonies also reveal an increasing use of sexual violence against detainees including detainees being raped, sexually assaulted, forced into degrading positions, beaten on the genitals, and threatened with the rape of family members. These methods aim to destroy detainees physically and psychologically and dismantle the Palestinian social fabric.



This regime of detention and torture cannot be understood in isolation. It is directly linked to Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza. The systemic torture and inhumane conditions inflicted on Palestinian detainees reinforce this genocidal project by preventing any political action, targeting Palestinian identity, and destroying prisoners' physical and mental health. Senior Israeli officials have explicitly incited violence against detainees, describing them as "human animals" and pledging to worsen prison conditions as a matter of state policy. The violence in prisons is not incidental, but an integral part of Israel's broader policy of domination.

The evidence presented in this report, based on detainee testimonies, establishes that Israeli authorities are committing grave breaches of international law. The systematic use of torture, sexual violence and inhumane detention conditions amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts of genocide. The prison system operates as an extension of the battlefield - designed to collectively punish, terrorize, and eliminate Palestinians. These practices constitute a deliberate and calculated policy of domination, collective punishment, and suppression of opposition to Israel's occupation, colonization, and genocide.

About Addameer

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association is a Palestinian non-governmental, civil institution that works to support Palestinian political prisoners held in Israeli and Palestinian prisons. Established in 1991 by a group of activists interested in human rights, the center offers free legal aid to political prisoners, advocates their rights at the national and international level, and works to end torture and other violations of prisoners' rights through monitoring, legal procedures and solidarity campaigns.

The Programs of Addameer:

Legal Aid Unit: Addameer's lawyers provide free legal representation and advice to Palestinian detainees and their families and work on strategic litigation on cases of torture, violations of fair trials guarantees and other violations of prisoners' rights.

Documentation and Research Unit: Addameer documents violations committed against Palestinian detainees and monitors their detention conditions through regular prison visits. The organization also collects detailed statistics and information on detainees, which serve as the basis for its annual and thematic publications.

International advocacy Unit: The unit publishes statements and urgent appeals on behalf of detainees, brief international delegations and the media, and submits reports and individual complaints to the United Nations. The unit also works towards building local, regional and international solidarity campaigns to oppose arbitrary detention and torture while supporting the rights of Palestinian prisoners.

Training and Awareness Unit: Addameer raises local awareness of prisoners' rights by training Palestinian lawyers on the laws and procedures used in Israeli military courts; by increasing the prisoners' own knowledge of their rights; and by supporting grassroots human rights-based activism.



Introduction

Building up on decades of state violence and mass crimes committed against Palestinians - including the Nakba, the Naksa, the repression of both intifada and the great march of return, the wars on Gaza in 2008, 2012 and 2014, the occupation, colonization of Palestine and the apartheid, - Israel launched its genocidal war in Gaza on October 7, 2023. Since then, Israel has killed more than 60 000 Palestinians in Gaza,¹ destroyed 92% of the territory's buildings,² imposed a man-made famine,³ killed more than a thousand and four hundred Palestinians waiting for humanitarian aid,⁴ killed more than 230 journalists,⁵ and arbitrarily arrested more than **18,500 Palestinians**, from the West Bank and East Jerusalem.⁶ Through killing and causing serious injuries, and through effectively creating conditions of lives for Palestinians calculated to bring about their physical destruction, Israel has been implementing a genocide in Gaza for the past two years.

The ongoing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza has had profound impact all over occupied Palestine with the global ramping up of grave human rights violations by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) across all occupied Palestinian territories (oPt). Military operations have surged, particularly in camps, including Nour Shams Camp (Tulkarm) and Jenin Camp, accompanied by campaigns of mass arrests, torture, and arbitrary detention.

Since the beginning of the genocide, Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) have dramatically escalated their practice of mass arrest and arbitrary detention of Palestinians. This increase spans across all occupied Palestine including the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza

1 Tala Ramadan, "Palestinian death toll from Israeli military offensive in Gaza surpasses 60,000", Reuters, July 29, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/palestinian-death-toll-israeli-military-offensive-gaza-surpasses-60000-2025-07-29/>.

2 "Gaza: Destruction of Vital Lifting Gear Halts Search for Thousands Buried under Rubble." UN News, 22 Apr. 2025, news.un.org/en/story/2025/04/1162491.

3 "Updates: Israel Kills 73 Palestinians in Gaza, Starvation Toll Rises to 227." Al Jazeera, 12 Aug. 2025, www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2025/8/12/live-israel-pounds-gaza-5-year-old-palestinian-child-dies-from-hunger.

4 "Gaza: Nearly 1,400 Palestinians Killed While Seeking Food, as UN Warns Airdrops Are No Solution." UN News, 1 Aug. 2025, news.un.org/en/story/2025/08/1165552.

5 "Joint letter to end the forced starvation and targeted killing of journalists in Gaza", Committee to Protect Journalists, August 6, 2025, <https://cpj.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Joint-letter-to-end-the-forced-starvation-and-targeted-killing-of-journalists-in-Gaza.pdf>

6 "Palestinian Prisoners' Institutions Monthly Report, Arrests of Palestinians in Occupied West Bank & Jerusalem in July 2025", Addameer, August 10, 2025, <https://addameer.ps/news/5607>.

and applies to adults, children, men and women of all ages. **From October 7th 2023 until August 2025, Israel arrested more than 18,500 Palestinians, including more than 570 women and around 1,500 children.⁷ The total number of Palestinians detained in Israeli occupation prisons went from around 5 000 before October 7, 2023 to 11,100 today, including 450 children.⁸**

In order to massively arrest Palestinians from the Occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, Israel has systematically resorted to administrative detention, a form of detention where detainees are held without charges or trial and can be detained indefinitely. **Before October 7, 2023, approximately 1,320 Palestinians were detained under administrative detention, compared to 3,577 in September 2025, including 82 children.**

Alongside the campaigns of mass arrests, Addameer recorded an unprecedented rise in both the frequency and severity of torture, the systematic use of collective punishment against detainees and the imposition of new measures making detention conditions inhumane. Since the beginning of the genocide, brutal attacks by the Israeli Prison Services (IPS) inside Israeli occupation prisons have dramatically risen, as well as extreme physical and psychological violence and the use of sexualized torture against both male and female detainees. Addameer documented an increase of these attacks against Palestinian prisoners during key moments and dates

These violations have been conducted in a context of dehumanization of Palestinians by Israeli leaders, and of Palestinian prisoners in particular, as well as clear calls for genocide as early as October 8, 2023.

While the crimes committed against Palestinian detainees are well documented, Israeli occupation soldiers, police officers, prison guards and security service interrogators committing these crimes are never prosecuted. According to the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI), while more than 1,400 complaints of torture by the ISA interrogators⁹ were submitted to the Ministry of Justice since 2001, only three criminal investigations

7 Ibid.

8 See Addameer's statistics <https://www.addameer.ps/statistics/2025/09>

9 Also referred to as "Shabak" or "Shin Bet" interrogators



have been opened and all the cases were closed without a single indictment.¹⁰ 99% of investigations into IOF's torture and abuse against Palestinians fail to get any results, with a system of complete impunity for perpetrators of crimes against detainees, including torture.¹¹

The mass arrest of Palestinians, their dehumanization by Israeli leaders and the subsequent crimes committed against them - including torture, inhuman treatment, sexual violence and enforced disappearance, is part of Israel's ongoing genocide, the widespread and systematic attacks against Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt), its illegal occupation and colonization of Palestine and its system of apartheid.

Purpose of the report

This report aims at documenting the systematic use of torture by Israel, with a particular focus on acts of torture committed since the beginning of the ongoing genocide against detainees from the West Bank or arrested in the West Bank.

The report is part of Addameer's advocacy work to promote the respect of international law, the end of the illegal occupation and colonization of Palestine and the ongoing genocide and ensure the release of all Palestinian prisoners.

Methodology

This report describes the violations committed against Palestinian detainees and prisoners in Israeli occupation prisons and detention centers. It draws attention to the gross and systematic violations committed against them including arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, inhumane treatment and detention conditions. It draws attention to the link between the mass arrest and torture of Palestinians, the ongoing genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and the illegal occupation.

¹⁰ "Torture in Israel, situation report 2022", Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, <https://stoptorture.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/ENG.pdf>.

¹¹ "International Call to Action: Investigate the Sde Teiman Raid and Human Rights Violations Against Gaza Detainees.", Addameer, July 29, 2024, <https://addameer.ps/news/5382>.

For the purpose of this report, Addameer analyzed in-depth 17 testimonies from Palestinian detainees and former detainees held in Israeli occupation prisons and detention centers, conducted in person or by phone after October 7, 2023. All interviews of former detainees were conducted in safe locations in Arabic and later translated into English. All participants were informed about the purpose of the individual interviews, the ways that their responses may be used, and that their participation is voluntary, and received no payment, service, or other personal benefit. The names of detainees interviewed have been disguised with names and initials (which do not reflect real names), in the interest of the security of the individuals concerned.

Addameer also analyzed and included elements from their previous reports, as well as reports from UN agencies and UN Special Rapporteurs, other NGOs, and academic publications.

1. Systematic Arrests and Arbitrary Detention of Palestinians in the West Bank: A Tool of Domination, Collective Punishment, and Suppression of Opposition to the Ongoing Occupation, Colonization, and Genocide

Following October 7, 2023 the total number of Palestinians arrested in the West Bank, including East-Jerusalem, soared to 18,500, with more than 570 women and 1,500 children.¹² Israel has consistently refused to provide accurate information regarding the number of detainees from Gaza, their identities, their location and their detention conditions and has restricted access to military detention camps. Thus, this figure does not encompass all detainees from the Gaza Strip who are held in facilities under the control of the Israeli military, including Sde Teiman or Anatot camps.¹³ Many Palestinian detainees from Gaza continue to be held incommunicado detention, without any information provided about their status and whereabouts, effectively subjecting them to enforced disappearance. Moreover, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been barred from visiting Palestinian detainees, further obscuring information about them and their detention conditions. In

¹² “Palestinian Prisoners’ Institutions Monthly Report, Arrests of Palestinians in Occupied West Bank & Jerusalem in July 2025”, Addameer, August 10, 2025, <https://addameer.ps/news/5607>.

¹³ Ibid.

January 2025, the ICRC stated that it “has not been able to visit any Palestinian detainees held in Israeli places of detention since 7 October 2023.”, in violation of international law.



Pictures of Palestinian detainees held in Sde Teiman Camp, The Guardian, 2024.

In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the arbitrary arrest and subsequent detention of Palestinians frequently takes the form of administrative detention, a procedure under which detainees are held without charges or trial based on a “secret file” which they or their lawyer cannot access. A detainee is given a specific time of detention through a detention order, which can be renewed indefinitely.

Since October 7, 2023, A significant number of detainees have been placed under administrative detention or saw their administrative detention order renewed. **Before October 2023, approximately 1,320 Palestinians were detained under administrative detention, compared to 3,562 today, including about 39 children, and 8 women. This marks the highest number of administrative detainees since the first Intifada of 1987.**¹⁴

14 “10 Facts on Administrative Detention”, Addameer, May 11, 2015, <https://addameer.ps/Campaign/sheets-and-reports/10-facts-about-administrative-detention>.

Administrative detention has targeted various age groups and demographics and has affected journalists, former prisoners, activists, elderly people, children, and women. House arrests have been imposed on artists, journalists, and lawyers simply for voicing their opinions or participating in peaceful protests against the genocide in Gaza. This oppressive policy has also extended to children across various cities, with Jerusalem being especially impacted. Journalists, students, teachers, and community leaders have been particularly affected by the arrest campaigns.

For decades, administrative detention has been used to arbitrarily arrest and detain Palestinians en-masse and as an alternative to criminal proceedings. While administrative detention is systematically used against Palestinian detainees in the West Bank and East Jerusalem in military courts, Israeli citizens living in the same territories are never detained under the administrative detention regime and are tried in civilian courts inside Israel, making it a discriminatory practice. It is at the core of Israel's system of apartheid which imposes different legal systems and courts to Israelis and Palestinians living in the same territories.¹⁵

"We were placed in a cell in the same Nazareth police station, where we remained for three days. On the third day, we appeared before a judge via video link. A state-appointed lawyer was present, though I did not know his name. The judge decided to release us, but the police told us they would not free us until the war ended. (...) We were never taken to court after arriving at Ofer. Officers would tell us: 'You are the enemy, we are at war, and there will be no release.'" – **I.W.**, a Palestinian man from Jabilia arrested in October 2025 while sleeping in a workers' housing in Nazareth.

The mass arrest of Palestinians and their arbitrary detention is recurring during all uprisings, revolts, strikes, or wars, in particular on besieged Gaza. It is used as a method of collective punishment, control and to prevent any form of organizing and resistance to the illegal occupation and colonization of the oPt. Administrative detention is also used discriminatively against Palestinians as a form of collective punishment

15 "Escalating Oppression: Israel's Systematic Violations Intensify in Palestine Post-October 7", Addameer, January 23, <https://addameer.ps/node/5263>.



and control. Since October 7, 2023, Israel has massively arrested Palestinians and arbitrarily detained them as a form of collective punishment but also in order to control any opposition to the ongoing genocide and to enable the implementation of its genocide, as well as the continued colonization of the West Bank.

2. Unprecedented levels of torture as part of the ongoing genocide

Since October 7, 2023, Addameer documented an increase in the use of violence against Palestinians under the control or custody of the IOF, during their arrest, transfer, interrogation and while detained inside Israeli occupation prisons or detention centers. While Israel systematically uses violence against Palestinian detainees, the intensity and brutality of the violence used since the beginning of the ongoing genocide is unprecedented since the second intifada.

Torture is present at every step and moment of a prisoner's experience: when being arrested - including in front of their family members -, during the transport to their detention, during their interrogation, but also in their cells, when going to the infirmary, while taking their showers. Violence is omnipresent, organized and part of prisoners' lives. Addameer has documented hundreds of cases of use of violence amounting to torture and inhumane treatment against Palestinians. This includes the use of physical violence, psychological violence and sexual violence. The 18 testimonies analyzed in this report illustrate this trend.

1. Incitation and dehumanization of Palestinian detainees

Echoing general genocidal discourse against Palestinians from Gaza as a whole, detainees have been dehumanized by Israeli leaders. In 2023, the Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem Arieq King made public comments inciting genocide against Palestinians on his 'X' account and referred to Palestinian detainees as "Nazi rapists" who should be "buried alive". Referring to a series of pictures of Palestinian men from Gaza stripped to their underwear, blindfolded and held at gunpoint by Israeli soldiers, he stated that «They are not human beings and not even human animals, they are subhuman and that is how they should be treated,»¹⁶,

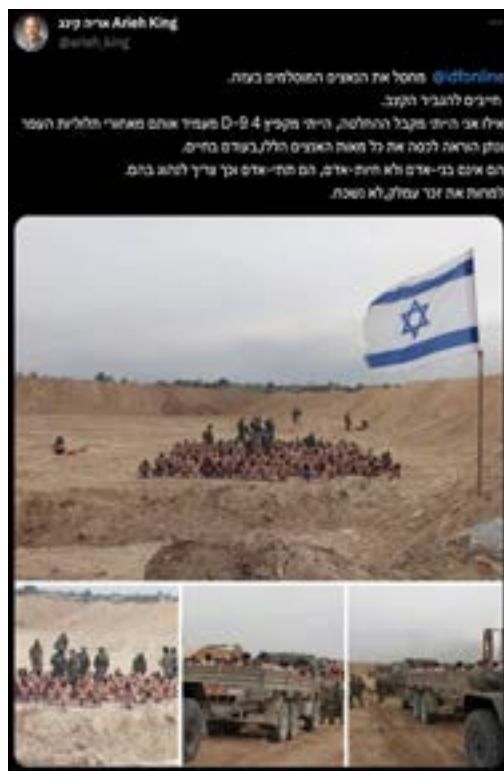
¹⁶ "Israeli official calls for burying alive <subhuman> Palestinian civilians", Middle East Eye, December 8, 2023, <https://www.middleeasteye.net/live-blog/live-blog-update/israeli-municipality-official-calls-burying-alive-subhuman-palestinian>

echoing Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant genocidal discourse of October 9, 2023: “We are fighting human animals – and we are acting accordingly.”¹⁷

Ben-Gvir a settler convicted of supporting a “terrorist organization” and inciting anti-Palestinian racism in 2008, currently serving as the Minister of national security, the Ministry in charge of the Israeli Prison Services (IPS), systematically refers to Palestinian detainees as “terrorist” as a way to dehumanize them and strengthen the public hatred. During a Supreme Court hearing in July 2025 on a petition filed by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) demanding an end to the systematic reduction of food provided to Palestinian detainees,

Ben-Gvir stated that he was here to “ensure that the ‘terrorists’ receive the minimum of the minimum (in food).”¹⁸ In February 2023, he publicly stated that “It’s unacceptable that terrorists, murderers of women and children, will get fresh pitas and fresh wraps, as if they were in a restaurant,” and ordered the end of the distribution of fresh pita bread to detainees. He also ordered the diminution of shower times to only 4 minutes per inmate.¹⁹ On July 2nd, 2024, he posted on X a statement detailing his policy of collective punishment and discrimination against Palestinian detainees: “*Since I took office as Minister of National Security, one of the top goals I have set for myself is to worsen the conditions of terrorists in prisons, and reduce their rights to the minimum required by law. (...)*”

At the same time, after the outbreak of the war, I finally managed to carry out the long-awaited reform. The conditions of the terrorists in prison were reduced to a minimum: we stopped the financial deposits, we canceled the canteens for the terrorists, we removed the



17 Post on “X” of Yoav Golla, October 9, 2023, <https://x.com/yoavgallant/status/1711335592942875097>.

18 Abdel Raouf Arnaout and Tarek Chouiref, “Israel’s Ben-Gvir boasts about starving Palestinian prisoners”, Anadolu Agency, July 17, 2025, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/israel-s-ben-gvir-boasts-about-starving-palestinian-prisoners/3634104>

19 “Ben Gvir said to order reduced shower time for terror inmates”, Times of Israel, February 14, 2023, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ben-gvir-said-to-order-reduced-shower-time-for-terror-inmates/>



*electrical appliances from the cells, we stopped the terrorist promenade, we dramatically reduced the time the terrorists spent in the showers, we canceled the speaker's status, we stopped the indulgent food menu, which was converted into a minimal menu, and in short - we completely stopped the camp conditions. Terrorists who are currently released from prison indicate that they will never want to return to an Israeli prison. The prisons of the State of Israel are no longer a sad joke."*²⁰

These statements and changes in detention policies have further deteriorated the situation of Palestinian detainees and reinforced a system that perpetuates the abuse of Palestinian detainees.

2. The use of torture during the arrest of Palestinians and their transfer to and between prisons or detention centers

Torture, mistreatment and terror during arrests

Since October 7, 2023, Addameer has documented hundreds of cases of arrests and transfer of detainees during which violence amounting to inhumane treatment or torture was used against Palestinians. This includes the use of physical violence, psychological violence and sexual violence.

During their arrests, Palestinians are systematically victims of excessive use violence, including intense beatings, slaps and kicks. Israeli occupation soldiers often use sticks, batons, arms and other objects to hit Palestinian detainees including in the head, the ribs and in their genitals. These acts of violence often happen in front of their family members in order to create terror amongst Palestinians and a feeling of helplessness. Addameer has also documented cases where violence was used against family members in front of the detainee as well as cases where soldiers purposely destroyed objects inside the house to create fear and helplessness for Palestinian detainees. When arrested, Palestinians are also victim of psychological torture including insults - notably racial insults and insults degrading their national identity, threats of violence and sexual violence.

²⁰ Post on "X" by Itamar Ben-Gvir, July 2, 2024, <https://x.com/itamarbengvir/status/1808031178277925263>

Furthermore, the OIF has been using dogs in arrest operations, with instances where these dogs intentionally attacked residents or were deliberately set loose by soldiers to harm those being arrested and their families and caused serious injuries.

The arrest marks Palestinian detainees' first entry into the Israeli carceral system of constant violence, mistreatment, collective punishment, fear and complete impunity.

I.W. is a Palestinian man from Jabilia in Gaza who works in the construction sector in Haifa. On October 10, 2025, he was arrested while sleeping in a worker housing in Nazareth : *"Our housing was raided by a group wearing olive-colored military uniforms. They were masked, armed, and there were about 15 of them. After opening the door, they stormed in. We told them, 'We are workers and we have permits,' but they forced us to the ground and began beating us with rifles, kicks, fists, and stomping on our heads with their boots.*

They concentrated the blows on my chest, and I felt afterwards that I had fractures in my chest because it became difficult to breathe. They focused on the head and chest, spitting on us and cursing us with extremely obscene insults. They stayed in the housing for about an hour, searching and vandalizing the place, destroying and breaking things, while continuing to beat us the entire time. Afterwards, they blindfolded us. They put a scarf they found in the housing over my whole head, making it hard to breathe, and since I have heart problems, I asked them to remove it. They refused, and one of them put a weapon to my head and threatened to kill me.

They arrested me in a shabeh position (stress position) and without shoes (I remained for 20 days like this without clothes or shoes). Then we were transferred to the police station in Nazareth, where they threw us into a room and continued the assault while our hands were bound behind our backs with plastic ties. They used every tool to beat us. I was blindfolded so I could not recognize who they were, their faces, or their uniforms. One of them jumped forcefully on my knees, kicked my ribcage with boots, and struck my head with the rifle butt, spitting on me, and hitting me with a stick on my backside. One rubbed my face into the ground with his boot. Our hands were tied behind our backs, and we were lying on our stomachs. This continuous assault lasted until around 7–8 a.m., when we were brought



before a police investigator. She asked about working in Israel without a permit, and we confirmed we had permits. That was the only matter she asked about.”

I.H., a Palestinian child from Ramallah was arrested at 14 years old. He was arrested in August 2024 by the **IOF** while on his way to the grocery store. He recounted his violent arrest: *“As I reached the store, I was surprised to see Israeli soldiers next to it, as they had not been in the area before. They attacked me, and I heard gunfire around us. Immediately, I ran away and entered a house in the area, which I had not known before.*

At that point, about nine Israeli soldiers chased me and another child. The soldiers then stormed the house, reached me in the yard, and tied my hands behind my back with plastic cuffs. They blindfolded me with a piece of cloth, and two or three soldiers assaulted me for about 10 minutes, beating me with their rifles on my face, nose, and the back of my head, as well as on my chest, back, and stomach.

After being forced to sit on my knees, they arrested me from inside the house where I had taken refuge in that area. They accused me and told me that I had thrown incendiary bottles (Molotov cocktails) at them. I was taken on foot to Ofer Prison, during which they insulted me with obscene words and forced me to repeat those insults. They also forced me to remain on my knees there for about three hours. Next to me was another child who was also sitting in the same position as I was.”



Pictures of the hands and arms of I.H. after his arrest and detention with visible marks

U.H., a 14 years-old Palestinian boy with arrested alongside I.H., he told Addameer about the arrest: "But we were surprised to find another group of soldiers next to the supermarket. They attacked us, and we ran and hid inside a nearby house.

About a minute later, the soldiers stormed the house we were hiding in. **Immediately, they began beating us with the butts of their rifles and punching us. There were two soldiers on top of me and two on top of Ibrahim. They struck me with the butt of the rifle on my chest and landed several punches to my face. Then they dragged us out to the courtyard of the house, insulted us, sat on my back and on I.H.'s back. I could not breathe as the soldier was on top of me.**

After that, they made us go down the stairs and took I.H. aside, speaking to him while beating him. Then they took me to a different spot and told me, "Your friend confessed



that you threw a lighter at the soldiers." **I denied it and told them, "I did not throw anything." One of them slapped me on the face and said, "You are a liar."**

Then they tied my hands behind my back with plastic zip-tie cuffs, tightening them very hard. They pulled my shirt over my head to cover my face, though I could still see a little. They then led us on foot to the Ofra military camp next to the village."

H.B., a stay-at-home mother from Ramallah was arrested in March 2024 in the middle of the night in her house, without being provided the reason for her arrest. She learned during her interrogation that she had been arrested for a Facebook post. She describes the arrest and the impact it had on her children: "I was arrested on **7 March 2024** at around 1:30 a.m. from my house. What happened was that we were asleep and did not sense the army surrounding the house because they entered without jeeps or military vehicles.

At first, my eldest daughter, 19 years old, woke up to the sound of someone banging on the door. Then she woke me and her father up. The door was being banged on violently. **My daughter went and opened the door, and as soon as she opened it, a rifle was pointed at her chest, which terrified her.**

Immediately, the soldiers stormed the house as we quickly got dressed. **My two younger daughters, aged 8 and 10, were sleeping in the bedroom. When they saw the soldiers crowding over their heads as they woke up, they started screaming and shaking with fear.** Their father immediately held them in his arms and sat with them to comfort them.

There were about 25–30 soldiers, including two female soldiers."

Torture during transfers and arrival in prisons

Palestinian prisoners are very often transferred across different cells, prisons and detention centers. This is a common practice which aims at creating a sense of instability for detainees, break solidarity movements, and to manage prisons due to overcrowding of detention places.

During detainees' transfer and arrival to prison and detention centers, Palestinian prisoners are particularly vulnerable to violence with torture and ill-treatment systematically employed by the IOF.

When arriving to a prison or detention center, Palestinians are subjected to intense beatings, mental abuse, threats and humiliation. In almost all testimonies, detainees recount being beaten at the very moment they arrive in a place of detention, including with rifles, kicks, punches. This practice marks a clear statement: violence against prisoners in Israeli occupation prison is a policy, and detainees must submit to it, live under constant fear of beatings, humiliations and psychological violence.

In addition, the vehicles used for these transfers, commonly referred to as the "Bosta", are not neutral means of transport but are deliberately designed and operated in a manner that subjects Palestinian detainees to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. Detainees are routinely shackled hand and foot in excessively tightened restraints, causing severe pain, restricted circulation, and long-term musculoskeletal damage. They are forced to remain in stress positions for prolonged periods, often exceeding ten hours, as the vehicles follow deliberately circuitous routes and make unnecessary stops. Such practices transform short transfers into prolonged ordeals, amounting to a form of punishment. Prisoners are consistently denied access to food, water, or sanitary facilities during these journeys, compounding the physical suffering with conditions that are humiliating and degrading. Testimonies further document systematic verbal and physical abuse by the occupation's special unit forces during these transfers. Detainees report being beaten, kicked, or struck with rifle butts or sticks while restrained and defenseless, as well as being subjected to threats, racist insults, and intimidation. The environment inside the "Bosta" is marked by suffocating heat in the summer and extreme cold in the winter, with inadequate ventilation, further exacerbating the inhuman conditions. The cumulative effect of these practices is to transform the transfer process into a punitive mechanism.

Finally, Palestinians also recount being constantly assaulted when leaving their cells, changing cells or going to the yard, the clinic or the shower area, making every movement within the prison a moment of abuse, and fear of violence.



These deliberate practices demonstrate that prisoner arrival to prison and transfers are weaponized as a method of coercion, terror and collective punishment creating a carceral environment of constant violence and fear of violence, against them, and other detainees.

A.H., (initials changed for security), a Palestinian man recounts the brutal attacks he suffered during his transfers to several prisons and detention centers:

“They transferred me along with a group of other prisoners out of the prison. First, they strip-searched us, then handed us over to the Nahshon forces²¹, who are responsible for transporting prisoners between prisons. That’s when the beatings began. **The Nahshon forces do not carry batons, but they beat us with their hands and feet, and headbutted us. They focused their blows on the rib cage. Even as I was climbing the steps of the prison transport vehicle (the “Bosta”), one of the guards inside kicked me and grabbed me by the shackles. I was shackled from the front. He started hitting me, then pushed me into the Bosta. At that point, the beating stopped.**

(...) In Ramla prison, the situation was extremely harsh. They welcomed us with beatings as soon as we entered, and then placed us in cells that looked like animal cages in the reception area.

The sight of the prisoners inside the cages was painful—they were sitting on their knees, all showing clear signs of torture. We were fasting (...) Some civilian prisoners there threw us a packaged piece of ka’k (holiday biscuit). In that moment, nearly 14 hands of prisoners inside the cage stretched out to grab it. They threw some other items too, but I did not eat.

(...) During the transfer (to the cell), as soon as we reached the yoman (entrance and control room) door, they began assaulting us with severe beatings using batons. I was not blindfolded, so I could see it happening. They struck us all over the body without distinction, accompanied by vile insults. Most of them were Druze.

21 The Israeli Prison Service Special Unit Forces

After the beating, they placed us in a room with no light, no mattresses, and no blankets. Around 14 prisoners were crammed into it. We slept directly on the iron floor. (...)"

O.H., a 23-year-old Palestinian student told Addameer about the violence he was subjected to during transfer: "When they transferred us from Ramleh, they first took us to cages the prisoners call "the monkey cages." **As they moved us, there was a line of guards along the corridor, beating us violently with batons. At the door of the Yoman (entrance and control room), they attacked each prisoner individually. They assaulted me brutally with batons, breaking me down completely, and then placed us inside the "monkey cages."** We stayed there for about two hours, and then they transferred us in a prison vehicle to the Kishon complex.

When we arrived at Kishon, another round of beatings began, from one prison transport vehicle to the other. We were around 15 prisoners. I stayed in Kishon for about two hours, then they transferred us to Gilboa Prison.

At Gilboa, an "intake unit" of masked and armored guards carrying iron batons was waiting for us. At first, they didn't beat me; instead, they took me to the clinic, and then to meet with intelligence officers. One of them told me: "Do you know why you're here in Gilboa? You act like a man in Ofer, trying to create an organizational movement there. We know everything." I told him: **"There is no organization in Ofer." Then he said: "Welcome to Gilboa. Do you know what Gilboa is? You've just entered hell."**

After that, large guards arrived while I was handcuffed from behind. One held me, forced my head down, and they started cursing me. **They then led me into a waiting room, where I found about 15 guards, all carrying batons. They sat me in the middle, circled around me, and started ordering me: "Curse Sinwar! Curse Ahmad Sa'adat!" When I refused, they began beating me.**

The beating lasted about 10 minutes. I lost consciousness twice. At one point, one of them stood with both feet on my head. The beating was so severe that I could not stand up at all; they had to drag me by my arms."



I.H. a 14 years-old Palestinian boy recounts the violence he was subjected to by Israeli soldiers while being transferred from an unknown detention place to Binyamin detention center in Jerusalem:

“While being transported to Binyamin, I was alone in the vehicle. **Around two soldiers beat me about 40 times, with punches and slaps using their hands, targeting my chest, stomach, and the back of my head inside the vehicle. I felt severe pain and fainted because my hands were tied with cuffs.** I asked them to release my hands because I was losing consciousness, but they did not respond and told me, “It’s fine, let him faint.” Indeed, I lost consciousness.

Upon arrival at Binyamin detention center in Jerusalem, I was immediately presented to a lawyer. I was then brought before the court, where the blindfold was removed from my face. **At that moment, an Israeli soldier standing next to me told me not to inform the lawyer about the beatings and abuse I had suffered.”**

Z.S., a Palestinian woman was heavily tortured while being transferred to prison and on arrival to Hasharon prison. Immediately after, she was transferred to Hasharon. **On the way to Hasharon, an Israeli soldier was beating her and slapping her face while she was blindfolded and her hands were tied behind her back. She was also a victim of verbal abuse and insulted of “cow”, “bear”, “traitor”, and “whore”.**

When she arrived at Hasharon, a jailor came to get her out of the car and also delivered a series of consecutive slaps to her face while she was blindfolded. The jailor then punched her shoulder, grabbed her by the hair, and pulled her out of the vehicle. The soldier and the other jailors were also hitting her with batons on her head. They continued hitting her until she reached the door of the room.

F.B. a civil servant and mother of a detainee was arrested in February 2024 and brought to Hasharon Prison “as soon as I arrived, there was a guard who began cursing me with obscene language. She took me to an office to open a file and take photographs. When she removed my blindfold, I discovered the Israeli flag was positioned behind me in the photo.

She then took me for body search accompanied by two female and two male soldiers. They put me in a small room about 1 meter by 1 meter with two lockers - apparently a cleaning supply room. The male soldiers remained outside while the two female soldiers stayed with me inside the room. **The female soldier ordered me to remove all my clothes completely and threatened me: «If you don't take off your clothes, the male soldiers will come in and force you to remove them.»** It was a complete strip search. Throughout the search, the soldier cursed me and made me feel like I was filthy and that she was disgusted and annoyed by me. During the search, they demanded I turn around, squat, and stand while naked. **When I turned around, she hit me with a black bucket on my head and struck me with her shoe. She also demanded I say the phrase «Am Yisrael Chai» (Long Live the People of Israel), then placed her hand on the door as a threat to bring in the male soldiers. I was frightened and repeated the phrase after her. When I said the phrase, I discovered she had opened WhatsApp and was recording my voice.”**

M.K., a journalist from Ramallah and father of two who was arrested in October 2023. He recounts the violence he was subjected to: “They took us in a prison vehicle to Megiddo Prison, which held a large number of prisoners. **Getting down from the vehicle to the prison involved brutal assault with heads forced down.** They put us in a collective cell, then from the cell to search. **They searched us in a barbaric manner with screaming and beating. Then they took us in and photographed us in a room in front of the Israeli flag - this flag was covered with blood from all the young men they had beaten there.**

After that, they began taking us out to a yard in groups of 5 people each. (...) **all prisoners in the yard were squatting on the ground with hands raised against the wall while guards punched them.**

(...)

On December 14, 2024, Thursday (a day hard to forget), they took about 20 of us from different Megiddo sections to the waiting room. They took us in the prison vehicle about 40 minutes to Shatta Prison. **When we arrived, they began taking us down one by one. While getting us out of the prison vehicle and taking us to the entrance of Shatta**



section, there was a corridor with 3 guards who began beating us on our legs. They put all of us in a cell, then a unit of guards entered and ordered us to lower our heads to the ground. Then they attacked us and beat us severely with sticks and kicks - I personally received the beating on my hands.

Then they began taking us out one by one from the cell. Each person who was taken out, we could hear his screams from the beating. When my turn came, I stood at the door. At that moment they were removing shackles. **The guard grabbed me and pulled me by my shirt collar to the corridor, then threw me to the ground and attacked me, beating me all over my body in every way.**

(...)

On the way to the section, they walked me through a long corridor from the prison door to Section 7. All the way my head was bent down with two guards holding me. **I personally fell to the ground twice during the journey from the intensity of beating. On the third fall, they began beating me to get up, but I was unable and breathing with difficulty.** There they lifted me and raised my head off the ground slightly, and I walked to the section door. **At the section door (al-youman), a third guard different from those holding me came and punched me in the face.** I entered the section door, and they told me: room 7. I found 6 prisoners and I was the seventh. I lay down and the guys brought me water. I remained afterward for about 3 weeks praying on my bed, unable to get up. The guys helped me when I got up from bed because I couldn't sleep on either side and couldn't move my head due to a blow to the back of my head. I felt an injury to my chest bone."

M.A., a 31-years old Palestinian man from Ramallah told Addameer about the abuse he was victim of during his transfer: **"During the war, a new decision was issued stating that no prisoner could stay in the same section or room for more than one month — to create instability and mix the factions.**

On 12 November 2023, I was transferred from Section 26 to Section 5. Guards arrived that day and transferred about 50 prisoners from the same section. I was escorted by three

guards who took me from the section to the Makhlool (transfer area), forcing my head down and my hands tied behind my back. They pushed me against the wall and punched me until I reached the transfer area.

At the transfer area, we were received by the Keiter (special prison unit), and each prisoner was strip-searched individually. During the strip search, I was severely beaten by three Keiter members with batons made of bone until I fell to the ground, and they trampled on me with their boots. The beating lasted about three minutes. That day, some prisoners were bleeding from the beatings.

After the search, they escorted me from the transfer area to the prison vehicle, beating me with their hands along the way. I was then taken to Section 5.”

3. The torture of Palestinian detainees during their interrogation

Prior to October 7, 2023, Palestinian detainees were usually taken into interrogation centers, interrogated by members of the Israeli Security Agency (ISA), and systematically tortured.²² With the mass arrest of Palestinians, Addameer documented a shift in practice with torture being used at every step of the prisoners’ time under Israeli’s custody. Interrogations are conducted in cells, special rooms, and dedicated interrogation centers.

During interrogations, detainees are subjected to continuous and lengthy interrogation sessions, sometimes without knowing the reason for their arrest. They are systematically subjected to different forms of torture. They are victims of physical violence in an attempt to extract confessions and force detainees to self-incriminate themselves, including harsh beatings to the face and body (notably head, neck, ribs, genitals), slaps and kicks on the head, severe sleep deprivation and stress positions. They also face threats, including of sexual violence, verbal abuse, insults, and other forms of psychological torture.

Historically, interrogation centers are the places where Palestinians face the most brutal forms of torture. **However, since October 7, 2023, Addameer documented a shift in**

²² Also referred to as “GSS”, “Shin Bet” or “Shabak”



practice with torture not aiming at obtaining confessions but to punish detainees and create a climate of constant fear.

I.H. is a Palestinian boy from Ramallah who was arrested at 14 years old by the IOF while on his way to the grocery store in August 2024. He recounted the interrogation and abuses he was subjected to while in Israeli custody.

"(...) Afterward, they transported us in a vehicle to an unknown place where they carried out an interrogation. On the first day of my detention, an officer interrogated me for about 10 minutes. He asked: "Why did you run? What were you going to buy?" He showed me a video of people throwing Molotov cocktails and said, "What does this video mean to you? How do you know they are throwing Molotovs? You are lying—you were throwing Molotovs with them." During the interrogation, my hands were not tied, and my eyes were not blindfolded.

They then took me, together with the other child, in a military jeep to another area, which I believe was nearby. We were placed inside a closed room for about a day and a half (from Friday to Sunday). During that time, I remained on my knees inside the room. They did not provide me with food or water, and I did not use the bathroom. I did not even ask because I was certain they would not allow me to use the toilet or give me food or water.

During the day and a half, one of the soldiers entered the room and, without any reason, lifted my head and slapped me across the face with his hand. The other child was also slapped in the same way. After a day and a half, I was transferred to Binyamin detention center in Jerusalem."

U.H., a 14 years-old Palestinian boy who was arrested alongside I.H. while going to the supermarket also recounted the violence he was victim of while being interrogated and detained: "On the way, they kept shoving us and pushing us to the ground. They told us, "We are going to take you to the Shabak (Shin Bet) to interrogate you," while cursing us

with obscene insults the whole time. While we were walking, one of the soldiers deliberately tripped me on rocky ground, causing me to fall on my face.

When we arrived at Ofra, they made us sit behind a pile of rubble. Soldiers and military jeeps kept coming, and every now and then a soldier would come and slap us. At first, they forced us to sit on our knees, then on the pavement, and then on the stones, still on our knees.

We stayed there for about an hour and a half. After that, they took Ibrahim and me in a vehicle that had two soldiers in the front. They were playing loud music, and one of the soldiers kept hitting I.H.. At first, I thought he was clapping along with the music, but then I realized he was actually slapping Ibrahim repeatedly.

The vehicle drove for about half an hour, then they took us out at Binyamin Police Station. They placed us in a hallway, and after a short while they called I.H.'s name and took him away. Then a soldier came and began taking me up and down in an elevator. While walking me, he made me bump into the walls and inside the elevator.

I asked them, "Where are we?" and they replied, "We are in Rafah, in Gaza."

Then they took me to the interrogation room. On the way, I heard I.H. screaming as they were beating him.

During the interrogation, the interrogator asked me personal information about myself and then questioned me about Molotov cocktails — who was with me when I supposedly threw them, how many I threw, and why I did it. I denied everything. The interrogation lasted about 10 minutes.

After the interrogation ended, they cuffed my hands behind my back with metal cuffs, and immediately took I.H. and me to the Beit El military base. At Beit El, they removed the metal cuffs and replaced them with plastic zip-tie restraints.



They kept us inside a room at the military base, and I was injured on my hand from the beating. Every once in a while, a soldier would scrape my wound with his boot. The floor of the room was tiled, and the air conditioner was running cold the whole time. They kept us sitting on the tiles, in a normal sitting position, but we remained tied up the entire time, without water or food.

We arrived at Beit El late at night and stayed until the next day (Saturday, 31-9-2024) until the afternoon hours — still without any food or drink and with our hands tied and our faces covered. Only during the interrogation at Binyamin did they give me a small sip of water — that was the only thing I drank throughout the entire period of detention.

While I was in the room, I asked them to go to the bathroom, but no one responded. I stood up and started walking around the room because I felt desperate. After a while, I heard the sound of a soldier opening the door, so I asked him again to go to the bathroom. He told me, “Sit down,” and started wrapping tape over my eyes, on top of the blindfold.

I stood up because I thought he was going to take me to the bathroom, but suddenly he shouted loudly, “You are a donkey,” and slapped me three times on my neck. I fell back down to the floor. He finished putting the tape on my eyes, then went over to I.H. and slapped him — I heard the sound of the slap, and it was terrifying. Then he came back to me and slapped me again, and the slap was so strong that my face went numb and I lay down on the floor.

I stayed for about an hour without being allowed to go to the bathroom. (...) After my release, I underwent medical tests and X-rays. They told me I had a hairline fracture in one of my ribs.”.

The interrogation of the Palestinian woman and mother of five, **Z.S.**, arrested in November 2023, lasted for around an hour and a half. She was asked to unlock her phone and check her Facebook account. The interrogator had a stack of printed papers from Facebook and they wanted her to confess an affiliation with Hamas. **During the interrogation, he threatened her to use her son, saying that next time he is detained, he will come back dead.** The

interrogator kept accused her, her children and her entire family of being terrorists. She refused to write and sign a paper stating that she is Hamas. **Then, a person entered the room and wrote on the paper "I am Hamas" and signed Z.S.'s name in English.**

4. Regular use of violence and torture against Palestinians detainees

Israeli occupation prisons are places of constant violence, abuse and humiliations. While detained, Palestinians are constantly subjected to torture and inhumane treatment, including as a form of collective punishment. **Torture is a clear policy of Israel's carceral system.**

Since the beginning of the genocide, brutal attacks inside Israeli occupation prisons have dramatically increased. All prisoners interviewed by Addameer were subjected to violence while in prison. Palestinian detainees have recounted being brutally assaulted while in the cells, during raids, in the yard, in the corridors, on their way to the yard or the infirmary, while taking showers and at the infirmary. In all occupation prisons, specialized repression units like 'Metsada' or 'Keter'23 conduct regular campaigns of assaults and raids into prisoners' cells, causing numerous injuries.

During these acts of violence detainees are beaten, often in groups, by multiple soldiers, guards or special unit forces. The beatings include beatings on the head, the body and genitals. It also includes beatings with weapons, sticks, batons and metal detectors. Detainees' heads are often smashed against the walls and the ground. During the beatings, detainees are also threatened, often to death, humiliated and forced to say degrading statements against them, their cellmates or their national identity.

These regular cell raids and the constant violence in the occupation prisons have been used to torture and collectively punish Palestinian detainees and create an unsafe environment for prisoners. These acts of violence are also directly linked to the ongoing genocide, with Israeli soldiers constantly referring to October 7 and detainees documenting brutal attacks on the anniversary date of October 7 (See O.H. testimony), and when attacks are allegedly carried against Israel (see M.M. testimony).

23 Special unit forces which are not commonly deployed to the prisons except for "emergency" situations in order to maintain control and suppress the detainees. However, after October 7 2023, they are routinely deployed to the prisons and camps to torture and abuse the detainees.



These attacks also aim at destroying the Palestinian identity by forcing Palestinians to say words of support of Israel, stand next to Israeli flags, and are often accompanied by racist insults against Palestinians and their Palestinian identity.

All of the prison structure is either committing, aware, or complicit in the commission of these crimes, including guards, soldiers, prison services, doctors and medics (see A.H. testimony). The Israeli occupation prison system is a system of generalized torture.

Released prisoner **A. S.** recounted, **"After the war, oppression and beatings became commonplace.** There were times we faced beatings every week, sometimes three times in one week, while other times we might go a month without being touched. **But no one should ever endure such violence. We lived in constant fear, anticipating a beating whenever a guard moved or something unusual occurred.** (...) We were always assaulted while handcuffed from behind. In solitary confinement, around five guards would enter and attack me and another prisoner, using their hands, feet, and sticks, targeting our stomachs, backs, legs, and faces. I was struck in the face multiple times, resulting in an injury above my eyes. Each beating left visible marks on our bodies."

M.M., a 43-year old man from Nablus city was arrested in June 2023 at his home. He recounts the torture and inhumane acts he was subjected to in October 2024, while held in Gilboa prison, a week after the beginning of the ongoing genocide.

"(...) When we arrived at Gilboa, we were placed in the Imtanah²⁴, where a joint force of prison guards, Nahshon, and Yamas²⁵ units assaulted us. They beat us with batons, sticks, and pepper spray, before distributing us into the prison wings.

Once we were assigned to the wings, the new prison policy became clear. When I entered the section, I immediately saw signs of beatings on the faces and bodies of other prisoners. The same policies from Megiddo were applied here as well: confiscation of canteen goods, electrical appliances, and other belongings.

²⁴ Waiting room in Hebrew

²⁵ Israeli Special unit forces

During the first period in Gilboa, beatings were almost daily, carried out brutally by both prison guards and special units from outside the prison. Even the army was present inside the prisons at the start of the war, along with known units like Dror and Metzada,²⁶ who stormed the sections daily.

The assaults were violent, with batons and boots, leaving prisoners bleeding on the ground. Later, they increasingly used tear gas and pepper spray during raids, spraying it directly inside the cells. Armed soldiers also entered, issuing death threats. On top of this came verbal abuse and humiliation. They would beat prisoners, force them to insult each other, and even howl like animals.

(...)

Throughout the entire war, until the day of my release, I remained in Gilboa Prison. I cannot count the number of times I was beaten or subjected to raids there, as they were constant. Prison units stormed the sections regularly, forcing everyone to lie face down on the ground amid insults and humiliation.

They generally avoided beating us in the courtyard, since there were cameras there. Most of the beatings took place inside the rooms or during transfers, in locations without cameras such as near the “daily operations gate” (Bab al-Yawmiyan) — so that if any case was filed, there would be no evidence against them.

There are, however, some dates I recall personally. **For example, on my arrival to Gilboa on 15 October 2023, there was extremely violent beating. I sustained bruises all over my body.**

What happened was that at first, they cut the electricity, and about 30 personnel from Yamaz, prison guards, and Nahshon units entered the room. They split us into groups of five prisoners each, placing us into two rooms inside the Makhoul section. **Once the electricity was cut, they began to beat us for several minutes, all over the body, using hands, feet, and batons.**

²⁶ Israeli Special unit forces



Afterward, they dragged us out one by one, conducted strip searches, confiscated all our clothes, and gave us replacement clothing from the prison. I was bleeding from my head and developed swelling in my skull.

On 2 November 2023, units from outside the prison stormed our section. They entered the room with dogs and gas, attacked us, and began beating us violently.

Afterward, they shackled our hands behind our backs. **Two soldiers grabbed me, put a blindfold over my eyes, then forced my head downward and began stomping on my head with their boots in a brutal manner. I felt intense pain, as if my head had gone numb. Blood started flowing from my nose and both eyes,** and I felt as though my jaw was broken and my ribs cracked in several places, in addition to the blows to my legs. The same was happening to the other prisoners as well.

For about a month after this beating, I was unable to keep myself stable or stand properly. Despite the bleeding from my eyes, I was given no real medical treatment.

The day after the assault, the cell shawish (the detainees in the cell in charge of the relation with the prison administration) informed the officer about my condition. The officer replied: "Leave him, he's a terrorist, he should die."

Later, a prison medic ("Hovesh") saw me and gave me only painkillers, but no proper treatment.

On 7 December 2023, the prison guards stormed our room and assaulted us while we were still suffering from the previous beating. They sprayed pepper spray on us, beat us with batons, and dragged us into the bathroom inside the cell.

There, they began beating us one by one with the magnetometer (metal detector device) between our legs and on the buttocks, as well as blows to the head with batons and fists, accompanied by insults and curses.

On 23 February 2024, there was another assault similar to the previous ones. In October and November 2024, the attacks increased. **I recall one major raid on 1 October 2024—**

apparently after rockets were fired at Israel—when the guards stormed the sections and took revenge on the prisoners with beatings.

On 25 December 2024, prison guards stormed the section again. They sprayed pepper spray inside the room and left us there for about five minutes. Afterwards, they began dragging the prisoners from all the rooms in the section into the yard (fura). Guards stood at the section door with riot shields, and no one escaped the beatings, which included batons and truncheons.

On the day of my release, 17 April 2025, the guards stormed the entire section in the early morning. I did not know at the time that I was going to be released that day. They raided all the rooms and assaulted the prisoners. I was in Section 3. They brutally beat the youths, taking some of the rooms' detainees to the Makhloul (punishment section). When they brought them back, their clothes were covered in blood."

M.A., a 31-years old Palestinian man from Ramallah explained to Addameer the daily violence detainees go through: **"The beatings in the sections happened almost daily — targeting two or three rooms at a time, usually during the headcount hours.** The guards and Keiter sometimes brought dogs with them and entered carrying their M16 rifles. **Every transfer between sections involved severe beatings, as did inspections and counts inside the sections. (...) Personally, I was beaten in Naqab Prison around five times, mostly during transfers between sections. Each time, the beatings were done the same way by the Keiter and guards — with batons, hands, and kicks.**

On the day of my release, guards came, took me out of the section, and handed me over to the Keiter in the transfer area. I was strip-searched again, and during the search they found a paper with phone numbers of prisoners' families that I had kept to reassure them. **They kept me inside the strip-search room for about 45 minutes without clothes, shackled facing the wall. Three Keiter members beat me for about five minutes with batons until I fell to the ground, then trampled on me with their boots.**



An intelligence officer then came and threatened to send me back to prison. After about fifteen minutes, they told me to put on my clothes.”

O.H., a 23-year-old Palestinian student arrested in February 2024 recounts a violent raid: **“On 7 October 2024, there was a large-scale raid in Gilboa Prison** at around 5:00 AM across the entire facility. The guards stormed the section, starting from Room 1 and moving to Room 16. **In each room, they stayed for about 15 minutes, carrying out severe beatings. Many prisoners had their arms or ribs broken, and in many cases, I saw detainees forced to wrap their own arms or treat their fractures themselves, since they were never sent to a hospital or seen by a doctor.”**

F.B. a female detainee arrested in February 2024 told Addameer about the violence of night cell raids “the Yamam unit responsible for suppression in prison stormed in - they wear black on black, are masked, and carry iron batons and pepper spray cans. With them were (...) the deputy prison director and (...) the section supervisor - about 20 personnel plus 7-8 guards.

They stormed room number 10, opened the room door where the girls were sleeping. They grabbed one by her hair and she fell from the bed to the floor. They crammed the girls in the corner and pressed on them, then restrained the girls and removed them to another room. They stayed inside the room for about an hour while soldiers searched. **Then they left. The girls weren't dressed because they were sleeping, most were beaten,** and the girl who fell from the bed suffered bruises on her hands.”

M.K. a journalist from Ramallah that was arrested and in October 2023 and held under administrative detention explained the violence he was subjected to while in prison “I was arrested on the ninth day of the war and entered Megiddo Prison on the tenth day of the war. There were still some belongings inside the rooms. They began conducting daily searches, each time removing something, and this continued until November 7, 2023. On that date, they stormed in to search the entire section. They tied us up in pairs and took us to the showers. As we went to the showers, they told each person to remain in one outfit and remove boots. **In the showers, we were severely beaten** (there were 11 of us in the

room). All of us were beaten by a unit of guards. I remember A.B. and M.J. were with us - they were the last two in the showers and were assaulted more than us. When they brought them to the room, they cursed them and us with profanity about our families, Sinwar, and others. **We called this day the first monthly anniversary of October 7.**

(...) (In Shata prison) We became accustomed to approximately every 10 days having our turn for room search and suppression. Daily we stayed on edge that they might enter. 80% of searches occurred during the third count, and sometimes they entered to search in the middle of the night. (...) Every month or two the Yamaz unit would come to search all rooms with beatings included.

(...) On March 4, 2024, the guard came after the first count and told me to prepare for transfer. **Leaving the section represented terror for prisoners due to beatings, abuse, restraints, and constant head-bowing - very difficult for prisoners, especially elderly and sick. They took me out and handed me to the Nahshon unit. The one who came to receive me slapped me and shackled me in front and on legs with iron, then took me to Ramle Prison.** At Ramle, they took me down to the «two doors» (al-youman) in the section **where I was severely assaulted.** The guard struck me with his knee on my chest in the left area 5 times and I felt fractured there. After beating me, they forced me to sit violently on the ground on my knees, and I developed a problem with my right leg's knee afterward.

(...) During this night, every half hour the guard passed ordering us to get up from bed, saying «Get up, animals,» then we sit in counting position squatting with hands on heads for no reason. The mattresses we slept on were sponge without sheets or blankets, and it was winter and very cold. They brought one meal that night - very small quantity consisting of a falafel patty, half cucumber, and a spoonful of hummus.

(...) (In Ramle prison) When my turn came, I was standing, tied and unaware, waiting. Suddenly, they slammed me to the ground on my knees in a beating manner. **From that date until today, I cannot bend either knee due to the beating - my legs can't open properly."**



H.B., a stay-at home mother arrested in March 2024 for a social media post recounts the violence of night raids (In Damon prison) **From the moment I entered the prison, they would carry out surprise inspections and raids at night, most of them while we were asleep. They would suddenly storm into the room without announcing that there was a male guard in the section, and we had to quickly put something on to cover our bodies and heads** — yet they showed no concern about this. We would raise a fuss about it, but they would say, “You are in our prison, and you are not allowed to object.”

The searches were aimed at confiscating the belongings of the female prisoners. Anything they didn't like, they would take away. They left us with nothing. The basic necessities of life were already almost nonexistent, and the few things we did have were very minimal — for example, just a small towel, a regular towel, two changes of clothes for each prisoner, two plates, and a spoon. Of course, they would take all of this from us during the nighttime searches.

At the beginning of my arrest — I don't remember the exact date — the Yamas unit entered Room 9. **J.A. was sleeping on the mattress and told them, “Wait, I need to get dressed.” One of them grabbed her by the hair and slammed her to the ground.** All of the girls were treated very badly by them. There were about 15 of them, each one as tall as the door, accompanied by female soldiers. This was the first raid I witnessed.

5. Sexualized torture

Since October 7, 2023, Addameer also documented an increase in the use of sexualized torture and the normalization of sexual violence used against Palestinian detainees including rape, attempted rape, and sexual assaults.

Threats of sexual violence

The Israeli occupation soldiers, prison guards and security service interrogators regularly threaten Palestinian detainees, in particular women but also men, with sexual violence. Statements collected by Addameer from both men and women detainees include disturbing cases of threats of sexual violence and other forms of sexual harassment. Many testimonies

of women detainees or prisoners include sexual harassment, rape threats, including during forceful strip-searching inside the occupation prisons or in front of their children during home invasions.

Forced nudity

Many images have emerged of Palestinians, forced in public nudity, held at gunpoint while sometimes being simultaneously victim of acts of torture or mistreatments. On around October 31, 2023 a video emerged showing IOF soldiers abusing Palestinian men lying on the ground, some of them naked, others in their underwear, blindfolded, handcuffed behind their backs.²⁷ An Israeli soldier stomped on the head of one Palestinian man who was laying on his back.



Screenshot of the video of Israeli Occupation Soldiers torturing Palestinian men

²⁷ Mo Abbas, Rima Abdelkader, Caroline Radnofsky, "Video Appears to Show Israel Defense Forces Abusing Detained Palestinian Men." NBC News, November 3, 2023, www.nbcnews.com/news/world/videos-israeli-soldiers-abuse-palestinian-detainees-rcna123214.



Detainees also undergo strip searches multiple times during their detention and transfers. These searches force them into humiliating positions, such as the frog position or “bending over”, under the pretext of a thorough examination. Detainees are sometimes photographed while stripped, including women. Soldiers frequently use metal detectors, or «magnetometers,» running them over the detainees’ bodies, and sometimes threaten to or attempt to insert the devices forcefully into their anus or mouth. Additionally, soldiers hold the devices under the men’s genitalia, to mock and threaten detainees. Soldiers also force detainees to perform degrading acts on themselves or say degrading things about themselves.

After being interrogated, transferred to prison and heavily tortured, **Z.S., a Palestinian woman**, was victim of and threatened with sexual violence by the jailors and soldiers in Hasharon prison. A female soldier and the two female guards ordered her to hand over her clothes, and while she was fully naked, the jailors ordered her to squat in a frog position and open her legs multiple times. While this was going on, Z.S. was still being hit and had her head slammed against the wall by the jailer. The jailer proceeded to photograph Z.S. while she was naked, which Z.S. pleaded for her not to do. During the search, Z.S. was restrained, and the jailor told her, **“I’ll take you to the civilians [referring to Israeli criminal prisoners] and have one of them marry you.”**

Rape and sexual assaults

Addameer is extremely worried about accounts of extremely grave and brutal acts of sexual violence, including rape and gang rape, rapes attempts, and threats of rape by the IOF. Palestinian detainees are regularly sexually assaulted by being touched in their genitals while being strip searched. IOF soldiers or members of the IPS also regularly use metal detectors to conduct acts of sexual violence, including forcefully inserting the device into detainees' mouths, beating detainees with the device in their genitals and trying to insert the device in their anus. IOF soldiers and IPS members regularly beat Palestinian detainees in their genitals.

Addameer has also documented several cases of anal rape by penetration with a penis or object, including metal detectors. Rapes committed by IOF soldiers are a form of torture and aim at exerting domination, humiliating detainees, and destroying their spirit. It also participates in the destruction of the social fabric of Palestinian society and the ongoing genocide.

S.A. was 17 when arrested, he told Addameer that **"the hardest part of Al-Maskubiya was the beatings. The blows were concentrated mostly on the genital area using the handheld inspection device.** Literally every time they took us out for yard time, they would take us from the room, search us, and when yard time ended, they would search us again. Every exit and entry involved a search, and during each search, we were beaten on the genitals with the inspection device.

During the inspections, I was beaten on the same area (the genitals) almost daily, along with some slaps from the guards."

Like recounted by **M.M.** in his testimony, sexualized torture was used against Palestinian detainees in Gilboa prison "On 7 December 2023, the prison guards stormed our room and assaulted us while we were still suffering from the previous beating. They sprayed pepper spray on us, beat us with batons, and dragged us into the bathroom inside the cell.



There, they began beating us one by one with the magnetometer (metal detector device) between our legs and on the buttocks, as well as blows to the head with batons and fists, accompanied by insults and curses”.

A.H. (initials changed for security), a Palestinian man recounted to Addameer the horrifying and brutal violence and rape he was subjected to by Israeli guards in Megiddo: **“Afterward, a guard escorted me to the clinic. On the way, I heard the sounds of beatings, screaming, and guards speaking Arabic, saying: “Come on, talk! Long live the flag of Israel! Long live the flag of Israel!” accompanied by very vile insults. I felt great fear at this moment.**

When I entered the clinic, I was received by a Jewish doctor, who was angry and provocative, speaking to me harshly in broken Arabic. He repeatedly asked me: “Are you Hamas? Are you Hamas?” Then he laid me on the bed and placed ECG wires on my chest.

At that moment, **a prison medic** (hovesh) entered. I could tell he was a medic and not a doctor since I had been detained before. **He also spoke in broken Arabic and said to me: “Are you Hamas? Be careful, Hamas here — fuck, fuck.” He added: “Do you hear the sounds outside? Be careful.” Then he punched me in the face.**

After that, the doctor told the guard: “Everything’s fine, take him.” The guard then brought me back to the prison gate, where Mishmar Kfuri handed me over to Shabas (Prison Service).

I was blindfolded, since in Megiddo all movement is done with blindfolds, and with hands and legs shackled. I felt multiple people around me, from the sounds I heard, when suddenly I received the first punch to my chest, then a second blow to my head, which knocked me to the ground. Immediately after, they pummeled me with batons and kicks, all while showering me with insults like: “Son of a bitch.”

One of them told me: **“Are you a journalist working for Al Jazeera? We will bring all the Al Jazeera people here. We will fuck them here, and we will fuck their wives and sisters.”**

They began to beat me with extreme violence. I was in severe pain, struggling to endure it. The beating lasted around 20 minutes, a mix of blows and insults, while I lay on the ground.

(...) After the beating, the guards shouted at me: "Get up, get up!" I tried to stand, but one guard grabbed me, bent my head down, and dragged me violently. **As I was being dragged, he smashed my head against the wall, while the soldiers around me laughed and mocked me**, saying: "What's wrong with you, man? Open your eyes!" I was blindfolded and without my glasses, so I could not see. Then he smashed my head against the wall again.

This continued for about 5 to 7 minutes until I felt them open a gate and push me inside somewhere. My vision was completely gone because of the blindfold, and without glasses my eyesight is very weak even without it.

I realized they had taken me into a narrow place with a very foul smell. **Immediately, they began removing the lower part of my clothes (pants) while beating me severely. They ordered me: "On your knees, head down!" I sat on my knees and lowered my head into a prostration-like position.**

They had with them the magnetometer device (used in body scans), which I recognized by its sound when it came near the body. They began striking me with it on my back and my exposed buttocks, since I had no trousers on. They laughed loudly, mocking me, saying: "Ohhh, what sweetness this is, what cleanliness."

They spoke fluent Arabic, though about two of them spoke only Hebrew. I also heard the voice of a female guard among them. From the sounds, there were at least five or six people present.

Then, to my shock, they tried to insert something into my rectum from behind. Instinctively, I tried to resist, but the pain was overwhelming, and eventually, I could no longer fight back. Whatever object they were using — it felt like a stick — was forced inside me. When they inserted it, I felt them spray something on me, and I heard the sound of liquid spraying on the ground.



Later, when I was transferred back to the cell, I wiped the substance off myself. It was a sticky, transparent material without a foul smell, and it seemed to be some kind of lubricant to help the stick enter. The stick was pushed in quite deeply, not just at the opening, and it caused intense pain.

I felt they also tried to insert the magnetometer device, but it did not go in — I recognized it from the sound and because it is thicker than the stick. This torture lasted for about half an hour, involving the rape with the stick, beatings, and being kept inside the cell.

It was accompanied by continuous blows and verbal abuse, with threats like: “We will bring your wife and your sister and rape them in front of you, on your chest, and you will watch them.”

One of them grabbed my genitals and pulled them hard. I don't know if it was the same person or another, but **someone also pulled violently on my testicles, reaching from behind while I was in the prostration position, causing excruciating pain.** They mocked me, saying things like: “Ohhh, big, big!”

I felt as though I was about to die in that moment, and my only thought was when this ordeal would end.

The stick was not only inserted but moved inside repeatedly, and I felt this happened at least five or six times. I did not see the object used, but I believe it was the standard baton carried by prison guards. Every guard in prison carries a black rubber baton attached to their belt. Later, when they beat me with it, I recognized that it left deep marks on the body, like grooves, and it was about the thickness of a broomstick, maybe slightly thicker. I believe this was the object used, along with the attempted use of the magnetometer.

At that moment with the magnetometer, the psychological impact was extreme. I felt overwhelming exhaustion from the pain, not only from the sexual assault but also from the beatings.

After they finished that torture session, they pulled my trousers back up and dragged me for several meters. They then tried to make me stand; I struggled but managed to walk with great difficulty until we reached the “Yomian” (control room) — the room from which the guards control the opening of section doors.

(...) When I entered to shower and removed my lower clothes, I noticed blood stains on them. I placed my hand on my rectum, and when I pulled it away, there was blood on my hand. (...) I tried to sleep, but the pain was unbearable”

O.J., a male prisoner from Jerusalem in prison Ofer, recalled during an interview details of the strip search he was subjected to. **During the strip search, the occupation officers caressed his genitals repeatedly with the excuse of a thorough search. They would make him sit and stand multiple times while being naked.**

M.K., a Palestinian journalist and father of two was arrested in October 2023 in his home in Ramallah. While detained in Etzion detention center he recalls “There was a prisoner named K.A. from Dheisheh refugee camp, 68 years old, whom they were searching and humiliating, and a prisoner named A.K. from Hebron whom they had beaten in his private area - he was lying on the ground in pain. In this room, they strip-searched us in front of each other, accompanied by assaults including punches, blows, and curses.

(...)

(In Shata prison) On December 17, 2024, Sunday, during the third count, guards came and stood at the room door cursing us. They ordered us to sit at the end of the room with hands over our heads. This search was the most extreme and difficult. Each prisoner was attacked by about 2 guards who tied us behind our backs and dragged us. They took us to the bathroom for search and removed clothes from below (pants) - some of us kept underwear, some didn't. Then they began taking us from the bathroom and laying us on the floor on top of each other amid curses and profanity. The last one they placed on top of the prisoners' bodies was me, and they banged on my head and back with boots to pressure



The mass arrest and systemic torture of Palestinian detainees
in the West Bank, the hidden side of Israel's ongoing genocide

the guys beneath me for several minutes. Then they withdrew, and we got up, dressed, and sat in the room.”

6. Inhumane detention conditions

Since October 7, 2025, Israeli authorities have intensified their collective punishment against Palestinian prisoners through directives and changes in policies aimed at imposing inhumane detention conditions for Palestinian prisoners.

New measures worsening the inhumane detention conditions

Addameer documented the overcrowding of cells, the imposition of reduced to no yard time, the use of excessive force, solitary confinement, the denial of family and lawyers' visits, the lack of mattresses and covers, the lack of hygiene products (including soap and towels), and the provision of very limited quantities of food, sometimes rotten.

With the mass arrest of Palestinians, **prisoners have been detained in overcrowded cells, with little to no space to stand or walk, creating suffocation and overall inhumane detention conditions**, in violation of Israeli High Court of Justice (HJC)'s decision imposing a minimum living space of 4.5 square meters per prisoner, including the lavatory and shower area.²⁸ Already in 2017, the HCJ had ruled that the population density in Israeli occupation prisons did not meet proper standards and that the state should expand the minimum living space for each prisoner.²⁹ The mass arrest of Palestinian detainees since October 7, 2023 only worsened the already dramatic detention conditions in Israeli occupation prisons.

As a form of collective punishment, **all electrical appliances and tools were confiscated after October 7, 2023, along with pillows, blankets, and prisoners' clothes. To cut off Palestinians from the outside world, including the ongoing genocide, T.V. and radios were also confiscated, newspapers and book are not available**, including sacred books like the Quran or the Bible. Up until today these measures of collective punishment are still imposed. According to a prisoner at Ofer Prison, for almost 50 days, prisoners were forced to wear the same clothes.

The IPS has in parallel enforced total isolation on Palestinian prisoners, denying them family and ICRC visits and limiting lawyers' access to prison. Palestinian prisoners from the West Bank and East Jerusalem faced a temporary ban on lawyer visits at the onset of the genocide. Since October 7, 2023, family visits remain entirely prohibited for all inmates. Furthermore, the ICRC has also been barred from visiting Palestinian detainees

28 H CJ 1892/14 The Association for Civil Rights in Israel v. Minister of Public Security, 2017, summary of the decision available here.

29 "Adalah, Al Mezan and ACRI Petition Israeli Supreme Court Against the Law that Denies Administrative Release to «Security Prisoners»", Al Mezan, 31 August 2023, <https://www.mezan.org/en/post/46223/Adalah,-Al-Mezan-and-ACRI-Petition-Israeli-Supreme-Court-Against-the-Law-that-Denies-Administrative-Release-to-%27Security-Prisoners%27>.



since the beginning of the genocide. These measures directly impacts prisoners' rights, mental health but also limits the ability of their families, lawyers and the ICRC delegates to document signs of torture, abuse, and inhumane detention conditions.

The occupation authorities also reinforced the isolation of prisoners within prison itself. **Previously, all prisoners had a 1 to 3-hour time period known as yard time. However, since October 7, 2023, prisoners are prohibited from having collective yard time and are taken out per cell for very short periods of time**, including some for less than 10 minutes per day. Addameer documented cases where prisoners did not have any yard time for over 90 days. In certain facilities, such as Nafha and Rimon prisons, inmates have been denied outdoor time for over seven months. Certain prisoners, including well-known Palestinian elected legislators have been put in isolation cells for months, amounting to torture and inhumane treatment, notably Marwan Barghouti and Khalida Jarrar, the later was held in isolation for more than 5 months.

The IPS also weaponizes food against Palestinian detainees by deliberately reducing both food quality and quantity and closing down the canteen. **After October 7, 2023, the IPS initiated a policy of reducing the meals for each prisoner from three times a day to only two very small meals of poor quality, in violation of IPS's regulations.** Those two meals are often reduced to a small carton of yoghurt, a loaf of bread, and a handful of tomatoes for breakfast, and a small plate of rice with one sausage for the second meal. Meals are also delivered in fewer quantities than the number of prisoners. For instance, Addameer has documented cases where in rooms with eight prisoners, only four meals would be provided with a meal. Many prisoners have also reported that the food is often spoiled or inadequately cooked. Testimonies from released prisoners reveals that many suffered from gastrointestinal issues, which were directly linked to the inadequate quality and quantity of food provided by the IPS. **This policy of starvation has been systematically denounced by Palestinian detainees interviewed by Addameer.** Like all other measures taken against Palestinian prisoners since October 7, 2023, this policy of starvation was decided by the Minister Ben Gvir. In January 2023, Ben Gvir proudly stated on X (formerly "Twitter") that "It's unacceptable that terrorists, murderers of women and children, will get fresh pitas and

fresh wraps, as if they were in a restaurant,” and ordered the end of the distribution of fresh pita bread to detainees.³⁰

All of these measures are part of a clear policy, decided at the highest level of the Israeli political leadership. Minister Ben-Gvir, who oversees the IPS, has openly declared his intention to worsen the conditions of Palestinian detainees that he refers to as “terrorists” and to minimize their rights.³¹ His statements, particularly after October 7, have underscored the harsh realities within Israeli occupation prisons, where oppressive policies have become uniform across facilities, reflecting a clear policy of collective punishment in the context of the ongoing genocide.

In a tweet in Hebrew published on July, 2, 2024, Ben-Gvir exposed clearly his policy:

“Since I took office as Minister of National Security, one of the top goals I have set for myself is to worsen the conditions of terrorists in prisons, and reduce their rights to the minimum required by law. I made this commitment to my voters and the people of Israel back in the elections, when I announced that I would seek the position.

(...)

At the same time, after the outbreak of the war, I finally managed to carry out the long-awaited reform. The conditions of the terrorists in prison were reduced to a minimum: we stopped the financial deposits, we canceled the canteens for the terrorists, we removed the electrical appliances from the cells, we stopped the terrorist promenade, we dramatically reduced the time the terrorists spent in the showers, we canceled the speaker's status, we stopped the indulgent food menu, which was converted into a minimal menu, and in short - we completely stopped the camp conditions. Terrorists who are currently released from prison indicate that they will never want to return to an Israeli prison. The prisons of the State of Israel are no longer a sad joke.”

30 “Ben Gvir said to order reduced shower time for terror inmates”, February, 14, 2023, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ben-gvir-said-to-order-reduced-shower-time-for-terror-inmates/>

31 Post on “X” of Itamar Ben-Gvir, July 2, 2024, https://x.com/itamarbengvir/status/1808031178277925263?t=t75NHCPbIupOpI_AQGUeiA&s=09t



(...) Even in the prisons under the responsibility of the IPS, where many terrorists were taken in, overcrowding has occurred. But I have never thought of releasing terrorists from prison because it is too crowded for them.”

Testimonies of Palestinian detainees reflect these policies and the impact it has on their mental and physical health.

S.A., who was 17 when arrested explained “I lived in Megiddo for around 6 months, in Section 3 (the minors’ section). When we first entered Megiddo, they gave us pants, a shirt, and shampoo. They brought us a plate of rice with hummus, but it smelled bad, so I did not eat it and threw it away. **Even the rice was inedible—raw and cold. In general, the food was always very bad and in very small portions throughout my detention in Megiddo.** Only once did they add vermicelli to the rice. Breakfast was a plate of labneh with toast bread. Lunch was a plate of rice with a single can of hummus shared among the entire room. **On top of the fact that the rice was bad, they began reducing the portions.** Sometimes they served rice with steak or schnitzel, but it was bad, cold, and sometimes I felt it was spoiled. This was the food situation for my entire time in detention.”

M.A., a 31-years old Palestinian man from Ramallah explains the collective punishment imposed on Palestinian prisoners after October 7, dramatically impacting prisoners’ detention conditions: “Before the war, we were used to waking up in the morning when the doors were opened and we would go out to the yard. **On the day the war began, they did not open the doors, and we understood the reason only after we saw the news on TV. About an hour later, they cut off the electricity, then confiscated all electrical devices in the section, and shut down the canteen.**

The escalation against the prisoners intensified — **they began confiscating blankets, pillows, and clothing, leaving us only with the one set of clothes we were wearing. Personally, I stayed in those clothes until the day I was released.**

We were left completely without blankets. At the end of December, they brought one light *Shabas* blanket per prisoner. The rooms were emptied — only the metal bunk (*barsh*), mattress, and the clothes on our bodies remained.

They cut off the water supply to the rooms for 24 hours, only allowing water for one hour a day, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. A single hour for a room of 10–12 prisoners — each prisoner had 5 minutes to use the bathroom, perform ablution, and drink water. If someone took an extra minute, it would be taken from another prisoner's time.

The only source of drinking water was from the tap. There were no empty bottles to fill because they had confiscated them, so we spent the rest of the day without water. This situation continued until Ramadan (March 2024) (...) **Throughout our time in Naqab Prison, prayer was forbidden — we had to pray silently, with one prisoner standing guard. If a guard came, we would stop praying.** Any room where they saw someone praying would be punished — either by confiscation of blankets, transfer to isolation cells for up to a week, or other punishment such as taking away the mattresses during the daytime.

(...) The food was only “to keep us alive.” Personally, I lost about 15 kilograms of weight, and most prisoners began experiencing dizziness because there was no food containing salt or sugar.”

M.M., a 43-year-old man from Nablus city was arrested in June 2023 at his home and taken to Huwara detention center and later on transferred to Megiddo Prison. On 5 July 2023, he was placed under administrative detention.

“(...) the war began while I was still in Megiddo Prison — the war started on 7 October. A week later, I and 10 other prisoners were transferred to Gilboa Prison.

During the first week in Megiddo, new measures were gradually imposed inside the prisons. At first, television channels were cut off, then the sections were completely closed, followed by the canteen and other prison facilities being shut down. During this same week, guards carried out near-daily raids into the rooms, confiscating everything: prisoners' clothes, electrical appliances, fans, televisions, radios, canteen



items, tables, and chairs. In effect, the rooms were completely emptied of their contents during that first week.

The fora (recreation time) was suspended for the first three days, and afterward we were only allowed out for half an hour or less per day. There were constant cell searches.

(...) (In Gilboa Prison) As for fura (yard) time, at first we were allowed only 7 minutes per day, later gradually increased to 10 minutes or 15 minutes at most. **Going to the yard was under strict conditions: we were forbidden from speaking to each other, and it was inconsistent — often we were denied yard time altogether.** At first, they allowed one room at a time; later they let two rooms out together.

Showers were located outdoors in the yard. **Technically, each yard break included time for showering, but in practice it was impossible because of the very limited time.** Anyone who took too long was punished, and sometimes guards would storm into the room and beat everyone inside.

Food was extremely scarce — no meat, no fruits or vegetables, and the quantities were very small.”

A.H. (initials changed for security) described similar detention conditions in Mediggo prison across different prison sections **“The showers there were outdoors, there was no hot water, and the toilets were only accessible during recreation time.** The bedbugs were present just like in the Ma’bar, so the situation was no different.”

Prisoners were barred from buying mineral water from the prison canteen, which was shut down on October 7 and water access was restricted in prisoners’ cells. A former prisoner from Naqab Prison, **K. B.**, recounted, “Water was only available for one hour a day in the toilet. **When we needed to drink, we had to fill a bottle from the pit toilet, not from the taps.** Eventually, they started providing running water for the bathroom and taps, but only for one hour a day.”

F.B. told Addameer about the detention conditions for female detainees: “Conditions at Damon were difficult. There were no clothes or underwear - these are sensitive issues for women - and female prisoners wore whatever was available from previous female prisoners. It was extremely cold, and the cell door was bars with small openings that let cold air in. When I entered, there were about 40 female prisoners in the section, and when I was released, the number had reached about 70 female prisoners. Of course, they didn't bring clothes, so each prisoner only had two pieces of clothing and underwear as well. (...)

I lost approximately 10 kilograms in 3 months. About 90% of prisoners suffered constipation from the nature of the food and asked the count officer for laxative pills. **A percentage of female prisoners and young girls had their menstrual periods stop for months, mostly due to psychological stress,** and we requested a doctor be brought. The tap water we drank was dirty and white from high chlorine content. All prisoners suffered throat inflammation and stomach problems from tap water. There were many medical cases, and some female prisoners suffered nervous breakdowns.”

M.K., a journalist from Ramallah was interviewed by Addameer: “(In Shata prison) **We remained 10 months breaking fast with a spoon and a half of labneh with half a cucumber if available. Lunch and dinner were the same - little, cold, and bad.** For the entire 10 months we ate no sugar, no sweets, no tea or coffee. During what's called Passover for Jews, we remained about 10 days in near-famine conditions. They kept us eating on matzah bread that Jews eat during this holiday, forbidding grains and eggs and many things in meals. This is of course not legislated in laws - prisoners aren't obligated to live another's holiday, and others' privacy must be respected. (...) **Until my release the situation was catastrophic. Due to Shatta Prison's geography, heat was intense with no ventilation - we slept holding cardboard to fan ourselves. Hygiene was also very disturbing - 3 razors for the entire section, forbidden to keep inside rooms.**”

H.B., a stay-at home mother arrested in March 2024 for a social media post recounts the horrifying detention conditions “Immediately afterward, they took R.M. and me to **Hasharon Prison.** (...) The cell's condition was miserable: **the toilet was extremely dirty and foul-**



smelling, completely exposed to the cell's cameras. The floor was covered with water, there were no mattresses or blankets, and the girls were sitting on the floor.

Since the cell was very small — about 1.5 meters by 1.5 meters — it could not fit four people. **When we entered, the two girls had to stand up so that we could fit inside.** The toilet was inside this space, and the sink was filthy, yet we were forced to drink from it because no clean drinking water was provided.

We called for the guards and told them that the cell was too small for all of us. They moved us to a slightly larger cell that had a two-level bunk bed without a ladder, so we could only use the lower bunk. This cell was a little cleaner.

They gave us three mattresses — we placed one on the bunk bed and two on the floor. **The mattresses got wet because the floor was soaked with water coming from the toilet.** They gave us five blankets — one for each of us, and the fifth we placed over the wet mattresses so we could sleep on top of it.

At around 10:00 p.m. on the first night of my detention, a soldier came to count the blankets. When he found one extra blanket, he grabbed it, pulled it away from us, and started shouting at us, saying: "Our soldiers in Gaza can't even find blankets like these!" He continued shouting and hurling vulgar insults at us before leaving. We were then forced to sleep on the wet mattresses without the extra blanket.

We stayed in Hasharon Prison for three days. **Every day, at around 6:00 a.m., they would take away the mattresses and blankets, returning them only at night.** During that entire time, we had to sit on the floor and the metal bunks — and it was winter. We would take off our shoes and sit on them to avoid the cold. Because of the freezing conditions, we developed infections in our fingers.

As for the food, it was terrible. We practically did not eat at all — the food was a paste-like rice mixed with whole chickpeas, lentils, and chicken pieces that were raw on the inside with blood. We would throw it away and not eat.

(...) (In Damon prison) **As part of the escalations, it became forbidden for any prisoner to have clothes other than the prison uniform. Mirrors were banned, loofahs were banned, and they took away the blankets**, leaving each prisoner with just one thin blanket that doesn't keep us warm. Sanitary pads were very limited, (...) They took away the hand soap, our hairbrushes, and even our books — leaving us only with the Qur'an.”.

I.W. is a Palestinian man that was arrested as part of a mass arrest campaign against Palestinian workers from Gaza, he was later taken to Ofer and recounts the inhuman detention conditions: “We were then transferred to a prison with yards, each yard having a large tent of about 150 square meters in an area of about 500 square meters. In the tent I was placed in, there were around 230–250 people. We later learned this was Ofer Prison. Each yard was surrounded by a wall about 5 meters high, and between the wall and the fence there were guards watching us. We did not know what was in the other tents, but sometimes we could hear other detainees.

The tent and yard were sandy ground with gravel. **We were given mattresses and blankets, but not for everyone — there was a shortage. No pillows. The tent could not fit everyone, so some slept outside in the yard, exposed to the cold. When it rained, we all crowded inside the tent, standing on our feet since there was no space to sleep.** There was nothing in the tents, and four people had to share one blanket.

Only in the last five days before our release, after repeated requests and because of the severe cold, did they give us socks, jackets, extra blankets, and I was finally given shoes. Prisoners were constantly being brought in and taken out. The tents were filthy. **Food was extremely scarce: a tiny sandwich in the morning or around 2:00, and another in the evening. We were starved. Only in the last five days did they start giving two meals — a sandwich for breakfast and one hot meal for lunch or dinner, but the food was poor and did not satisfy hunger.**

They also gave us soap and a towel only in the last five days. Showers were available in the yard, but the water was always ice cold, never hot. We were never given clean clothes, only jackets. I never showered the entire time. **Some prisoners with chronic illnesses like**



diabetes or heart conditions were occasionally taken to the clinic, but only after long delays and repeated requests, and most of them were beaten while being taken. I did not ask to go, out of fear of being beaten. I have heart problems and use an inhaler, but I refused to request care because they blindfolded and tied up prisoners and assaulted them in front of us. Sometimes I took painkillers from others who had gone to the clinic, just to ease my pain.”.

The reinforcement of medical neglect

Finally, the IPS has further worsened its policy of medical neglect. The IPS systematically denied prisoners access to essential medical care for their illnesses and injuries. Since the onset of the genocide, all inmates have been barred from accessing prison clinics or outside hospitals, with hospital visits permitted only in life-threatening situations. **Many prisoners have been stripped of vital medications that were either supplied by their families or the prison system itself.** This lack of medical attention, combined with unsanitary detention conditions has led to a significant decrease of detainees health as well as increases of outbreak of infectious skin diseases across all occupation prisons and detention centers including scabies, which ravaged prisoners’ bodies.

Despite the alarming rise in these health issues, the IPS has failed to implement necessary measures to curb the spread of diseases, such as providing ointments or isolating infected prisoners. Even in prisons and detention centers with a big part of the population suffering from these ailments, the Israeli authorities have continued to withhold adequate treatment, particularly in certain facilities that have outright refused to provide care. Eventually, some prison administrations began to offer sporadic and minimal treatment, which remained insufficient.

M.M., described the health issues and the outburst of scabies infections in Megiddo Prison: **“In terms of medical care, there was no treatment after beatings or raids.** Treatment was provided only for chronic illnesses, and even then, there were often delays and procrastination in giving medications.

Scabies began to appear in Gilboa in September 2024, spreading gradually. By December 2024, they started giving a pill for treatment and provided a small amount of ointment, but later they reduced the medication again.

There was no hygiene and no ventilation, which contributed to the outbreak of the disease. Hygiene conditions were extremely poor: for example, they gave one bottle of shampoo per week for a room of about 12 prisoners. There were no spare clothes, and only one bathroom for use. I was released while treatment was still very minimal. I myself contracted scabies in my last month of detention. They gave me ointment only once, which had no effect, and I only received proper treatment after I was released.”

One prisoner, **A. R.**, shared his ordeal with scabies, stating, “I have endured scabies and boils for nine months. The boils fluctuate, but the itching and pimples persist. Just two days ago, I received a pill and ointment for the scabies, yet nothing has improved. The itching remains unbearable, and at times, I can only manage an hour of sleep”.

M.A., a 31-years old Palestinian man from Ramallah told Addameer the impact of medical neglect he witnessed: “The treatment of sick prisoners depended on the mood of the guards, and the only medication provided was painkillers. A contagious skin disease, scabies, spread through the sections — nearly every section had two or three prisoners infected. Their bodies were bleeding from the intense itching. They did not bring them any treatment, only painkillers — and that was in the best-case scenario.

In my room, there were prisoners with high blood pressure, and they were not given their medication.”.

3. The death or killing of Palestinians in detention

Between 1967 and January 1st, 2024, at least 314 Palestinians were killed or died in Israeli prisons, notably after being tortured or medically neglected. Since October 7, 2023, at least 77 Palestinians were killed or died while in Israeli custody and 85 bodies are still being



withheld by Israeli authorities as a form of punishment for their families and loved ones, in violation of international law.

Addameer documented the killing of several Palestinians under torture, after torture, or due to medical neglect:

M.Q. 19 years old, detained in Al Naqab prison, witnessed the killing of his fellow prisoner **Thaer Abu Asab**. M.Q. explained to Addameer's lawyer that Members of the Ketir32 entered the room. They used iron rods to beat the prisoners for several minutes. Thaer Abu Asab was lying on the ground, bleeding, motionless, and without a pulse. "(...) the guards stormed the room and assaulted all of us. Then, the Ketir15 special unit entered, numbering approximately 20 individuals, including guards and unit members. The Ketir unit was armed and used iron rods to beat and suppress the prisoners. **After about 5 minutes of beating and assaulting us, they left, leaving all of us covered in blood, lying on the ground. After their withdrawal, Thaer Abu Asab was lying on the ground, bleeding, motionless, and without any signs of a pulse in his body, despite our calls to the guards, they disregarded us.** Only a nurse arrived after 10 minutes and said, 'If he dies, we'll take him.' Approximately two hours later, as estimated during the guards room check at 8pm, Thaer was moved by units and guards. Moments later, we were informed that he had passed away. **A day after Thaer's martyrdom, all the young men in the room, including myself, were individually interrogated by the intelligence.** Initially, the officer asked me, 'Did you see the guard who beat him?' I replied, 'No, because they were wearing masks' **Then, they asked me, along with everyone else in the room, to adopt a narrative stating that the prisoner Thaer Abu Asab died due to an issue among us inside the room, implying that we were responsible for his death.** All of us refused, and I stated that this was impossible and would not happen."

The first court session pertaining to the investigations into the deaths of **Abed El Rahman Mar'ii** was held on the 15th of January, 2024. During this session, the Commission for Prisoners and Ex-Prisoners Affairs said that the evidence and testimony related to the sudden death of Palestinian prisoner Abdul-Rahman Marei conclusively proves that he was

32 Israeli special forces inside the Naqab prison.

tortured by the Israeli prison guards on November 7, leading to his death on November 13, 20333. The Prisoners' Affairs Authority revealed that despite the prison clinic's knowledge that the beating he endured on November 7, 2023, he was not reexamined medically, and he did not receive treatments and medications.

On April 7, **Walid Daqqah**, a Palestinian prisoner who has been detained for 38 years, was wilfully killed in Israeli occupation jail by acts and omissions from Israeli occupation prison guards and prison authorities. He was terminally ill and succumbed due to systematic medical neglect, torture, and other abuses, including physical attacks. His body is still being held by Israeli authorities.³⁴

Since October 7, 2023, at least 77 Palestinians protected persons have been killed (torture, mistreatment) or died (medical neglect, starvation) while detained by Israel.

33 "Israeli occupation admits Palestinian prisoner tortured to death", Wafa news agency, January 17, 2024, <https://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/140824>.

34 Israel/OPT: Terminally ill Palestinian prisoner dies in Israeli custody, Amnesty international, May 9, 2024, <https://amnesty.ca/urgent-actions/israel-opt-terminally-ill-palestinian-prisoner-dies-in-israeli-custody/>.



Conclusion

The evidence and testimonies presented in this report reveal the extent to which the mass arrest, torture, and mistreatment of Palestinian detainees are a central pillar of Israel's policy of control and domination of Palestinian life in the occupied territory. Since October 7, 2023, Israel has dramatically intensified arbitrary arrests across the West Bank and East Jerusalem as a form of collective punishment with over 18,500 Palestinians arrests and more than 11,000 Palestinians currently detained.

The testimonies and evidence documented in this report demonstrate that Palestinian detainees face violence at every stage of detention: during arrest raids, transfer and arrival in prison, interrogation, and in their daily life. This violence includes beatings, humiliation, sexual violence, notably rape and sexual assaults, and the use of solitary confinement to break down individuals and dismantle solidarity. The regularity of cell raids by dozens of heavily armed guards or special units, the deliberate denial of food, hygiene, medical care, and the prohibition of contact with families further demonstrate that violence and inhumane treatment is an intentional policy aimed at collectively punish, dehumanize and isolate detainees while instilling permanent fear.

Violence against detainees is structural and implicates prison guards, military units, intelligence services, and medical staff. Prison authorities, soldiers, interrogators, medical staff, and intelligence services all participate in or are complicit in this system, in total impunity.

These crimes are also reinforced by the discourse of Israeli leaders, statements from high-ranking officials, coupled with directives such as the confiscation of personal belongings, the reduction of food to starvation levels, and the isolation of prisoners from families, lawyers, and international monitors.

The violence in prisons is not separate from, but directly connected to, Israel's ongoing genocide, serving to reinforce the same objectives of domination and destruction of the Palestinian society. Palestinian detainees are trapped in a brutal carceral system deliberately



calibrated to destroy them physically, psychologically, socially, and collectively, as part of Israel's ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people.

The systematic use of arbitrary detention, torture, sexual violence, and inhumane detention conditions against Palestinians amounts to grave breaches of international humanitarian law, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts of genocide under international law.



Recommendations for States

1. **Fulfill obligations under international law**
 - Undertake all measures to prevent and punish the ongoing genocide.
 - Suspend all arms sales or transfers, military cooperation, and security agreements with Israel.
 - Impose sanctions, including asset freezes and travel bans, on Israeli officials and entities responsible for the torture, mass detention of Palestinians and ongoing genocide.

2. **Ensure accountability for the crimes committed against Palestinian detainees**
 - Investigate and prosecute individuals, including Israeli political and military leaders, responsible for torture, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts of genocide, notably using universal jurisdiction.
 - Cooperate with and support ongoing investigations by the ICC into the situation of Palestine and apply all Court's decisions, including arrest warrants.
 - Call for the immediate end to administrative detention and the release of all Palestinian detainees arbitrarily held in Israeli occupation prisons.

3. **Support Palestinian Civil Society Organizations**
 - In light of U.S. sanctions on Palestinian organizations, provide concrete support for Palestinian NGOs, including the activation of the EU blocking statute, publicly denounce the sanctions and renew funding and support of Palestinian organizations.



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