

***Joint Submission to UN Special
Rapporteur on the situation of
human rights in the Palestinian
territories occupied since 1967***

Submission I

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1. Introduction

Since 1948, the Palestinian people have experienced an ongoing *Nakba*,¹ a process of institutionalised racial domination and discrimination, entrenching apartheid on both sides of the Green Line, with military occupation, population transfer, and settler colonisation perpetrated and maintained by the State of Israel. This manifests in the continued subjugation of the Palestinian people through multiple forms of violence which include, but are not limited to, a carceral regime grounded in longstanding systematic and widespread practices of arbitrary arrest, administrative detention, and torture, as well as violations of due process and fair trial guarantees under both international human rights law (IHRL) and international humanitarian law (IHL).

Since 1967, Israel has unlawfully occupied the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza, collectively referred to as the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). In July 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) confirmed that Israel's continued presence in the oPt is unlawful and that Israel is under an obligation to bring its illegal presence to an end as rapidly as possible.² In determining the illegality of Israel's belligerent occupation of the oPt, the ICJ also recognized that a wide array of Israeli legislation and measures are in breach of Article 3 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), which prohibits apartheid and racial segregation.

Israel has also been committing the crime of genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, carrying out at least four of the five acts listed under Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, including killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; and imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group. In September 2025, the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, determined that Israel is committing these genocidal acts. The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 has also issued three reports analysing Israel's commission of genocide in Gaza since at least 7 October 2023.

It is within this context of Palestinian erasure, military occupation, apartheid, genocide, and settler-colonialism that Israeli authorities continue to employ mass arbitrary arrests and detention as a central instrument of domination, oppression and control against the Palestinian people. Since Israel's last review by the Committee Against Torture (the Committee), there has been no reduction in arbitrary arrests and detention, no restraint on the use of torture, and no improvement in the inhumane and degrading conditions endured by Palestinians in Israeli custody. On the contrary, since 7 October 2023, the submitting organizations have documented an unprecedented escalation in arbitrary arrests and mass detentions, a sharp intensification of

¹ <https://columbialawreview.org/content/toward-nakba-as-a-legal-concept/>

² <https://www.icj-cij.org/case/186>

physical and psychological violence, and a surge in the scale and brutality of crimes committed by Israel against the Palestinian people.

According to Addameer's documentation, between October 2023 and October 2025, Israeli authorities arrested more than 18,500 Palestinians, including at least 570 women and 1,500 children.³ The number of Palestinians in Israeli custody went from around 5,000 prior to 7 October 2023 to 11,100 in September 2025, including 450 children.⁴

Accurate information regarding the total number of Palestinians arrested by the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) in Gaza since October 2023 and subsequently taken into custody remains unavailable. From the first moment of arrest, Palestinians from Gaza were subjected to the crime of enforced disappearance, as no Israeli official bodies provide accurate information about the number of detainees, the conditions of their detention, or even their identities. This is because, to date, Israeli authorities have deliberately withheld official data concerning these detainees to obstruct oversight and accountability and have prohibited access by external agencies, bodies and experts. Israel routinely prevents impartial humanitarian organisations from supporting Palestinian detainees, even the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was also prevented from carrying out any visits to these detainees. Consequently, obtaining verified and comprehensive information on the identities, locations, and conditions of detention of Palestinian residents of Gaza remains exceedingly difficult.

From the moment of arrest, Palestinians are exposed to torture and other ill-treatment, including physical, psychological, and sexual violence. According to Addameer's documentation, at least 78 Palestinians have been killed or have died while in Israeli custody between October 2023 and October 2025. It is widely believed that the actual number is significantly higher, as no official or publicly available information has been released regarding the number of detainees from Gaza who have been killed or have died in Israeli custody. Moreover, since 7 October 2023, there has been a push to expand the powers of arrests, prolong the duration of interrogations, restrict access to lawyers, and impose harsher penalties, exposing detainees to greater risks of torture and inhumane treatment, in violation of Article 2 of the CAT.

The lack of oversight and accountability is also the result of Israel's continuous obstruction of international monitoring and accountability mechanisms. Israel persistently denies access to United Nations (UN) officials and independent investigators seeking to assess the human rights situation in the oPt and in detention facilities where Palestinians are held.

No UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 has been allowed entry into the oPt since 2008. Likewise, investigators from the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel have been systematically barred from entering both the oPt and Israel, including its detention sites. Although the current UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading

³ <https://addameer.ps/news/5607>

⁴ <https://www.addameer.ps/statistics/2025/09>

treatment or punishment visited Israel in December 2024, it was not an official country visit conducted under the terms of her mandate. She did not visit any detention sites where Palestinian detainees are held, thereby further undermining the credibility and effectiveness of the visit.

1.1. The Legalisation of Torture by Israel

Since 1948, Israel has enacted, maintained and developed laws, policies and practices legitimizing the use of torture against Palestinians, while ensuring impunity for those responsible, in clear violation of Article 2 of the Convention Against Torture (CAT) while also constituting inhumane acts of apartheid, in breach of peremptory norms of international law

The Israeli judicial system, in particular, has contributed to legalising the use of torture. In 1999, Israel's High Court of Justice, in the case *Public Committee Against Torture in Israel v. The State of Israel* (HCJ 5100/94)⁵, made permissible the use of "special means of pressure" in the case of where interrogators believe that a suspect is withholding information that could prevent an impending threat to civilian lives as stated in Article (1)34 of the Israeli Penal Code of 1972. This exception to the absolute prohibition of torture constitutes a grave legal loophole which legalizes the torture of Palestinians by Israeli interrogators. Through this decision, the Court granted immunity to interrogators from the Israeli Security Agency (ISA), also known as *Shabak* or *Shin Bet*, and ensured that they would not be held accountable for torture and inhumane treatment committed against detainees. In 2018, the High Court of Justice issued another ruling in the *Tbeish* case (HCJ 9018/17)⁶ which expanded the scope of the 1999 decision to include cases that are not imminent security threats. In this case, the judge broadened the element of "immediacy" to not be bound by time.

Over the past decade, Addameer has submitted annually tens of complaints related to acts of torture committed against Palestinian detainees, and only one complaint, related to sexual harassment, was opened for investigation but was later closed without indictment. Moreover, according to the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI), about 1,200 complaints of torture during Israeli interrogations have been filed between 2001 and 2019. All the cases were closed without a single indictment.⁷ Complaints of torture are thus never promptly and impartially examined by Israeli authorities and redress and adequate compensations for the torture and inhumane treatment in detention are never provided to Palestinian victims.

For decades, Israel has created a system of total impunity by failing to conduct prompt and impartial investigations and prosecute acts of torture perpetrated by its own agents. By invoking the exceptional circumstances of "security threat" to justify the torture of Palestinians, it has failed to redress and compensate victims of torture. Israel's supreme court decisions have legalised acts of torture. All these elements represent violations of Article 2 (para 1 and 2), Articles 4, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16 of the CAT.

⁵ http://www.hamoked.org/files/2012/264_eng.pdf

⁶ <http://stoptorture.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/F.-Tbeish-Ruling-Nov.-2018.ENG.pdf>

⁷ <https://stoptorture.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Factsheet-2019-ENGLISH-TORTURE.pdf>

1.2. Discriminatory Detention Systems and Legal Fragmentation

As part of its settler-colonial apartheid regime aimed at the fragmentation, oppression, and domination of the Palestinian people, Israel applies different legal detention regimes to Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line — based on their geographic location and legal status, dividing them according to whether they reside in Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, or hold Israeli citizenship — while preventing the right of return of Palestinian refugees and exiles, in continuing acts of persecution. It also applies different laws and detention regimes for Palestinian and Israeli citizens living in the oPt.

1.2.1. Administrative Detention

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Israel uses administrative detention to arbitrarily detain Palestinians without charge or trial based on a “secret file” which they or their lawyer cannot access. In accordance with the detention order, a detainee is given a specific time of detention. On or before the expiry of the term, the detention order can be renewed indefinitely. Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions further establishes that, in case of administrative detention, the administrative detainee must be provided with information on the reasons of the detention, which should be sufficiently detailed to enable him to take immediate steps to challenge the lawfulness of the detention.⁸ While lawyers for Palestinian victims/detainees can challenge administrative detention orders in military courts, the lack of independence of Israeli military courts prevents them from effectively examining cases, rendering the detention unlawful.

While the Fourth Geneva Convention establishes that in situations of belligerent occupation, administrative detention cannot be used as a collective measure and must be based on an individual assessment, Israeli authorities have systematically used administrative detention to arbitrarily arrest and detain Palestinians on a mass scale. Out of more than 18,500 Palestinians detained since 7 October 2023, a significant number have been placed under administrative detention or saw their administrative detention order renewed. Before 7 October 2023, approximately 1,320 Palestinians were detained under administrative detention, compared to 3,557 as of September 2025.⁹ This marks the highest number since the second *Intifada*. This technique of mass arrest recurs during all times of violence, military assaults, political unrests or uprisings. It is used to terrorise and collectively punish the protected Palestinian population in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem and those with Israeli citizenship, deterring them from organizing, demonstrating, or showing solidarity and ultimately pursuing their inalienable right to self-determination.

⁸ Article 78 of the Geneva Convention IV states that “[d]ecisions regarding [...] assigned residence or internment shall be made according to a regular procedure to be prescribed by the Occupying Power in accordance with the provisions of the [...] Convention. This procedure shall include the right of appeal for the parties concerned. Appeals shall be decided with the least possible delay. In the event of the decision being upheld, it shall be subject to periodical review, if possible every six months, by a competent body set up by the said Power”.

⁹ <https://www.addameer.ps/statistics>

The generalised use of administrative detention undermines the rights of Palestinian protected persons to benefit from fair trial guarantees. This practice is applied discriminatorily against Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and is almost never used against Israeli settlers living in the same area that continue to attack, rob, injure and kill Palestinians and vandalise, damage and demolish Palestinian properties, along with dispossessing Palestinians from their land. Incidents of attacks by illegal Israeli settlers against Palestinians across the unlawfully occupied West Bank have increased exponentially since 7 October 2023,¹⁰ yet impunity persists. This constitutes a flagrant violation of the principle of non-discrimination. Administrative detention is employed as a discriminatory tool of control and as a form of collective punishment against Palestinians and is unlawful under international law.¹¹

The system of administrative detention as applied discriminatorily by Israel against Palestinians, marked by the absence of due process or a fair trial, the lack of clarity about reasons for detention impeding on the right to defence, and the possibility of indefinite renewal and detention, together create severe psychological suffering for Palestinian detainees, generating extreme levels of stress, fear, and a feeling of complete hopelessness for detainees and their families (both in cases of individual detentions and mass detentions as collective punishment). **Israel's system of administrative detention creates and sustains conditions that expose Palestinians detained under this regime to a heightened risk of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, in violation of Articles 1 and 16 of the CAT.**

1.2.2. Unlawful Combatants Law, Mass Arrests and Enforced Disappearances

Despite being protected persons under IHL as civilians living in occupied territory, Palestinian in Gaza are detained under Israel's "Incarceration of Unlawful Combatants" Law (5762–2002). The "Unlawful Combatants" Law is specifically designed to detain Palestinians without charge, where an Israeli military officer has "reasonable grounds to believe that a person brought before him is an unlawful combatant" (a status that does not exist under international law) and that "his release will harm State security".¹² As for the system of administrative detention, detention under the "Unlawful Combatants" Law lasts for six months, with the possibility of indefinite six-month extensions. Since the beginning of Israel's genocidal campaign and ground invasion of Gaza, this law has allowed the Israeli military and security apparatus to detain thousands of Palestinians from Gaza indefinitely, without charge or trial, based on secret evidence.

Palestinians held under this law are neither granted the status of prisoners of war under the Third Geneva Convention nor afforded the protections of civilian detainees under the Fourth

¹⁰ <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/west-bank-monthly-snapshot-casualties-property-damage-and-displacement-september-2025>

¹¹ <https://addameer.ps/media/5262>

¹² <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Politics/IncarcerationLaw.pdf>

Geneva Convention. It is important to note that, according to the documentation of our organizations, the “Unlawful Combatants” Law is predominantly used to detain civilians. Individuals identified as members of Palestinian armed groups, or those directly participating in hostilities, are generally charged and prosecuted under Israel’s ordinary criminal or military justice system. This further demonstrates that the “Unlawful Combatants” Law functions as a mechanism for mass arbitrary detention of the civilian population of Gaza, permitting indefinite detention without charge and effectively stripping detainees of all due process guarantees.

Since October 2023, the Israeli parliament (Knesset) has amended the Unlawful Combatants Law for a total of six times, further eroding the Law’s already minimal procedural safeguards. The first major amendment, passed on 18 December 2023 as a temporary and initially valid for four months, extended the period within which a military commander must issue a detention order from 96 hours under the original law to 45 days and delayed judicial review from 14 days to 75 days, also allowing court hearings via videoconference and without the presence of legal counsel. The permissible period during which a detainee may be denied access to a lawyer was extended to 75 days by official military order, and 180 days the approval of a civilian court. This amendment was subsequently renewed in April 2024.

A further amendment adopted on 28 July 2024, which entered into force on 1 August 2024, introduced minor adjustments to certain time limits while maintaining the overarching framework of prolonged, incommunicado detention. It reduced the period within which a detention order must be rendered from 45 to 30 days and shortened the time before a detainee must be brought before a judge from 75 to 45 days. The amendment also provided that a detainee must be allowed to meet with a lawyer within 21 days of arrest, though an official military order may postpone this meeting for up to 45 days, and a civilian court may authorize further postponement for up to 75 days. For minors, the amendment required that a detention order be issued within 20 days of a temporary detention order and that they be brought before a judge within 30 days of arrest.

These amendments have enabled an alarming increase of incommunicado detention, enforced disappearance and incidents of torture, by dismantling fundamental legal safeguards designed to ensure due process, prevent torture and ill treatment, and protect human dignity and the fundamental right to liberty. Palestinian detainees are now routinely held for weeks or months, without access to a lawyer and without anyone being aware of their place of detention or their status. As of 1 October 2025, the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) confirmed to Israeli NGO HaMoked that 2,673 Palestinians were detained under the Unlawful Combatants law under the control of the IPS.¹³ This number excludes those held for an initial 10-day period without formal detention order.

There is a significant number of detainees from the Gaza Strip who remain unaccounted for, with their loved ones receiving no information regarding their wellbeing or whereabouts – a practice that inflicts serious mental suffering on the detainee’s close friends and family. As discussed in Submission II, in the context of the forcible transfer of Palestinians in Gaza

¹³ <https://hamoked.org/prisoners-charts.php>

constituting psychological torture, the immense suffering of the families of those violently detained was highlighted by the Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in *Blagojevic and Jovic*. Based on an abundance of evidence, the Chamber found that this experience reached the threshold of serious mental harm constituting a genocidal act for the purposes of Article 4 of the ICTY Statute.¹⁴ In its judgment, the Trial Chamber explained that not only was the experience of being separated from family extremely traumatic, but that the terrible consequences it had on their lives, including the pain of having no information on the fate or whereabouts of the individuals taken, caused lasting and severe anguish.¹⁵ In fact, evidence of family members being separated supported the Chamber's ultimate finding that the perpetrators intended that the forcible transfer, and the way it was carried out, would cause serious mental harm to the victims'.¹⁶ Based on this reasoning alone, it also constitutes psychological torture under Article 1 of the CAT.

In numerous instances, lawyers have requested information about specific detainees from Israeli authorities only to be told that the detainee is "not present" in the system. This implies that many detainees are missing, and some may have been killed. There remains a substantial lack of information about these detainees. Palestinian human rights organisations often must rely on online media outlets for information about detainees taken from Gaza, including their death in detention.

The weeks and sometimes months spent by Palestinians from Gaza without being registered as detainees, and without anyone having information about their status nor place of detentions, including their lawyers and families, and the high number of Palestinians who still remain unaccounted for, with no information on their place of detention nor their status, amounts to enforced disappearance. Every single detainee from Gaza has been subjected, for at least several days up to several months, to enforced disappearance.

By systematically and widely stripping Palestinian detainees of their fundamental rights, preventing them from communicating with their lawyers and families, keeping their whereabouts and status undisclosed, and threatening detainees with indefinite detention, Israeli authorities have increased detainees' risks of facing torture, causing severe psychological pain and suffering, and have committed the crime against humanity of enforced disappearance, which has caused devastating psychological suffering to both Palestinian detainees and their families. Further, the enforced disappearances and torture practices, carried out with an intent to destroy the Palestinian group in Gaza, amounts to acts of genocide by the Israeli authorities.

¹⁴ *Prosecutor v. Blagojević and Jokić* (Judgment) IT-02-60-T (17 January 2005), para. 652

¹⁵ *Prosecutor v. Blagojević and Jokić* (Judgment) IT-02-60-T (17 January 2005), para. 653

¹⁶ *Prosecutor v. Blagojević and Jokić* (Judgment) IT-02-60-T (17 January 2005), para. 654

2. The Treatment of Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees Prior to October 2023

Since its establishment, the IOF has brutalized and systematically mistreated Palestinians during their arrest, interrogation and throughout their detention.

These abuses have been documented for decades by Palestinian organisations and include severe beatings, dragging, the use of police dogs to attack and mistreat Palestinians, direct shooting at the detainees or members of their families, the use of stress positions, sleep deprivation, violent cell raids, and general inhumane detention conditions. The IOF has also been using psychological violence against Palestinian detainees including by insulting detainees and threatening them, notably with hurting, arresting or killing their family members. Addameer documented cases where detainees' family members were arrested to exert pressure on prisoners and cases where prisoners were forced to watch or listen to the screams of other prisoners being subjected to torture and inhumane treatment, creating an environment of fear and terror within the interrogation centres and prisons.

The year 2022 recorded the highest numbers of wounded persons arrested since 2015 as human rights organizations documented around 40 cases of Palestinians who were shot and arrested by the occupation forces; some of whom were seriously injured, and three of whom were killed, including Dawoud Al Zubaidi from Jenin, Mohammad Hamed from Silwad, and Rafeeq Ghannam from Jenin.¹⁷

Before 7 October 2023, interrogation was the period of detention where Palestinian detainees were the most at risk of torture. Amidst the absence of effective legal accountability for the perpetrators, torture in Israeli interrogation centres has become the norm. Detainees are subjected to continuous and lengthy interrogation sessions in cells, special rooms, or dedicated interrogation centres, often without knowing the reason for their arrest. They are systematically subjected to different forms of torture. They are victims of physical, and gendered, violence, 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. These interrogation sessions aim to extract confessions and force detainees to self-incriminate. Detainees are also subjected to constant threats, including of sexual violence, verbal abuse, insults, and other forms of psychological torture.

Detainees were also subjected to violence throughout their detention, including during violent cell raids used to collectively punish detainees and create an environment of terror inside the prisons. Israel systematically exploits any pretext to deploy its special forces into prisons to attack and harass Palestinian prisoners and detainees. Addameer alone documented more than 25 such raids in the Israeli prisons throughout 2020.¹⁸ During these attacks, special forces shackle prisoners, with frequent physical assaults and use of tear gas, pepper spray, beatings, including with batons, along with a plethora of other abusive tactics. Prisoners have often

¹⁷ <https://www.addameer.ps/sites/default/files/publications/damir%20e%20for%20social.pdf>

¹⁸ https://www.addameer.ps/sites/default/files/publications/Torture%20and%20III-Treatment%20Beyond%20Interrogation_0.pdf

reported sustaining grave injuries due to the brutality of the attacks. In the framework of these raids, Israeli forces routinely confiscate the prisoners' belongings, as well all electronic devices and appliances.¹⁹

Detainees were also detained in inhumane conditions and refused medical treatment when needed. Doctors play an insignificant role during the examination of prisoners, do not provide them with actual treatment, participating in the policy of medical negligence.

2.1. Torture During Arrest: The Case of Hamza Bouzia (2022)

Hamza Bouzia is a 31-year-old a resident of Kifl Haris near Salfit, who was arrested by the IOF from his house on 2 November 2022. According to a testimony provided to Addameer, when Bouzia opened the door of the house, the soldiers unleashed a dog at him without a muzzle and the dog attacked Bouzia and grabbed him by the testicles for about five minutes, during which none of the soldiers helped Bouzia. One of the soldiers violently pinned Bouzia to the ground and cuffed his hands behind his back with plastic ties, only then the dog was removed away from him. The dog caused wounds in various parts of Bouzia's body, including his testicles and thigh, but the soldiers disregarded his wounds and did not provide him with the necessary medical care.

Later on, one of the soldiers hit Bouzia on the head with his rifle and pressed on his wounds. Then, Bouzia was taken half-naked to the hospital, where he underwent surgery without his or any of his relatives' verbal or written consent. He received 16 stiches to his testicles, after which Bouzia suffered from medical negligence. He recounted to Addameer: *"I had to change the bandages and clean up my wounds all by myself"*. Israeli authorities did not take into account Bouzia's critical condition, as he was transferred to the court on a long and arduous journey, which exacerbated his pain.

2.2. The Use of Family Members as Psychological Torture: The Cases of Awab Mubarak and Mohammad Hamed (2022)

At approximately 3:00 a.m. on 10 January 2022, the Israeli occupation forces raided the home of **Awab Mubarak**,²⁰ who lived with his pregnant wife and his two-and-a-half-year-old daughter in Jalazoun refugee camp near Ramallah. The raid came only 50 days after his release from an 8-months long administrative detention. Mubarak underwent an intensive 21 to 23 hours per day interrogation at the Ofer interrogation centre, during which Israeli interrogators threatened him with arresting his family. The interrogator made Mubarak watch a video of the

¹⁹ https://www.addameer.ps/sites/default/files/publications/Torture%20and%20Ill-Treatment%20Beyond%20Interrogation_0.pdf

²⁰ <https://www.addameer.ps/sites/default/files/publications/damir e for social.pdf>

IOF surrounding his house to arrest his wife. During the interrogation, the interrogator used to shake him very hard.²¹

Mohammad Hamed,²² a 24-year-old resident of Silwad near Ramallah, was arrested at Beit El military checkpoint while returning to his home on 9 January 2022. Hamed was interrogated for 59 days, the first 25 days of which he was subjected to continuous interrogation for long hours at Ofer Interrogation Center and was given short breaks only to eat or use the bathroom. During this period, Hamed's hands and feet were cuffed to a metal chair, he was yelled at, threatened with the arrest of his family, deprived of sleep, and connected to a lie detector. Hamed was held in a solitary confinement cell, the area of which did not exceed 2x2 meters, and slept on a three-centimetre-thick mattress on a metal bed. Hamed described the cell as very cold as he was arrested in the winter, and the IPS made the matter worse by deliberately turning on the air conditioner. On the 25th day of the interrogation on 2 February 2022, Hamed was taken to his family house in Silwad, and was forced to watch his house being ransacked before his eyes. His two brothers; Imad and Ahmad, and his 51-year-old father; Yaseen, were all arrested and taken to Ofer interrogation centre. An interrogator showed Hamed a video of his father in the interrogation room, and another video of his uncle and his wife who were summoned for interrogation. In a separate testimony taken from Hamed's mother, she confirmed that the occupation forces raided their house twice in large numbers, during which they caused massive damage to their house and the neighbouring houses. The family livestock farm was also vandalized. Hamed was interrogated for 59 days and was denied access to legal counsel for 39 days.²³

2.3. Torture During Interrogation, Followed by Complete Impunity: The Cases of Rajab Muteir (2016) and Samer Arbeed (2019)

Rajab Muteir was arrested on 21 January 2016 from his grandmother's house in Qalandia refugee camp.²⁴ Muteir underwent harsh and continuous "military interrogation", during which he faced isolation, sleep deprivation, different forms of stress positions for long hours, threats with the arrest of family members, administrative detention, and life imprisonment. Muteir was transferred to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem eight months after his arrest. At the hospital, he was informed by a specialist that he suffers from a displaced vertebra in his lower back, but the doctor claimed that Muteir's condition is a birth defect. On 7 March 2018, a complaint was submitted by Addameer's lawyer to the Israeli Attorney General regarding the torture that Muteir was subjected to during interrogation. The complaint was only transferred to the military prosecutor on 15 September 2020, two and a half years after the date of submission, illustrating the deliberate delay in following up on complaints related to the torture of Palestinian detainees. The perpetrators claimed that the interrogation aimed to "put an end to the danger" that Muteir posed to the security of the state. The public prosecutor decided to

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ <https://www.addameer.ps/sites/default/files/publications/damir%20e%20for%20social.pdf>

²⁴ <https://www.addameer.ps/sites/default/files/publications/damir%20e%20for%20social.pdf>

close the file, claiming that there was no serious breach of the law by the interrogators, and that there were no grounds to prove the use of “unlawful force”.²⁵

On 25 September 2019, Samer Arbeed was arrested outside of his workplace.²⁶ From the moment of his arrest, the Israeli special forces unit viciously beat him with their weapons. Samer was transferred to Ofer prison, where he was immediately banned from meeting with his lawyer and interrogated without the present of a legal representant. On the first day, Arbeed was interrogated for hours, during which he was violently assaulted and forced into multiple stress positions, including the banana position and squatting in front of a wall. In an attempt to suffocate Samer, the interrogators put pressure on his neck. On the second day, he was brought before a military judge to extend his detention, he informed the judge that he experienced chest pains, continuous vomiting, and inability to swallow. Nevertheless, the judge dismissed his statement and ordered the extension of his detention for further interrogation.

Directly following the court session, Samer was transferred to Al-MoscobiyeH interrogation centre, where the interrogators continued to use the same torture methods until he lost consciousness. On 27 September 2019, after 48 hours of interrogation, Samer was transferred to a hospital with life-threatening injuries that prompted his physicians to put him under induced coma and on artificial respiration for around 14 days. Samer suffered from 11 broken ribs, renal failure, and several bruises on his whole body.²⁷ On 24 January 2021, the Israeli Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit, closed the investigations against the *Shabak* (Israeli Security Agency, ISA) for the circumstances leading to Arbeed's hospitalization.²⁸ The ISA agents that tortured Samer Arbeed were never prosecuted for the torture they committed.

2.4. The Torture of Palestinian Children: The Cases of Sh. Kh.

On 18 October 2022, Israeli police officers raided the house of Sh. Kh. in Jerusalem and severely beat the boy in front of his parents and siblings, leaving him with a bleeding nose and a floor covered with his blood.²⁹ He was not allowed to say goodbye to his family or change his clothes. After being handcuffed behind his back and blindfolded, he was transferred to Al-MoscobiyeH, where he was beaten up brutally that he lost consciousness three times that day.

He recounted to Addameer: “*They did not explain my rights to me before I was interrogated, but I refused to answer any questions before seeing a lawyer, so a lawyer came in and I spoke with him before the interrogation began*”. During the interrogation, Sh. Kh. was shouted at by an interrogator, and a police officer entered the room and stood behind him, in order to scare him. The interrogation continued for a long time, he does not remember exactly how long, and

²⁵ <https://www.addameer.ps/sites/default/files/publications/damir%20e%20for%20social.pdf>

²⁶ <https://www.addameer.ps/news/addameer-condemns-israeli-attorney-generals-decision-close-investigation-against-shabak>

²⁷ <https://www.addameer.ps/news/addameer-condemns-israeli-attorney-generals-decision-close-investigation-against-shabak>

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ <https://www.addameer.ps/sites/default/files/publications/damir%20e%20for%20social.pdf>

afterward, he was forced to squat. He further explained: *“I was forced to squat and whenever I moved or fell, police officers would beat and insult me, using racist slurs.”* From the time of his arrest until his first court hearing, Sh. Kh. was not allowed to eat or drink water. When he was brought to a doctor, the latest refused to examine him saying that he did not suffer from anything, despite visible signs of beatings on his face and body, a broken nose and torn clothes. During his 16 days of detention at Al-Moscobiye, Sh. Kh. was interrogated three times and brought before the court eight times.

Sh. Kh. was eventually released after 41 days of detention but only to be placed under full house arrest after his family paid a fine of 6,000 shekels (\approx \$1,500), and five of his family members signed a bond of 15,000 shekels (\approx \$4,000) for each to be paid in the event of a breach of house arrest and other legal procedures.

2.1. Other Abuses Against Palestinian Children

Palestinian children arrested by the Israeli army are particularly vulnerable to abuse and violations of their rights. The IOF systematically raids the homes of children’s families in the middle of the night, with dozens of soldiers. Children also suffer from being subjected to inhuman detention conditions in addition to being subjected to various forms of physical and psychological violence and degrading treatment. During detention, children are abused, banned from family visitation, deprived of education, tortured and denied fair trial guarantees. Every year, nearly 200 children are deprived of education and removed from school due to repeated arrests and imprisonment. Children are also subjected to medical negligence, as some of the children suffer from diseases, such as a herniated disc, eye and ear problems, mental disorders, and epileptic seizures. Israeli authorities deliberately disregard these diseases, which leads to a deterioration in the health conditions of minors. Finally, Addameer documented children being held in solitary confinement.

For example, in 2022 alone, the Israeli occupation forces arrested 882 Palestinian children in total,³⁰ with 19 children held under administrative detention. Out of the 882 Palestinian children who were arrested, 654 were from Jerusalem, and nearly 600 of them were placed under house arrest after their release from Israeli prisons.³¹ Children under house arrest are forced to wear a tracking device; an electronic bracelet, with a GPS location feature so that they can be re-arrested if the house arrest is breached. House arrest leaves harmful effects and scars on children’s lives. It prevents children from practicing their normal lives by being in a healthy environment where there is social contact with the outside world, and by being in school which helps in the proper mental development of children. Furthermore, house arrest affects the child’s family, as the family members are jailed inside their own house due to the penalties imposed on them, and are sometimes forced to sell their property and spend their savings in

³⁰ <https://www.addameer.ps/sites/default/files/publications/damir%20e%20for%20social.pdf>

³¹ <https://www.addameer.ps/sites/default/files/publications/damir%20e%20for%20social.pdf>

order to deposit large sums of money in the treasury of the occupation courts to guarantee the implementation of the conditions for the release of their children.

2.2. Cells Raids to Collectively Punish and Terrorize Detainees: The Cases of Violent Raids in Naqab Prison (2017 and 2019) and in Ofer Prison (2020)

Randi Odeh recounts his experience during one of the raids while in Naqab Prison in 2017.³² According to Randi, the Special Units subjected prisoners to barbaric treatment. The troops stormed the section, blasting tear gas canisters as they marched from one cell to another, cuffing the prisoners and throwing them to the ground in the courtyard. The prisoners were shackled on the fora ground for around eight hours in cold temperatures.

Randi recounted to Addameer:

We stayed in this state from eight in the evening until three before dawn, moaning with agony from excruciating pain and extreme cold, beating, verbal insults, and dragging. As they were throwing us to the fora, the unit divided into two squads: One wreaked havoc throughout our rooms, destroying our belongings, walls, and toilet doors and throwing them outside, while the other stood watching and beating the prisoners on the fora ground if they make any move. They prevented us from even going to the toilets. A fellow inmate with diabetes was forced to wet his clothes. After about four hours of being forcibly lying down on our stomachs on the cold ground-including the severe pain with our hands tied, almost bloodless, behind our backs and biting cold crawling into our skin and bones, some signs loomed that the raid was about to be over.³³

A security camera video filmed the violent IOF raid of Palestinian prisoners in Naqab Prison in March 2019.³⁴ The video shows dozens of Israeli prison officers harassing and assaulting prisoners, kicking prisoners and beating them with batons as they lay on the ground, handcuffed for hours. According to testimonies from witnesses of the attack, the IOF fired rubber-coated metal bullets, pepper spray and physically assaulted detainees, including kicking and beatings by baton, the use of attack dogs, stress positions, medical neglect, and other ill-treatment. Of the approximately 98 prisoners in the targeted prison section, 82 suffered head injuries, dozens suffered from severe injuries, of which about 11 were sent to the prison clinic, and one prisoner sustained grave injuries leading to a two-day coma and his near-death. Other serious injuries included severe bruising, broken bones and deep cuts. Due to the severity of their conditions, twelve prisoners were transferred to the hospital. The remaining injured prisoners were left for hours handcuffed, subject to retaliatory ill-treatment and inhumane detention conditions for days and weeks following the raid.

³² https://www.addameer.ps/sites/default/files/publications/Torture%20and%20Ill-Treatment%20Beyond%20Interrogation_0.pdf

³³ https://www.addameer.ps/sites/default/files/publications/Torture%20and%20Ill-Treatment%20Beyond%20Interrogation_0.pdf

³⁴ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Cq5UjR_NB0

Abdullah Hmeideh recounted the attack to Addameer:

The moment the Keter unit received a prisoner, the soldiers would drag him for around 1020- meters to the centre of the yard while other soldiers lined up around him to beat him as he was being dragged. By the time the prisoner made it to the centre of the yard, he was brutalized and beaten all over his body before being thrown to the ground, head first. With the prisoners' hands handcuffed behind their backs and unable to shield themselves, aggressively throwing them head-first to the ground left many with contusions in the head, nose and upper body."

The prisoners were thrown to the ground in a barbaric manner; they threw the first prisoner on the ground, then threw the second prisoner on top of him. They piled the prisoners on top of each other. Even then, the battle was not over. In the middle of the yard stood the prison guards and the Keter unit who piled us on top of each other, beat us, and yell "on your knees" in Hebrew (which not all the prisoners understood). Automatically, we would pull ourselves together and kneel. Once in that position, anyone who lifts his head up or speaks was beaten with boots and batons. Of course, the physical assault was accompanied with a string of curses degrading our mothers, sisters, God, religion, and prophet. This continued for about half an hour until the Israeli special forces had all the prisoners under control. For a second, I thought that it was over and we will be moved back to our cells. Nevertheless, the prison guards, along with the Keter and Metsada units, circled us and started kicking us with their bootclad feet. The boots had steel plates, and they did not care where they hit us. Several prisoners were injured as a result. After that, they started lining us up for a headcount but continued to beat anyone who lifted his head or moved. This continued for another three and a half hours. While we were in the yard, it started raining very heavily, which posed a different kind of problem as our clothes got wet and we were all cold. We were so cold that we were shivering and could not feel our limbs anymore. The only silver lining was that the heavy rain and the cold helped stop the bleeding. If it did not, it was very possible that they would end up martyrs [dead]. [...]

We were still in the same position at 4.30 in the morning. Having been forced into the position around half an hour after the start of the attack, this means that by 4.30, the prisoners had been handcuffed in that position in the cold for around seven hours. At the time we felt suffocated because of the lowered angle of our heads. It was catastrophic. There were prisoners suffering from different health conditions (open heart surgeries, chronic illnesses, and shortness of breath). Some prisoners started suffocating so the Israeli unit would tilt them sideways without removing the handcuffs when they noticed. Of course, they did not stop hitting us the whole time. Even if they did not hit us with their equipment, a soldier would hit us with their feet or batons.³⁵

³⁵ https://addameer.ps/sites/default/files/publications/v2020_online.pdf

On 13 July 2020, a large number of the Yamas, Massada and Drur special forces units raided Ofer prison and attacked Palestinian prisoners in three sections.³⁶ Addammer documented the attack through a field interview with released prisoner Nader Al-Qaisi, 24 years old from Bethlehem, who was held there at the time. Al-Qaisi stated that on that day, Israeli special forces raided the prison and took prisoner Rami Fadayel from his room without prior notice, resulting in an altercation between the prisoners and the prison administration. Later that day, at exactly 8 pm, sirens sounded in the prison; the prisoners knew that the administration was preparing to raid the sections. It became apparent that special forces units were gathering in preparation to raid sections 16, 21, and 22.

Al-Qaisi recalls:

[I]t was then when we started shouting and banging on the doors to let the other sections know that we were about to be in a lot of trouble. Mere minutes later, the special forces raided the section; there were more than 50 masked soldiers dressed in tactical gear with protective equipment, accompanied by military dogs. The units closed all the windows in every room, along with the door slot used to bring in food. We immediately knew that they were going to launch gas.

Al-Qaisi recounts the painful details of that day,

Despite everything we did, the soldiers tried to push through the mattresses using long batons. When they failed to dislodge the mattresses, they launched a large canister of gas (known among the prisoners as worn out, they emptied another canister; half an hour later, they launched a third one. We started screaming then because we thought prisoner Ali Jaradat, 65 years old from Ramallah, died as he had lost consciousness from inhaling all that gas. This attack was different. Normally, when the special forces raid the rooms and gas us, they would disperse oxygen minutes later in fear of a prisoner dying from gas inhalation. This time they didn't care and never circulated oxygen.

He continued:

After that, we went into the bathroom to take cover from the gas. That's when 4 soldiers entered the room and dragged prisoner Ali Jaradat to the prison clinic. Immediately after that, they pushed us to the ground; a soldier stood next to each prisoner, placing their foot on our backs. The soldier next to me pushed his knee into my back while I was face-down on the floor.

Al-Qaisi added that, during the raid, the special units had confiscated all the appliances and food utensils and tableware and kept all the prisoners bound until 6:00 the following morning.

³⁶ https://www.addameer.ps/sites/default/files/publications/Torture%20and%20Ill-Treatment%20Beyond%20Interrogation_0.pdf

2.3. Medical Neglect: The Case of Nasser Abu Hamid

On 20 December 2022, Prisoner Nasser Abu Hamid from Ramallah's Al Am'ari Refugee Camp passed away at age 50 from advanced lung cancer while held captive in Ramleh Prison Clinic. Abu Hamid, who was diagnosed with lung cancer, received minimal oncological care at Ramleh Prison Clinic, causing his health to deteriorate rapidly and his cancer to reach a critical stage. Yet, he remained physically restrained until his final days, and Israeli authorities withheld his body for months.³⁷

2.4. Conclusions

Throughout the reporting period, including before October 2023, Israeli forces and authorities have consistently resorted to torture and other forms of ill-treatment as a standard practice when arresting, interrogating, and detaining Palestinians, including women, children, the elderly, university students, human rights defenders, and political leaders. The acts documented by Addameer include physical violence, psychological violence, inhumane detention conditions, medical neglect, and house demolition, all of which inflict severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, on Palestinian detainees. In the case of house demolition, it also inflicts several physical sufferings on detainees' families. Certain violations, including brutal IOF raids, beyond constituting flagrant evidence of physical and psychological torture, serve as a form of collective punishment, also amounting to torture.

³⁷ <https://www.addameer.ps/sites/default/files/publications/damir%20e%20for%20social.pdf>

3. Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment Since October 2023

3.1. Patterns of Arbitrary Arrest Since 7 October 2023

3.1.1. Arrest Operations by IOF During the Ground Invasion of Gaza

Al Mezan and Addameer have collected dozens of testimonies from Palestinians who have been abducted or arbitrarily arrested by the IOF during their ground invasion of Gaza and subsequently taken into their custody. The testimonies reveal a consistent, systematic, and identifiable pattern of violations of the Convention Against Torture.

Prior to October 2023, and as part of Israel's decades-long carceral policy against the Palestinian people to maintain a system of racial segregation and apartheid,³⁸ the arrest of Palestinian residents of Gaza generally occurred in three settings: at the Erez pedestrian crossing;³⁹ at sea, where Palestinian fishermen operating within Palestinian territorial waters were routinely intercepted and detained by Israeli naval forces;⁴⁰ and when Palestinians, including children, attempted to cross the Israeli-built separation barrier that cuts Gaza off from the outside world, often in desperate attempts to flee the catastrophic living conditions deliberately created by Israel's prolonged closure and blockade of Gaza, ongoing since 2007.⁴¹

Since October 2023, Israeli forces and authorities have engaged in a systematic and unprecedented pattern of arbitrary arrest and detention, marked by extreme violence and brutality, the widespread use of physical and psychological torture, and the sheer number of Palestinians arrested inside Gaza. This pattern is characterized by multiple violations of IHRL, including the widespread practice of enforced disappearance.⁴²

Since the beginning of the full-scale ground invasion of Gaza on 27 October 2023, the IOF have arrested thousands of Palestinians. They have been taken from private homes, schools-turned-shelters, UNRWA facilities, and hospitals where civilians had sought shelter besieged and raided by the IOF; from flying or permanent military checkpoints established by the IOF across Gaza, especially along Salah Al-Din road, and particularly in or around the Netzarim corridor, which bisects Gaza from east to west, effectively cutting it into two; and from aid distribution sites, including those operated by the so-called 'Gaza Humanitarian Foundation' (GHF).⁴³ Among the thousands of Palestinian civilians arbitrarily arrested by the IOF are hundreds of healthcare workers, humanitarian personnel, UNRWA staff, members of civil defence teams, ambulance drivers, journalists and media workers, women, children, and elderly people.

³⁸ <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/55/73>

³⁹ E.g., <https://mezan.org/en/post/29656>, <https://mezan.org/en/post/45711>, <https://mezan.org/en/post/45693>.

⁴⁰ E.g., <https://mezan.org/en/post/46218>; <https://mezan.org/en/post/45656>.

⁴¹ <https://mezan.org/uploads/files/1603696499136.pdf>

⁴² <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/disappearances/allegations/wgeid-135-israel-general-allegation.pdf>

⁴³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/08/un-experts-alarmed-reports-enforced-disappearances-gaza-humanitarian>

Documentation by Palestinian human rights organizations was soon corroborated by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which on 16 December 2023 publicly acknowledged receiving “numerous disturbing reports from the north of Gaza of mass detentions, ill-treatment and enforced disappearance of possibly thousands of Palestinian men and boys, and a number of women and girls, at the hands of [Israeli forces], most of whom were rounded up as they attempted to move south or were taken during operations conducted on their homes, hospitals, schools and other places of refuge.”⁴⁴

Our evidence and documentation show that immediately upon apprehension, men are separated from women. Boys and girls as young as 15 or 16 are likewise subjected to separation. Israeli soldiers then force Palestinian men and boys to strip to their underwear and subjected them to intensive and dehumanizing body searches. In a testimony to Addameer, KH.A. testified that he was arrested on 23 March 2024 in the vicinity of Al-Shifa Hospital. At the time of his arrest, he was displaced with his family in a nearby residential building, where they had been trapped since the first day of the IOF’s raid on and siege of the medical facility. He reported:

On 23 March 2024, at around 10:00 AM, the fifth day of the raid and siege of Al-Shifa, the [Israeli] army reached our building and began storming apartments floor by floor. I was on the fifth floor. They sent up one of the neighbor’s sons from the third floor, stripped down to his underwear, who told us: ‘The men must strip off their clothes, come down together, and raise their hands.’

Palestinian women and girls were also forced to undress and undergo invasive body searches, which were typically carried out by female soldiers. Once the body search was complete, women and girls were typically allowed to get dressed again, while men and boys were left naked or in their underwear for hours or days. In two testimonies provided to Al Mezan, Palestinian women and girls recounted being forced to remove their veil in front of male Israeli soldiers.

In the hours or days following apprehension, arbitrarily detained Palestinians are typically first held in temporary military sites or field interrogation centres established by the IOF inside Gaza. These facilities have been set up in a wide range of locations, including open areas, sand dunes, streets, and military checkpoints, as well as objects having a clearly civilian nature under international humanitarian law (IHL), such as private homes, schools, hospitals, and mosques. These sites were used for the initial interrogations and screening of detainees before their transfer to other detention facilities.

In his testimony to Addameer, KH.A. recounted:

They then took us to a building opposite Al-Shifa Hospital, which served as a field interrogation centre. I was interrogated there for about an hour.” Another Palestinian man, arrested during an IOF raid on his home, told Al Mezan: “We were taken to an open area. It was raining, and we were very cold. Afterwards, we were transferred in

⁴⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-disturbing-reports-north-gaza-mass-detentions-ill-treatment-and-enforced-disappearances-possibly-thousands-palestinians>

a tank to the place of detention, which was an iron container with a metal roof. There, we were stripped naked and forced to kneel for three hours on the asphalt.

In his testimony to Al Mezan, elderly Abdeldayem Middain described how the IOF stormed his home on 23 December 2023 and detained him. Despite explaining that he was ill, Israeli soldiers bound his wrists with zip ties, blindfolded him, and forced him onto a chair. His house was turned into a temporary military base, where he was interrogated repeatedly and held under guard before eventually being transferred to Sde Teiman. He recounted:

Over the course of three consecutive days, I was interrogated twice a day, a couple of hours in the morning and again in the evening. During this period I was not provided with food or water.

During the initial interrogations inside Gaza, detainees reported being subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment, including instances of sexual torture. Survivors described this stage as serving not only to extract information but also as a preview of the abusive treatment that would continue throughout their detention.

R. was arrested at Kamal Adwan Hospital in December 2023 and immediately transferred to an Israeli military base at the Erez crossing, where he was subjected to initial interrogation and screening before being moved to other detention facilities. In sworn testimony before Al Mezan, he declared:

At midnight, we were taken to the basement under the building, where we were insulted and brutally kicked by soldiers wearing military boots. They provided us with nothing but a small piece of bread to eat, which did not satisfy our hunger. Whenever someone requested water to drink, we had water poured over us. We stayed in this basement for approximately two days. During this time, some of us were also sexually assaulted. Three people were taken from our room, and they were subjected to a horrific act involving the insertion of a stick into their rectums, causing one of them to bleed.

In her testimony to Al Mezan, a young female student arrested at an Israeli military checkpoint while being forcibly displaced to southern Gaza recounted experiencing sexual harassment. Fearing repercussions for herself and her family, she requested that this information be shared only with the relevant accountability mechanisms:

During the second stage of detention, they took us by bus to the location where we were to be interrogated. I was with three girls, blindfolded and handcuffed, and accompanied by a male guard. Suddenly, I felt the guard standing beside me, playing with his gloves, and he remained standing in a menacing manner. The shirt I was wearing was missing a button. Suddenly the guard inserted his hand into the hole in the shirt and touched my chest. I felt extreme fear, pushed his hand away forcefully and tried to close the shirt by raising my hands, which were bound together, so I was unable to grasp the button. I was afraid he would react or report it, but he moved away from me. After we got off the bus, three other girls told me he had also harassed them.

After undergoing the initial interrogation, Palestinian detainees – still handcuffed, blindfolded, and often stripped to their underwear or completely naked – are loaded into Israeli military

vehicles alongside dozens of other detainees and transferred to the next detention facility where they will be held. A testimony provided to Al Mezan described violent abuse during transfer:

We were violently beaten and assaulted as we boarded the truck; they pushed me forcefully onto the truck's floor. There were approximately 100 people in the truck, and there were two trucks. We arrived at the Erez crossing at around 11pm. They unloaded us inside the crossing in the same manner, with beatings.

It is important to highlight the experience of a Palestinian woman who miscarried only hours after being arrested and before being transferred outside Gaza. One released female detainee recounted:

Beside me was a girl suffering from abdominal pain. They brought her a doctor, and I translated for the doctor. The girl then told the doctor that she felt as if she was having a miscarriage and that she was in her second month of pregnancy. We had been told to remove our shoes, we were blindfolded, and our wrists were bound. The doctor just told her to lie on the ground, and we all lay down next to her. They told us to sleep with our wrists tied and our eyes blindfolded. We slept and woke up in the extreme cold on the cold stony ground.

A defining feature of their detention, consistently described across testimonies, is the repeated transfer of detainees from one facility to another. These transfers often take place without the detainees being informed of their destination or the reasons for their relocation. In some cases, detainees only learned where they had been held through conversations with other fellow detainees, or after their release. In many instances, they were never able to identify the facilities at all, contributing to prolonged periods of incommunicado detention and conditions amounting to enforced disappearance.

For example, Y.W., a Palestinian resident of Jabaliya refugee camp arrested by the IOF on 27 December 2024 from Kamal Adwan Hospital along with hundreds of civilians, including dozens of healthcare workers, gave the following account to Addameer:

At first, they took us to Al-Fakhoura School, where the [Israeli] army was stationed. [...] I remained there until dawn, after which they loaded us into trucks. They crammed around 200 people into a truck that could only fit about 30, piling us on top of each other like dough. They shut us inside and then transported us to the Zikim area – I realized it was Zikim from the sound of the sea. They didn't tell us where we were, but later we confirmed the locations after being taken to Sde Teiman camp.

3.1.2. Arrest of Palestinian Permit-Holders Outside Gaza

In addition to the mass arrest operations carried out by the IOF during the ground invasion of Gaza, Addameer, Al Mezan and Al-Haq have also documented the arrest of Palestinian residents of Gaza who held valid Israeli-issued permits allowing them to travel or work outside the strip. Prior to 7 October 2023, around 19,000 Palestinian residents of Gaza held work permits issued by the Israeli authorities. The exact number of Gaza workers present in Israel on 7 October 2023 remains unknown, but it is estimated to be in the thousands. Other

Palestinian permit-holders were present in Israel or the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, to receive medical treatment unavailable in Gaza due to Israel's closure policies.

In the days and weeks after 7 October 2023, Israeli authorities arrested thousands of Gaza workers and detained them without charges in facilities in Israel and the occupied West Bank. Some patients seeking urgent medical treatment, including life-saving procedures, as well as accompanying relatives, were also subjected to arbitrary detention. Arrests were carried out in Israel, at checkpoints on routes to the West Bank, and even within areas of the West Bank nominally under the control of the Palestinian Authority (PA).

I.W. is a Palestinian man from Jabaliya in Gaza who works in the construction sector in Haifa. On 10 October 2025, he was arrested while sleeping in a worker housing in Nazareth. He recounted his arrest to Addameer:

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.

In his testimony to Al Mezan, 48-year-old M.D., who as of 7 October 2023 was living and working in the Israeli city of Holon on a valid work permit, explained that after that day, he and his Palestinian colleagues became fearful for their safety. "Afraid of what might happen if

we went out, we remained locked in the apartment for four days.” On the morning of 11 October 2023, he and a group of Gaza workers decided to travel to Ramallah to reach the PA’s Ministry of Labour and seek protection. Their journey was interrupted at the Meitar checkpoint, near Hebron, where Israeli soldiers checked their identities.

When they realized we were workers from Gaza, they detained us immediately. I witnessed them detaining a large number of other workers as well. They searched me after confiscating my suitcase, which contained personal belongings. They later fastened my hands behind my back using plastic ties and blindfolded me. I was kept at the checkpoint for about three hours and ordered to kneel down. After that, they brought us onto a bus and held us for another two hours before transporting us to Ofer Prison.

Once inside Ofer, M.D. reported seeing dozens of other detainees, all from Gaza.

We were held in inhumane conditions, constantly handcuffed and blindfolded, for 22 consecutive days. I was subjected to severe torture: soldiers beat us with truncheons and forced us to kneel for hours.

S.D., a 52-year-old cancer patient, has been receiving treatment in various hospitals in the OPT since his diagnosis in 2018. In October 2023, he was undergoing treatment at Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem, accompanied by his wife. Out of fear for their safety, on 7 October 2023, they decided to leave the hospital and rent an apartment in Al-Lydd, where they remained isolated. A Palestinian neighbour discreetly assisted them with food, water, and the medication needed for his treatment. At approximately 02:30 a.m. on 9 November 2023, Israeli army and police forces raided the apartment. *“They tied my wrists, blindfolded me, and arrested me. I was then taken to a detention centre in Jerusalem, which consisted of a large container with two cells filled with detainees. I had no information about what had happened to my wife,”* he recounted.

On the third day of detention, his health deteriorated, and he was transferred to a hospital near the prison for treatment before being returned to the detention centre, where he remained for a further six days, blindfolded and with his wrists tied. *“I slept on a thin mattress, about three centimetres thick, and was forced to use a dirty portable plastic toilet,”* he recalled. After an interrogation on 14 November 2023, he was released on 16 November and returned to Gaza through the Karem Abu Salem crossing. His wife was returned shortly afterwards.

Between November 2023 and early 2024, thousands of Palestinian permit-holders have been returned to Gaza. The precise number remains unknown, as Israeli authorities have refused to disclose all the names of those arrested, including those subsequently released. Notably, even workers who were not formally arrested were subjected to mistreatment by Israeli forces on their way back to Gaza.

For example, B.E., a 34-year-old worker, testified to Al Mezan that on 7 October 2023 he was in Bir al-Sabi’, in southern Israel. As returning directly to Gaza was impossible, he travelled first to Hebron and then to Ramallah, where the Palestinian Authority gathered him together

with approximately 5,000 other workers from Gaza in a football stadium. Coordination was made with Israeli authorities to facilitate their return to Gaza.

During the journey we encountered an Israeli military checkpoint, where we were stopped. Afterwards, we were transferred to another bus and taken to an Israeli military site. At that site, I was searched, and my hands and feet were restrained. I overheard Israeli soldiers insulting my fellow workers and beating them, and I witnessed one soldier using a device to electrocute one of the workers. Afterwards, a soldier asked me about my place of residence, and I told him that I was from Gaza. He insulted me and used offensive language about Gaza. Then he punched me in the back with his fist and used a device on my shoulder to electrocute me. Another soldier then blindfolded me and led me on foot to a vehicle. As we walked, I could hear insults and verbal abuse being directed at the workers by Israeli soldiers. I also heard beatings and screaming from the workers.

3.1.3. Arrest Practices in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

House arrests in the West Bank including East Jerusalem aim at creating an environment of fear, abuse and mistreatment of the person under arrest, their families and surroundings. House arrests are conducted mostly at night, by dozens of masked soldiers who regularly storm inside houses using force and without explaining the reasons for the arrest.

During their arrests, Palestinians are systematically subjected to brutality and excessive use of force by the IOF including severe beatings, slaps, and kicks. Soldiers regularly use sticks, batons, rifles, and other objects to strike Palestinian detainees, targeting areas such as the head, ribs, and genitals. When arrested, Palestinians are also victim of psychological torture including racial insults and insults degrading their national identity, but also constant threats of violence and sexual violence, including the use of sexual violence against family members, often their mothers, sisters and daughters.

These violent acts often occur in front of family members, aiming to instil terror among Palestinians, collectively punish them and reinforce a sense of helplessness. Addameer has documented testimonies of Palestinian detainees who witnesses IOF soldiers purposely destroying objects inside the house.

In addition, the IOF has been deploying dogs during arrest operations, with documented cases where these dogs either attacked residents on their own or were deliberately unleashed by soldiers to inflict harm on detainees and their families, resulting in injuries. The arrest marks Palestinian detainees' first entry into the Israeli carceral system of constant violence, mistreatment, collective punishment, fear and complete impunity.

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 year-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 I.H. 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.

3.2. Torture and Inhumane Detention Conditions in Military Camps

Before October 2023, Palestinian residents of Gaza who were arrested by the IOF were typically detained in detention facilities administered by the IPS and held in separate sections from other Palestinian prisoners and detainees. Since October 2023, however, this practice has changed due to the establishment of a new type of detention facilities: *ad hoc* permanent or semi-permanent military camps set up to intern thousands of Palestinians arrested during the ground invasion of Gaza. These camps are administered directly by the IOF and Israeli intelligence services. Most of them are located inside Israel.

Military camps served as the initial place of detention for those arrested inside Gaza once they were transferred outside the strip. Some detainees remained in these camps for only a few days before being relocated to other military camps or to IPS facilities, while others were held there for much longer periods. To this day, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has also been prevented from entering any Israeli detention sites, whether run by the IOF or the IPS.

Some victims were able to name specific military detention camps in their testimonies to Al Mezan and Addameer, which include: Sde Teiman camp in the Naqab desert, in southern Israel; Zikim camp, north of the Erez crossing, in southern Israel; Anatot camp in East Jerusalem; Ofer camp, near Ramallah; and Naftali camp in northern Israel. Many of these locations correspond to sites where the Israeli army already maintains bases, such as Zikim, or where an IPS facility already existed and an additional military site specifically for detainees from Gaza was established alongside it, as in Ofer. In addition, more military camps were also established near the perimeter fence separating Israel and Gaza, although their exact locations could not be identified.

Several victims also reported being detained in prisons administered by the Israel Prison Service (IPS). Most were able to identify the specific facilities in which they were held, which are: Al-Moscobiyeh, a detention and interrogation facility in West Jerusalem; Damon Prison, in northern Israel; Ramon Prison, in southern Israel; Ofer Prison, near Ramallah in the occupied Palestinian territory; Ketziot Prison (also known as Negev/Naqab Prison), in southern Israel;

Nafha Prison, in southern Israel; Shikma Prison, near Asqalan, in Israel; Megiddo Prison, north of Jenin, inside Israel.

Many military camps and their precise locations remain unidentified. This is largely because detainees were kept blindfolded and Israeli soldiers deliberately prevented them from seeing their surroundings. Survivors recounted being loaded onto buses or military vehicles and ordered to bow their heads throughout the journey, explicitly instructed not to look around, making it impossible to identify where they were being transferred. A defining feature of Israel's genocidal detention regime targeting Palestinian residents of Gaza is the repeated transfer of detainees between multiple facilities during the same period of detention. This practice, combined with the fact that military camps operate entirely outside any form of independent monitoring or judicial oversight, has facilitated and enabled prolonged incommunicado detention and conditions amounting to enforced disappearance.

For example, Dr. Said Marouf, a Palestinian doctor healthcare professional arrested on 18 December 2023 by the IOF at the Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza City, told Al Mezan that during his detention, he was repeatedly transferred between several different locations, and that much of his 45-day detention passed without him knowing the exact facility in which he was being held. Interviewed by Addameer, Y.W. described being held in at least five different locations, both inside and outside Gaza, over the course of his detention. He was first arrested at Kamal Adwan Hospital and interrogated by the Israeli internal intelligence services (Shabak) inside Al-Fakhoura School, near the hospital. He was then transported by truck to the Zikim camp, where he and dozens of other detainees were held outdoors for three days, forced to sit on gravel, naked, in very cold weather, and denied both food and water. On the fourth day of his detention, he was transferred to Sde Teiman camp. There, detainees were given tracksuits to wear and their first meal since arrest: canned tuna, bread, and an apple. At this point, plastic restraints were replaced with metal handcuffs, and blindfolds were reapplied. *"We were forced to eat while blindfolded and shackled,"* he recalled. After five days in Sde Teiman, he was moved to Anatot camp in Jerusalem, where he spent around 48 days, before being transferred once again to Ofer camp.

Testimonies gathered by Al Mezan and Addameer show that, although conditions differed from one facility to another, all were marked by systematic and widespread practices of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. As H.A. told Al Mezan:

Israeli soldiers transferred me between four different detention facilities, and each transfer involved physical and psychological torture. In every facility, I was interrogated about the events of 7 October, insulted, and deprived of sleep from midnight until 4:00 a.m. every night. I was also denied sufficient food and water and constantly threatened regarding the safety of my family, particularly my pregnant wife.

3.2.1. Conditions and Treatment in Sde Teiman Military Camp

Sde Teiman is a military camp established after October 2023 that quickly became one of the most notorious sites of detention for Gaza detainees operated by the IOF. Testimonies collected by our organizations portray it as a site of systematic torture designed not only to confine but to deliberately dehumanize, degrade, humiliate, and break Palestinian detainees both physically and psychologically.

Survivors repeatedly described Sde Teiman as a makeshift military camp, consisting of barracks, tin-roofed structures, and containers. Elderly detainee Abdeldayem Middain, held for more than a month in Sde Teiman between late 2023 and early 2024, provided Al Mezan with one of the most detailed accounts of the camp. He recalled being given a grey uniform, cuffed and blindfolded upon arrival and then being taken to a large tin-roofed barracks of about 300 square meters, crammed with between 80 and 120 detainees at any given time, with detainees often transferred between sections within the facility. Among those imprisoned alongside Middain were elderly people, sick patients, and others with special needs, some forced to wear diapers as they were forbidden regular bathroom access. Each detainee was provided only a thin plastic mattress, one blanket, a pair of shower slippers, and a coat. *“It was extremely cold, and with this paltry amount of clothing and the uncomfortable mattress, I grew exhausted and fatigued,”* he reported.

The camp operated on a rigid schedule of roll calls: four times a day at 6:00 am, 12:00 pm, 6:00 pm, and 10:00 pm. At each roll call detainees were forced to stand on their mattresses and respond in Hebrew, *“Ken, Captain”* [Yes, Captain]. Sleep was tightly restricted; detainees were not allowed to lie down until after the final roll call late at night, and lighting was kept on 24/7.

The testimonies paint a consistent policy of deliberate starvation. Food was deliberately nutritionally inadequate and insufficient in quantity. Detainees consistently reported receiving three small slices of bread per meal, sometimes accompanied by a cucumber, tomato, apple, or occasionally labneh, jam, or canned tuna. *“Food portions were so small they would not satisfy even a child. It was intentional to keep us hungry,”* Y.W. recalled. KH.A. added: *“The food was scarce, never enough to satisfy hunger – just enough to stay alive”* Water was rationed: each line of prisoners was allocated a single two-liter bottle, refilled from a tap when empty.

Many, like Middain, chose to reduce their food intake to avoid having to request bathroom access. Access to toilets was strictly limited and used as a form of control. Detainees described being forced to request permission to use the bathroom, often denied or delayed by Israeli soldiers. Showers were allowed only once a week, and each detainee was permitted just three to four minutes in total, including undressing and redressing. *Middain testified: “I do not recall taking a shower during the period of my detention, as three minutes was barely long enough to take off my clothes.”* Another survivor added: *“If anyone exceeded the four minutes, they were punished.”* Medical care was virtually absent, even for serious injuries. Injuries from dog bites, beatings, or shackling went untreated or were treated with minimal gauze or a single painkiller.

A defining feature of detention at Sde Teiman was the constant use of restraints. From the moment of arrival, detainees were shackled with metal cuffs and blindfolded. Survivors emphasized that shackles and blindfolds were rarely removed. KH.A. explained: *“We were shackled with metal cuffs at the front, and they kept the blindfolds on us. Days passed like this in the prison.”* B.N. added:

I remained in Sde Teiman for 30 days, blindfolded and shackled the entire time, forced to sit on my knees.” Another survivor, Y.W., explained: *“From dawn until around midnight, we were forced to sit on our legs, not allowed to move or say a word, with soldiers standing directly in front of us and around us.”*

Detention in Sde Teiman is characterized by constant threats, punishments, and humiliation. Physical abuse was routine. B.N., who spent 30 days in Sde Teiman, testified:

Every day we were suppressed, beaten, electrocuted, and terrorized with dogs, in addition to being punished by being forced to stand for long periods. I witnessed 10 suppression raids during my detention. I continue to suffer illnesses from the beatings, electric shocks, and cigarettes extinguished on my body.”

The use of military dogs was a recurring form of torture. According to Middain: *“On four occasions – all at 11:00 pm – dogs were used to intimidate and attack us. Each time, we heard the dogs bark, then the soldiers would storm the place and order us to lie face down on the ground and spread our legs. The dogs would then attack us. Once, a dog bit my right hand and dragged me out of the room to where the soldiers had been waiting. They assaulted me, punching me and beating me with batons.”* Another detainee confirmed:

In Sde Teiman, there was what they called a ‘dog unit’ raid on the section every week to ten days. This was a special suppression unit that came with trained police dogs. Sometimes they would suppress all the prisoners in the section without distinction.”

Sde Teiman was also a site of systematic interrogation. Survivors described being taken to remote areas or to specialized rooms within the camp. Interrogations were preceded by forced strip searches, sometimes with medical bandages removed under the pretext of preventing concealment. Detainees were tied by wrists and ankles to chairs, left blindfolded for hours, and repeatedly beaten. During interrogations, detainees were forced to strip naked, shackled to chairs, beaten, and subjected to sleep deprivation. One explained:

I went through eight interrogation sessions, all of which were humiliating. Before meeting the interrogator, a soldier would ask me to strip completely. He even removed the bandage on my hand just to make sure that I was not hiding anything underneath.”

KH.A. described being under interrogation for 48 consecutive hours, during which he was repeatedly taken in and out of the interrogation room about five sessions in total, each lasting between two and three hours. In between sessions, he was kept into what detainees referred to as the ‘disco room’, a small room *with no windows* where *music was blasting 24 hours a day*

at a very high volume through a wedding-hall speaker. This room was considered a ‘rest area’ between interrogations.

We remained there blindfolded and shackled, hands and feet chained with iron, like in prison – but even worse, as our legs were also bound,” he explained. “The treatment in the ‘disco room’ is animalistic, not human. Whether in the way they woke us up from sleep or the way they handed us food and drink, they would throw the food and water at us.

Torture methods included beatings, electroshocks, stress positions, and sexual violence. Kh.A. recalled:

One particularly inhumane practice was forcing one of us to spread his legs, and then a soldier would grab his testicles with his hand in a painful grip. The prisoner would scream in agony, with cries that sounded as if someone was dying. It was horrifying and deeply painful, and everyone was terrified – including me – because the selection was random, and we never knew whose turn would come next.

Testimonies from mid-2025 demonstrate that conditions in Sde Teiman did not significantly improve over time, as patterns of torture, humiliation, and deliberate neglect continued to define the camp’s operation, despite increasing international scrutiny and widespread reporting of these violations.

Rizq Salout, arrested on 8 July 2025 at an aid distribution site run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, recalled that upon his arrival at Sde Teiman, Israeli soldiers mocked him and the other detainees, saying: ‘Welcome to Sde Teiman, the breaker of men. You will see death with your own eyes here.’ On his first day at the camp, he was shackled at the wrists, ankles, and neck with iron cuffs and placed in solitary confinement inside a one-square-meter cell. The next morning, soldiers entered, removed the restraints, and provided a small breakfast consisting of labneh and jam. He was left there for the following three days. During that time, he suffered from extreme fear and the suffocating heat inside the metal cell, fainting several times as a result. On his third day in solitary confinement, a unit known among detainees as the “transfer unit” arrived. *“They took me out, shackled me with iron handcuffs, cursed me, and beat me with iron rods. They then transferred me to Al-Moscobiyyeh. On the way, I asked the soldiers several times to use the bathroom, but they refused. I could not bear it any longer and eventually urinated on myself.”*

After 21 days detained in Al-Moscobiyyeh, he was transferred back to Sde Teiman in the same degrading and humiliating manner. During the transfer, soldiers deliberately pushed detainees to make them fall. As he climbed the stairs upon arrival, *“one soldier forcefully shoved me, and I fell to the ground. After I fell, the same soldier stomped on my leg, causing me unbearable pain. They then dragged me and placed me in a room with other detainees. Despite my screams of pain, no one responded.”* Only after eight hours he was taken to a hospital, where doctors confirmed his leg was broken and placed it in a cast. He was then returned to Sde Teiman. The

following morning, he was summoned for interrogation and questioned about his injuries and alleged knowledge of resistance members and tunnels. The interrogation lasted two hours.

Because of the fracture, I could not move until they eventually brought me a wheelchair. Even with it, I struggled with everything – sleeping, using the toilet, and even getting food. Despite my immobility, the soldiers shackled my wrists and ankles and chained them to the wheelchair.

During his second detention period at Sde Teiman, he recounted a violent assault by what detainees referred to as the ‘suppression unit’, a group of around fifty masked soldiers armed with electroshock devices, batons, and iron rods.

The officer began shouting: ‘Where is the shawish?’⁴⁵ At that time, I was the shawish, so I replied, ‘I am here,’ but he did not hear me over the noise and the curses the soldiers were hurling at the detainees. I asked one of the prisoners to push my wheelchair toward him. When I reached the officer, he insulted and cursed me, ordering me to lie face down in the middle of the room. I told him that my leg was broken and I could not lie down or stand because of the injury. Without warning, he and several soldiers attacked me with iron rods. In that moment, I felt as though my soul was leaving my body from the severity of the pain.

3.2.2. Conditions and Treatment in Anatot Military Camp

Testimonies collected by Al Mezan from five Palestinian women – A.N., A.G., F.T., A.Z., and another who requested anonymity – provide a consistent picture of the conditions in Anatot, an *ad hoc* military detention camp established near Jerusalem.

A.N. was arrested by the IOF on 28 December 2023 during a raid on Aisha School in Al-Bureij refugee camp, where she and her family had sought shelter. Similarly, F.T. and the other female detainee were both arrested on 24 December in an IOF raid on Amr Ibn Al-As School, where her family had taken refuge. A.G., by contrast, was arrested at the Netzarim checkpoint as she attempted to flee northern Gaza towards the south. A.Z. was also arrested at an IOF flying checkpoint as she was fleeing Gaza City southwards.

They described Anatot camp as a large compound resembling a barracks, covered by a tin metal roof and surrounded by fences. A.G. recalled: “*There were barracks covering about 300 square meters, with a metal roof and three doors. There were nine female detainees in total.*” A.N. referred to the facility as “*a large open barracks in a huge settlement.*” Upon arrival, their clothes and belongings were confiscated, and they were issued prison uniforms. A.Z. described being immediately forced to change into grey prison uniforms marked with the Hebrew letter “*ש*” as soon as she arrived at Anatot. She and other detainees were ordered to

⁴⁵ The term ‘*shawish*’ is used to refer to a detainee designated to act as a representative or liaison between the other detainees and the detaining authorities.

remove their hijabs and told they were not permitted to put them back on. Her hijab was confiscated, and she was photographed without it. She was then made to sign a paper written in Hebrew without any explanation of its contents, before being blindfolded again and restrained with plastic ties.

Conditions inside the camp are consistently described as degrading and inhumane throughout all five testimonies. Detainees were kept constantly shackled, including while sleeping, eating, or using the bathroom. They were given only thin mattresses and one blanket each, without pillows.

A.G., who spent eight days in Anatot, explained: *“We were restrained while eating and using the bathroom. [...] Each minute there felt like an eternity. The floor of the barracks was paved, like a road, making it painful to sleep on. We slept on very thin mattresses, as if directly on the ground, and remained chained with metal shackles while sleeping.”* She underwent three interrogation sessions in Anatot, each lasting around two hours. During interrogations, they also bound her feet with shackles. She described the interrogation room as small, containing a desk with a laptop, a chair for the interrogator, and a chair for her, to which she was tied.

Food was both inadequate and unsanitary. Detainees were given three meagre meals a day consisting almost exclusively of bread and yogurt or cheese, often mouldy or nearly expired. Soldiers reportedly humiliated detainees during mealtimes. As F.T. described, after spending eleven days in Anatot: *“In the camp, we were treated like animals. The soldiers would throw food for us, as you would to a dog, and speak to us using extremely offensive language.”* She added: *“We were surrounded by military dogs the whole time. [...] We were also forced to strip down completely for searches.”*

Hygiene was severely restricted. Women were denied access to adequate washing facilities and, during menstruation, were unable to maintain basic sanitary standards. A.N., who spent eleven days in Anatot, recalled: *“Using the bathroom became a form of torture, as I couldn’t wash or maintain hygiene, especially during my menstrual period.* The temperature was very low, and the water was extremely cold. [...] I suffered from severe urinary tract infections, gastroenteritis, flu, and pain in my back and legs. I couldn’t walk or stand properly, yet I did not receive any medical assistance.” She reported being interrogated four or five times, during which she was dragged, mocked for her blood-stained clothes, spat on, and threatened with long prison sentences or harm to her children. Another woman, who requested anonymity, also spent eight days in Anatot without being interrogated, but described being shackled, humiliated, and struck by female soldiers who ordered her to kiss the Israeli flag.

All testimonies also highlight systematic torture, ill-treatment and abuse during interrogations at Anatot. Detainees were reported being shackled both hands and feet and blindfolded during questioning. Interrogations focused on information they did not have, such as the locations of Israeli captives, tunnels, or cameras. When they could not provide answers, they were mocked, beaten, or humiliated. F.T. testified: *“Female soldiers would kick us and strike us on the back with their boots and rifles during interrogations. They asked questions we could not answer, and when we said we did not know, they beat us again.”* A.N. recalled: *“The female soldiers*

dragged me like an animal while I was shackled and blindfolded. They wouldn't warn me about stairs, letting me stumble and fall; they spat on me as I lay on the ground."

Testimonies from Palestinian men detained in the same camp point to equally harsh and degrading conditions. Y.W., interviewed by Addameer, was transferred to Anatot from Sde Teiman, referred to Anatot as *"one of the harshest and most violent camps I experienced."* He was held in an open barrack under tight guard and recalled constant insults and disturbances, even during sleep hours, with soldiers banging on the iron doors day and night. He explained that male detainees were kept shackled and always blindfolded, and punishments were imposed arbitrarily and with cruelty.

Even if a person merely whispered to himself to pray, he would be punished by being forced to lie on his stomach for long periods, or to sit in a squatting or kneeling position for two or three hours, or by being taken to a closed cage, where we were placed with our hands shackled inside the iron cage for a day or two.

Hygiene was severely restricted also for male detainees. There was only one plastic toilet for around 80 detainees in the section, which could be used only with soldiers' permission. *"When it was my turn, I could use it only once or twice a day. Sometimes prisoners suffered from stomach pain or diarrhea because of the disrupted diet – for example, they would bring yogurt for dinner but still refuse to allow us to go to the bathroom."* Religious practice was deliberately targeted for humiliation. Detainees were given a single Qur'an for the entire section, which guards placed at the entrance to the bathroom. When prisoners asked that it be moved, the prison official told them: *"This is the suitable place for it."*

Another testimony highlighting conditions in Anatot camp comes from M.S., a Palestinian originally from Gaza but living in the West Bank, who was arrested by Israeli authorities at the Allenby/King Hussein Bridge on his way to Jordan. He explained to Addameer that the arrest occurred as soon as soldiers saw that his identity card listed Gaza as his place of birth. He was then transferred to Anatot camp, where he remained for approximately 40 days before being moved to Ofer Prison.

They walked me to a large barracks containing two large cages separated by iron wire fencing. Each cage was approximately 800 square meters, exposed to each other and surrounded by zinc sheets on the sides and roof. Inside both cages were bathrooms and a portable shower. Inside, they removed my restraints and blindfold. There were about 15 detainees of all ages, young and old. [...]. All were like me: originally from Gaza but residents of the West Bank, or workers from Gaza who had been working in [Israel] before the war.

Conditions in Anatot were harsh, though M.S. noted they were slightly better than those endured by detainees transferred directly from Gaza. *"The young men with me told me that previously they used to bring people arrested from Gaza and place them in the second cage, where they were kept restrained and blindfolded all the time and subjected to very bad treatment. The treatment of West Bank prisoners was different."* He recalled that each detainee

received one thin mattress, about 1–1.5 cm thick, and two blankets, though the asphalt floor made sleeping uncomfortable. Hygiene provisions were extremely limited, and food provided was minimal and monotonous. *“The food at Anatot was the worst – they would bring three slices of bread with either a small container of labneh, cocoa, or jam. This meal was repeated for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They brought tuna only twice during my entire stay.”*

3.2.3. Conditions and Treatment in Zikim Military Camp

M.A., arrested in December 2023 in the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood of Gaza City, was transferred to Zikim camp, where he was held for almost forty days. He reported to Al Mezan being detained with approximately 120 other detainees from Gaza, including elderly people and children under 16. He described this period as “the worst experience” of his life.

According to his testimony, the detention facility consisted of an open container *“resembling a chicken farm”*, with cardboard and thin blankets used as mattresses. Food was extremely limited, consisting *“only of a piece of toast and cheese for both breakfast and dinner, with no lunch provided.”* Detainees were held together in overcrowded conditions and forced to stand against the wall for up to ten hours, often until they collapsed. Combat dogs were routinely unleashed on them. During his 41 days of detention, M.A. was subjected to seven interrogation sessions by Israeli authorities during which he was beaten, severely tortured, and repeatedly insulted, including insults directed at his family.

Another detainee, Mohsen Al-Banna, was arrested by the IOF on 20 December 2023 during a raid on a private home where he was taking shelter in Sheikh Radwan. The following day, he was transferred to Zikim camp, where he was held for 44 days in a tin-roofed barracks with approximately 80 detainees. He told Al Mezan: *“They placed me on gravel and punched me several times. I was given a thin mattress, a light blanket, and a grey prison uniform. While forcing me onto the gravel, they blasted noises and music on loudspeakers and left me there for 12 hours.”* He reported that he remained in metal handcuffs throughout his entire period detention, including when using the restroom and during meals, *“which consisted only of toast and cheese.”*

He described repeated interrogation sessions marked by severe torture and violence. *“Two days later, I was taken to an interrogation room. There was a table, a chair, a laptop in front of the interrogator, and a seat designated for detainees. Both my hands and feet were cuffed to the seat. The interrogator began the session with a slap on my face immediately after asking my name. He proceeded to ask me about Hamas affiliates living in my neighbourhood. When I told him I knew nothing about them, he hit me again.”* The Israeli interrogator subjected him to prolonged exposure to cold as a method of torture. *“He set the AC to low and left me alone in the room. I felt as if my heart was about to stop beating because of the cold.”* The session lasted two and a half hours.

One week later, Al-Banna was interrogated again, this time inside a small caravan. *“I was tied to a plastic chair, and the interrogator asked me to work for the Israeli state as an informant.”*

When I refused, he tried to strangle me by putting both hands over my mouth, followed by severe punches to my face.” A week later, he underwent a third interrogation. “The interrogator tried to tempt me to become an informant; he offered me a large amount of money among other things. When I rejected his offer, he and a couple of soldiers frantically punched me in the face and beat me on the back and the rest of my body with their batons.” He further described another form of collective punishment and torture used at Zikim: “The Israeli soldiers exposed us to yet another form of torture in the third week: they unleashed military dogs on us while kicking us with their boots.”

3.2.4. Conditions and Treatment in Ofer Military Camp

Testimonies of released detainees collected by Addameer and Al Mezan between December 2023 and January 2025 describe Ofer military camp as one of the principal detention facilities used by Israeli forces to hold Palestinians taken from Gaza. The camp, situated adjacent to Ofer Prison and run by the IOF, has undergone structural changes over time, from tented enclosures on sand to permanent concrete cells, used to confine large numbers of detainees under degrading and punitive conditions.

A detainee arrested by the IOF at Kamal Adwan Hospital on 12 December 2023 was transferred to Ofer on 14 December 2023 described that, upon arrival, Israeli soldiers forced him and other detainees to kneel on stony ground before processing them individually. In his testimony to Al Mezan, he described being taken into a container equipped with a computer, where a female soldier operated the system. *“Another female soldier placed a gun against my head while a male soldier stood guard,”* he recalled. He reported being asked about his health but *“was not examined by a doctor. I told them about my health problems, but they did not respond or provide any medication.”*

He was subsequently transferred with other detainees to a holding area. *“We were taken in a line and sorted into holding cells. I was placed in a large cell, about 300 m², enclosed from above by barbed wire and with no natural light. There were about 130–190 people inside; we were given a mattress not exceeding one centimetre in thickness and an extremely light cover despite the severe cold.”* The detainee stated that their hands remained bound and their eyes blindfolded *“even during the brief periods of sleep.”* If they attempted to rest, *“they would beat us.”* He described being woken daily at around 3:30 a.m., when IOF guards *“removed our blankets and forced us to kneel until midnight,”* leaving them without sleep for up to 21 consecutive hours. *“If we attempted to relax even slightly,”* he added, *“they would hang us from the barbed wire and windows, tying our hands behind our backs and pulling them taut against the wires.”*

He recounted that detainees who objected to mistreatment were beaten, and medical assistance was systematically delayed. *“If someone complained about the beatings or punishments, they would not bring a doctor until two or three days later. Even then, they provided only a single painkiller and applied a cream to wounds.”* Meals consisted of small portions of bread and

basic spreads: *“In the morning, two slices of toast with jam; at noon, toast with tuna and an apple; in the evening, toast with cheese.”*

On 25 December 2023, ten days after his initial confinement, he was interrogated while shackled. “My hands and legs were cuffed. I remained standing for ten minutes while I was questioned by a seated interrogator.” The questioning focused on his whereabouts on 7 October 2023, alleged affiliations, and possible knowledge of abducted persons. He was made to sign two documents in Hebrew, which he could not read, summarising his statements.

On 5 January 2024, he was transferred again for interrogation. “Our ankles were cuffed with metal cuffs and our wrists tied behind our back with plastic ties. They also blindfolded us and took us by bus to another detention facility.” He described being made to sit on gravel for an hour before being stripped of his clothes and inspected with a detection device. *“We were made to wear diapers to prevent us from needing to use the toilet; we were given grey underwear.”* During interrogation, his right wrist and ankle were chained to an iron chair. *“The investigator, approximately 50 years old, started questioning me in fluent Arabic. He showed me a detailed map of North Gaza and pictures of people they believed were involved in the 7 October attack.”* He was offered food and “a good life” in exchange for collaboration, which he refused.

The detainee was held naked and bound for twelve consecutive hours during one interrogation session. *“From 12 p.m., I spent 12 continuous hours completely naked and bound, sitting on the gravel in the cold.”* He was again offered inducements to collaborate and was told there was nothing against him. He also reported that special military units and police dogs were deployed every three days, forcing detainees to lie face-down while IOF soldiers held the dogs over them.

According to M.D., a Gaza worker arrested on 27 December 2024, Ofer military camp *“consisted of tents pitched on sand.”* From beneath his blindfold, he could see “dozens of detainees, all from Gaza.” He stated that *“we were held in challenging humanitarian conditions, constantly handcuffed and blindfolded, for 22 consecutive days,”* and that *“IOF soldiers beat us with truncheons and forced us to kneel for hours.”*

Similarly, Y.W., detained for approximately thirteen days in late December 2024, reported that *“they finally removed the restraints and blindfolds inside the cells, which were concrete rooms.”* He added that *“they suppressed us once by spraying us with pepper spray while we were lying on our stomachs,”* and that *“after the army entered, we were always forced to lie on our stomachs.”* All areas of the camp were monitored by cameras, and detainees remained under constant surveillance.

Kh.A., arrested on 23 March 2024 near Al-Shifa Hospital, described Ofer as consisting of *“concrete rooms [...] with around 11 to 13 prisoners per room.”* He reported constant searches inside the rooms, which he described as *“acts of suppression”* since every search necessarily involved beatings. *“Sometimes we would be beaten on our legs, other times on our heads,”* he said. *“Every raid into the room left blood behind from the assaults.”* He noted the total absence of medical care: *“There was absolutely no medical treatment – no painkillers, no bandages,*

nothing.” He testified that he witnessed the death of fellow detainee Musab Haniyeh, aged approximately 35, who had been in good health before detention. *“When I entered the room, I saw a man lying on a mattress, unable to get up [...] extremely thin, weighing only about 45 kilograms.”* Requests for medical assistance were denied. *“The doctor told me directly: ‘You are prisoners here – you have no medical rights.’”* After being briefly transferred to a hospital, Haniyeh was returned *“without mattress or blankets”* and died on 5 January 2025, five days after Kh.A. was moved to the same room.

B.N., arrested on 26 July 2024, reported being held in Ofer for three months in extremely harsh conditions. *“Our mattresses were taken away during the day, and no hygiene or cleaning supplies were provided – not even tissues or soap.”* He described the food as *“rotten cucumbers and tomatoes, with no fruit.”* He lost a significant amount of weight, from 85 kilograms to 64 kilograms. *“Suppression raids took place once or twice a week, during which we were beaten, searched, sprayed with gas, or forced to lie on our stomachs.”* He added that he was never given a change of clothes: *“I remained in the same pants from Sde Teiman until my release [...] This caused many prisoners to suffer from skin rashes.”*

Several detainees confirmed that exposure to cold was systematic and punitive. Kh.A. told Addameer that *“[IOF soldiers] forced us to keep the windows open and forbade us from closing them,”* one said, *“until they removed the windows entirely.”* Detainees were given only thin blankets and light jackets, which were not sufficient to protect them from the cold. Hot water was never available, and detainees avoided bathing due to the temperature, leading to widespread scabies and skin infections.

3.3. Torture and Inhumane Detention Conditions in IPS-Run Prisons

There are currently 19 Israeli prisons run by the Israeli Prison Service (IPS), all located within the territory of Israel except for Ofer Prison, which is near Ramallah, in the occupied West Bank. Access to all prisons requires a special permit. Interrogation centres are situated within six of these prisons, including Shikma (Asqalan), Jalameh, Petah Tikva, Al-Moscobiyyeh, and Ofer. Interrogations are usually conducted by members of the Israeli Security Agency (ISA), also known as *Shabak* or *Shin Bet*. In addition, two military detention centres, Huwwara and Etzion, are used as initial holding sites before Palestinians arrested in the West Bank are transferred to interrogation centres or prisons.

However, Palestinian detainees are often held in these facilities for prolonged periods, sometimes extending to several weeks or months. For example, Al-Moscobiyyeh functions both as a prison and an interrogation centre, holding detainees from Jerusalem and the West Bank. Recently, however, Addameer has documented a shift in practice: Palestinian residents of the West Bank are now transferred primarily to the Ofer interrogation centre while Al-Moscobiyyeh is now used exclusively for Jerusalem ID holders. Since 7 October 2023, all Israeli prisons have exceeded their capacity as a result of severe overcrowding caused by mass arrests of Palestinians.

3.3.1. Physical and Psychological Torture in IPS-Controlled Prisons

Similarly to the *ad hoc* military camps run by the IOF, Israeli prisons operated by the IPS are also sites of systematic physical violence and abuse. From the very first moment of their arrival and throughout their entire detention period, Palestinian prisoners and detainees are constantly subjected to continuous torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, frequently used as a means of collective punishment.

Torture is a deliberate and entrenched policy within Israel's carceral system. As detailed in Section 2 of this report, prior to 7 October 2023, Palestinian prisoners and detainees from the West Bank and East Jerusalem were typically transferred to interrogation centres operated by *Shabak* agents, where they were systematically subjected to torture. Since the beginning of the mass arrests campaign of Palestinians in October 2023, Palestinians are now less frequently taken to separate interrogation centres. Instead, they are subjected to torture and abuse throughout the entirety of their detention, not for the purpose of extracting confessions, but as a form of collective punishment and to create a climate of constant fear and brutality, in acts intended to destroy the Palestinian group.

When arriving to any IPS detention facility, Palestinian detainees are subjected to intense beatings. They recount being brutally beaten with rifles, kicks, punches. Then, they are abused throughout their entire detention period. All prisoners interviewed by Addameer were subjected to violence while in detention and recounted being brutally assaulted during raids, while walking to and in the yard, in the corridors, while taking showers, at the infirmary and in their cells. Brutal raid attacks by specialized repression units have dramatically increased, causing numerous injuries and in some cases, death.

Detainees are beaten 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. Several testimonies account of detainees' heads being smashed on the ground and against the walls.

In addition, Palestinian prisoners are very often transferred across different cells, prisons, and detention centres. This is a common practice which aims at creating a sense of instability for detainees, break solidarity movements, and due to the overcrowding of detention places. During detainees' transfer and arrival to prison and detention centres, Palestinian prisoners are particularly vulnerable to violence with torture and ill-treatment.

The *bosta*, the vehicles used for detainees' transfers, 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, 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 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. 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.

During the beatings, detainees are also insulted, cursed, threatened, often to death, humiliated and forced to say degrading statements against them, their cellmates or their national identity. These attacks 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.

These violent practices are a clear policy used to collectively punish Palestinian detainees. Prisoners' time in detention, from arrival, to interrogation, detention 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.

These acts of violence are also directly linked to the ongoing genocide, with Israeli soldiers constantly referring to 7 October and detainees documenting brutal attacks on the anniversary date of 7 October and when attacks are allegedly carried against Israel. The entire prison structure is either committing, aware, or complicit in the commission of these crimes, including guards, soldiers, prison services, doctors and medics.

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 reassuring 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.

M.S., a Palestinian from Gaza and resident in Ramallah was arrested in April 2024, when trying to travel outside of Palestine, he explains the torture he was subjected to while detained:

Sometimes soldiers would come and order us to repeat the phrase "Am Yisrael Chai," meaning, "Long Live the People of Israel." One time when they took us from the room to the yard, there was a man with us about 55 years old from A. S. family (I don't remember his first name). They ordered him to howl like a dog. Because he was elderly, I told them I would howl for him and I did, but the soldier refused and ordered him to howl too. This was the most humiliating besides the curses.

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 armoured 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.*

*(...) **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.

A.H., (initials changed for security), a Palestinian man recounted to Addameer 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 forces⁴⁶ 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.

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.

Z.S., a Palestinian woman was heavily tortured while being transferred to prison and on arrival to Hasharon prison. She explained to Addameer that 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

⁴⁶ The Israeli Prison Service Special Unit Forces

jailors were also hitting her with batons on her head. They continued hitting her until she reached the door of the room.

M.M., a 43-year-old man from Nablus city was arrested in June 2023 at his home. He recounted to Addameer 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 Imtanah⁴⁷ where a joint force of prison guards, Nahshon, and Yamas⁴⁸ 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.

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 Metzada⁴⁹ 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.

⁴⁷ Waiting room in Hebrew

⁴⁸ Israeli special unit forces

⁴⁹ Israeli special unit forces

*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.***

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.

3.3.2. Sexual Violence and Threats of Sexual Violence in IPS-Controlled Prisons

Since 7 October 2023, Addameer, Al Haq and Al Mezan documented a dramatic increase in the use of sexual violence against Palestinian detainees, including rape, beatings on the genitals, forced nudity and threats of sexual violence, including on detainees' family members.

Statements collected by Addameer, Al Haq and Al Mezan from both men and women detainees include extremely disturbing cases of threats of sexual violence. IOF soldiers threaten detainees with rape, sexual abuse and forced nudity but also with raping their family members, in particular their mothers, sisters and daughters.

3.3.2.1. Forced Nudity

Many images have emerged of Palestinians men forced in public nudity and held at gunpoint, while sometimes being simultaneously victim of acts of torture or mistreatments.

In October 2023 a video was published showing IOF soldiers abusing Palestinian men, blindfolded and handcuffed, lying on the ground, naked or stripped to their underwear.⁵⁰ An Israeli soldier can be seen stomping on the head of a Palestinian men.

Detainees also undergo strip searches multiple times during their detention and transfers while being forced into humiliating positions, such as the frog position or "bending over". Addameer documented cases where detainees, including women, were photographed while stripped. Addameer also documented cases where soldiers used metal detectors or "magnetometers" during the strip searches to threaten detainees with rape while they are stripped and in a particular position of vulnerability.

M.S., a Palestinian from Gaza and resident in Ramallah was arrested in April 2024, when trying to travel outside of Palestine recounts the strip search he was subjected to while in Ofer during which he was blindfolded but heard female soldiers present in the room:

⁵⁰ 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.

They then took each prisoner individually to a search room. They removed restraints but I remained blindfolded. They conducted a strip search, and during the search demanded I squat and cough while they beat me with slaps on my back and "mocked" me. During the search I could hear female soldiers' voices inside the room.

3.3.2.2. Rape and Sexual Assaults

Al Haq, Al Mezan and Addameer are extremely worried about accounts of extremely grave and brutal acts of sexual violence, including rape, gang rape, and sexual assaults by the IOF.

When beaten, Palestinian detainees are very regularly and purposely beaten on the genitals. Moreover, Addameer documented several cases where, mostly male detainees, were touched in their genitals while being strip searched by soldiers or guards. Finally, several cases of rape and attempted rape have been documented by Addameer. In those cases, IOF soldiers of ISA guards penetrated detainees with a penis or an object, including metal detectors and inflicted severe physical and mental pain on detainees. Rapes committed by IOF soldiers are a form of torture and aim at exerting domination, humiliating detainees, and destroying their spirit and sense of pride.

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.

3.3.3. Conditions of Detention in IPS-controlled Prisons Amounting to Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment

Since 7 October 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. Although the practices of the Prison Service with Palestinian prisoners are not new, as the prisoner movement struggled with policies of starvation, overcrowding, and the use of excessive violence by the jailers, these practices

reached their peak after 7 October 2023. Detainees are kept in inhuman conditions, including overcrowded cells, the denial of family and lawyers' visits, lack of mattresses and blankets, forcing detainees to sleep on the ground, lack of access to sufficient quantities of food, the reduction of yard time and contacts, very cold cells, limited access to shower, clothes, bathroom and denial of access to medical treatment, even in cases of serious injuries existing prior to the detention such as injuries caused by explosions and shrapnel.

3.3.4. Small Overcrowded and Unsanitary Cells

Already in 2017, the HCJ had ruled that the population density in Israeli prisons did not meet proper standards and that the state should expand the minimum living space for each prisoner.⁵¹ The mass arrest of Palestinian detainees since 7 October 2023 only worsened the already dramatic detention conditions in Israeli prisons. From the first day, the Prison Service implemented a policy of starvation and thirst with the prisoners, in addition to detaining large numbers of prisoners in the same cells, leading to unprecedented overcrowding inside the detention cells.

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. These detention conditions are a direct 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.⁵² A petition submitted against this policy, which violates the decision of the Israeli Supreme Court regarding the living space allocated to each prisoner, was rejected by the court under the guise that Israel was in a state of war.

⁵¹ <https://www.mezan.org/en/post/46223>

⁵² <https://versa.cardozo.yu.edu/opinions/association-civil-rights-israel-v-minister-public-security>

3.3.5. The Isolation of Detainees

The IPS has enforced the almost total isolation of Palestinian prisoners, by denying them family and ICRC visits and limiting lawyers' access to prison. Since 7 October 2023 until now, family visits have been entirely prohibited for all inmates, and the ICRC has also been barred from visiting Palestinian detainees while the genocide has continued unabated. These measures directly impact 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.

Israeli authorities also reinforced the isolation of prisoners within prison itself. Previously, all prisoners had a 1 to 3-hour yard time. Since 7 October 2023, prisoners are prohibited from having collective yard time and are taken out of their cell for very short times, sometimes less than 10 minutes per day. Addameer, Al Haq and Al Mezan 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.

The policy of isolation has particularly targeted certain prisoners. Certain well-known Palestinian elected legislators have been put in isolation cells for months and sometimes years, amounting to torture. This includes Marwan Barghouti and Khalida Jarrar, who was held in isolation for more than 5 months.

3.3.6. Confiscation of Detainees' Belongings

As a form of collective punishment, the IPS confiscated detainees' belongings after 7 October 2023. They took all electrical appliances and tools, along with pillows, blankets, and prisoners' clothes. Some detainees had to sleep on the floor. Some detainees have reported suffering from severe rashes and skin diseases from sitting and sleeping on the ground. Moreover, water refrigerators inside the prisons were halted since 7 October 2023 forcing prisoners to drink tap water, which they reported as not entirely clean and possessing a yellowish colour.

To cut off Palestinians from the outside world, including the ongoing genocide, T.V., radios, books and newspapers were also confiscated. This includes sacred books like the Quran or the Bible. Up until today these measures are still imposed. According to testimonies from former prisoners at Ofer Prison, prisoners were forced to wear the same clothes for almost 50 days.

3.3.7. Starvation and Food Deprivation

The IPS weaponizes food against Palestinian detainees by deliberately reducing both food quality and quantity and closing down the canteen.

After 7 October 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 own 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 the impact on their health of being provided with inadequate quality and quantity of food by the IPS.

3.3.8. Medical Neglect and Disease Outbreaks

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.***

M.A., a 31-years old Palestinian man from Ramallah explains the collective punishment imposed on Palestinian prisoners after 7 October 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.***

3.4. Deaths in Custody and Withholding of Bodies

According to documentation from Addameer, between 1967 and 1 January 2024, at least 257 Palestinians were killed or died while in Israeli custody, many as a result of torture or systematic medical neglect. Since 7 October 2023 alone, according to Addameer's documentation, at least 78 Palestinians have died while in Israeli custody, either under torture or as a result of torture. No official list has been released by Israeli authorities, who continue to withhold this information, making it impossible to determine the real total number of deaths in custody, including those that occurred in military detention camps run by the IOF outside the authority of the IPS. The real total number of deaths in custody is believed to be significantly higher. Since the ceasefire agreement in effect since 10 October 2025, Israeli authorities begun returning the bodies of unidentified Palestinians who died while in their custody; several of these bodies reportedly bore signs of torture and were still handcuffed at the time of their return.⁵³

Addameer was able to identify 78 deaths based on testimonies from released detainees. This documentation indicates that the majority of those who died in custody were taken from Gaza,

⁵³ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/israel-hamas-hostage-body-9.6938888>

though they also include Palestinians holding Israeli citizenship and Palestinians from the West Bank, among them at least one child.

Among the Palestinians taken from Gaza who have died under torture while in Israeli custody there are at least two Palestinian doctors: Dr. Iyad Al-Rantisi, Head of Obstetrics at Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahya, and Dr. Adnan Al-Bursh, the Head of Orthopedics at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. Dr. Al-Rantisi was arrested in November 2023 by the IOF at the Netzarim checkpoint as he was fleeing from northern Gaza. He reportedly died at Shikma Prison, a Shin Bet interrogation facility, six days into his detention. Dr. Al-Bursh was abducted by the IOF in December 2023 from Al-Awda Hospital in Jabaliya during their ground invasion of Gaza. He was killed on 19 April 2024 while being held in Ofer.⁵⁴ Their bodies remain withheld by Israeli authorities.

Earlier in the morning of 2 May 2024, Israeli authorities returned over 60 released Palestinian prisoners and detainees to Gaza via the Karem Abu Salem crossing. Several of them displayed visible signs of physical torture inflicted while in Israeli custody. The body of 33-year-old prisoner Ismail Abdelbari Khader was also returned to Gaza. According to Dr. Marwan Al-Hems, Director of the Abu Youssef Al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah, “when examining the body, torture marks were found on his wrists, as well as swelling in his shoulders, knees, and chest. The prisoner died inside the prison under torture. We do not know if he had a blood clot, but it is clear that he died inside prison.”

Among the Palestinian residents of the West Bank who have died in Israeli custody is 17-year-old Walid Ahmad, the first child to die in an Israeli prison since 1967. Walid died in Megiddo Prison in northern Israel on the morning of 22 March 2024 after collapsing in the prison yard. As reported by Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCIP), the autopsy report indicates that he likely died from a combination of starvation and dehydration, further compounded by denial of life-saving medical intervention.⁵⁵

Among Palestinians holding Israeli citizenship, the case of Walid Daqqa exemplifies that Israel’s apartheid and persecution apply to the Palestinian people as a whole, regardless of legal status or citizenship. Detained for 38 years, Daqqa was one of the longest-serving Palestinian political prisoners. He died of cancer while in Israeli custody on 7 April 2024, after his health deteriorated throughout the years due to medical neglect by the IPS. Despite being terminally ill, Daqqa was subjected to systematic torture and other forms of abuse, including physical assaults. Israel’s then–Defense Minister, with the approval of the Israeli Security Cabinet, decided to withhold Daqqa’s body for potential use in future negotiations with Palestinian factions.

The Israeli High Court of Justice has repeatedly sanctioned the practice of withholding bodies, as seen in its ruling upholding the decision to withhold Walid Daqqa’s body and its approval of the continued withholding of the body of 14-year-old Palestinian child Wadia Elyan for use

⁵⁴ <https://mezan.org/en/post/46431>

⁵⁵ https://www.dci-palestine.org/17_year_old_palestinian_child_prisoner_starved_to_death_by_israeli_prison_guards

as a bargaining chip in potential future negotiations with Palestinian factions.⁵⁶ The withholding of Palestinian bodies is a long-established Israeli practice that predates October 2023. It forms part of a broader policy of collective punishment and dehumanization aimed at exerting control over the Palestinian people and inflicting further suffering on bereaved families.

3.5. Torture Entrenched as an Instrument of State Policy and Dehumanization

Across all testimonies collected by Al Mezan and Addameer, a consistent pattern emerges. Regardless of differences in detention facilities and the responsible detaining authorities, the testimonies reveal a consistent pattern of abuse: prolonged shackling and blindfolding; severe beatings; sexual violence; exposure to extreme cold or heat; dog attacks; starvation; denial of medical care and medical neglect; systematic dehumanization; overcrowding; and torture during interrogations.

The uniformity of these practices across multiple facilities, administered by different branches of the Israeli security apparatus demonstrates that torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment are not isolated or exceptional incidents, nor aberrations of a single camp or prison, but part of a consistent, system-wide regime of abuse.

This regime reflects a policy direction set and endorsed by the highest levels of Israeli political and military leadership, constituting a deliberate strategy of collective punishment against the Palestinian people, in clear violation of the Convention Against Torture. It is also evident that the some of the genocidal policies imposed by Israel on Palestinians in Gaza, particularly starvation, were also mirrored within Israel's detention system. The treatment of Palestinian detainees cannot therefore be viewed in isolation from the broader context of Israel's genocide of Palestinians in Gaza, but rather as an extension of the same intent.

Among those responsible, Itamar Ben-Gvir, Israel's Minister of National Security, bears particular individual responsibility. As the official overseeing the IPS, Ben-Gvir has publicly and repeatedly declared his intention to worsen the conditions of Palestinian prisoners and detainees and curtail their basic rights, thereby directly contributing to the institutionalization of torture, inhumane treatment, and systematic degradation within Israel's carceral system.

His statements and actions predate the ongoing genocide and demonstrate a long-standing policy of dehumanization toward Palestinian prisoners and detainees. For instance, in early 2023, Ben-Gvir said 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 subsequently ordered an end to the distribution of fresh pita bread to detainees.⁵⁷ Such measures and rhetoric have only intensified since October 2023, as Ben-Gvir has pursued a clear policy of collective punishment against Palestinian prisoners and detainees aimed at worsening detention conditions within the context of the ongoing genocide. He has pursued an openly punitive approach aimed at worsening detention conditions and further eroding the rights and dignity of Palestinian prisoners. His statements systematically and indiscriminately label all Palestinian

⁵⁶ <https://www.adalah.org/en/content/view/11175>; <https://www.adalah.org/en/content/view/11366>.

⁵⁷ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ben-gvir-said-to-order-reduced-shower-time-for-terror-inmates/>

detainees as “terrorists,” thereby dehumanizing them and framing their abuse as justified within Israel’s broader campaign of genocide.

On 14 November 2023, he stated: “The terrorists receive the most stringent conditions, eight handcuffed terrorists in a dark cell, iron beds, toilets in a hole in the floor and Hatikvah [the Israeli National Anthem] playing on a loop in the background.”⁵⁸ On 24 April 2024, he declared: “[...] In my opinion, Palestinian prisoners must be killed by shooting them in the head, and until passing this law, we will give them little to live on.”⁵⁹

In a statement published in Hebrew on 2 July 2024,⁶⁰ he explicitly outlined this policy, making clear his intent to intensify punitive measures and further deteriorate the detention conditions of Palestinians held in Israeli custody:

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 cancelled 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 cancelled 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. [...] 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.

4. Conclusion

This submission is the result of the analysis of over 100 collected testimonies from Palestinian prisoners and detainee, compiled by the submitting organisations. Findings reveal a consistent and alarming pattern of abuse, pointing to Israel’s State policy of dehumanization, control, and discrimination against Palestinian prisoners and detainees by Israel. The testimonies confirm widespread practices of arbitrary arrests, incommunicado detention, enforced disappearances, and acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

The deliberate infliction of suffering, the targeting of vulnerable individuals, including children, women, the elderly, and persons with health conditions, and the normalisation and extension of incommunicado detention reflect an entrenched system of absolute power,

⁵⁸ https://pbs.twimg.com/media/GCRxKKAXsAAV_I-?format=jpg&name=medium

⁵⁹ https://x.com/eyeonpalestine/status/1807155578650714516?s=46&t=JaT3Sau_w01LZ8_9xYILA

⁶⁰ https://x.com/itamarbengvir/status/1808031178277925263?t=t75NHCPblupOpl_AQGUeiA&s=09t

humiliation and control over detainees. The practices described, from deprivation of basic human needs, manipulation of environmental conditions (such as temperature, noise, and constant lighting), starvation and thirst, restriction of bathroom access, sleep deprivation, sensory deprivation, sexual violence, and physical abuse, amount to torture and ill-treatment prohibited under all circumstances by international law.

The scale and cruelty of these acts, particularly since 7 October 2023, demonstrate a collapse of the most fundamental legal safeguards protecting human dignity and the right to be free from torture. These patterns represent flagrant and ongoing violations of Israel's obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the Geneva Conventions, as well as core principles of customary international law.