

Occupation policies

The rights of prisoners in occupation prisons



The colonial machine of oppression, represented by Israel Prison Service (IPS), has a long history of abusing Palestinian prisoners in its various prisons and detention centers. October 7 was not the date of change in the policies implemented inside Israeli prisons, but rather such abuses constitute the reality that Palestinian prisoners have been experiencing for many years, and the year 2023 marked a turning point in the history of the prisoners' movement. However, this does not negate the present situation of prisoners after October 7, which witnessed an escalation in the systematic policies of torture and abuse that have become a consistent approach in the prison structure.

This part of the report focuses on the data and reality of the detention conditions of Palestinians during arrests and the violations practiced against them by the Israeli occupation forces, as well as the reality of conditions in Israeli prisons since the beginning of 2023, and the general data after October 7. This section highlights the prison conditions and the reality of the Palestinian prisoners and crimes that have continued since the beginning of the year and reached their peak after October 7.

Despite the bleak and difficult reality in Israeli prisons, the extreme right-wing government has begun to impose restrictions on Palestinian prisoners since assuming power in early 2023. Itamar Ben-Gvir, Minister of National Security and in charge of police and the prison service, started visiting Israeli prisons. On 5 January 2023, Ben-Gvir visited Nafha Desert Prison to demonstrate his ultranationalist plans to target Palestinian prisoners and implement even greater punitive measures against them. Ben-Gvir, who did not keep his intentions hidden, said in a statement posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, following his visit: "I came to Nafha Prison yesterday to ensure that the murderers of Jews are not getting better conditions as a result of the construction of new cells. I will continue to handle the holding conditions of prisoners while seeking to pass the death penalty law for terrorists." [1]

Following Ben Gvir's visit to Nafha Prison, 80 Palestinian prisoners were arbitrarily transferred to Nafha Prison from Hadarim Prison between 8 and 9 January 2023 – emptying Hadarim Prison of all Palestinian security prisoners. Up to 70 prisoners were transferred from Megiddo Prison's section 8 to the high-security Gilboa Prison near Bisan. On 22 February 2023, around 35 prisoners were also transferred from Rimon Prison to Gilboa Prison, and 25 prisoners were supposed to be transferred to the same location the next day. [2]



[1] See the tweet on <https://twitter.com/itamarbengvir/status/1611286062298529792>

[2] For more information about the arbitrary transfer of prisoners between prisons, see the following paper by Addameer, "The Impact of Israel's New Ultranationalist Government on the Palestinian Prisoners Movement". 31 January 2023 <https://www.addameer.org/media/4978>

The transfer policy aims to destroy any state of stability and cohesion that the prisoners reach in prison, as well as abort any efforts made by the prisoner movement to protest their extremely harsh living conditions. The transfers were accompanied by a series of offensive and abusive procedures affecting the daily life of the prisoners. "There are rumors that the Shabak will make some changes, including transfers between prisons every three months while disregarding the proximity of the prison to the prisoner's place of residence, abolishing the prisoners' representatives committee, and limiting family visits to half an hour [per month] and other procedures," explained Bilal Kaid, an administrative detention prisoner, to his defense attorney.[3]

The various Israeli prisons have witnessed similar procedures to restrict and control the prisoners by all means available through the prison service, as well as the Israeli government in which the ministers use all methods to mistreat and abuse the prisoners and rob their achievements that they were able to accomplish over the years of struggle. Among the new decisions made by Ben-Gvir is the closure of bakeries that provide bread to prisoners and detainees in Nafha and Naqab Prisons, and the bread is now supplied by bakeries outside the prisons. During lawyer visits, the prisoners confirmed that the bread supplied by the prison administration is poor in terms of quality and quantity. Speaking to Israel Hayom newspaper, Ben-Gvir said he "went crazy after learning of the existence of the bakeries. Prisoners cannot get such a privilege. How can they get fresh bread every day? What is this absurdity."

Ben-Gvir's decisions also affected the shower time for prisoners, reducing the amount of time to shower to only one hour for 120 prisoners. This means that prisoners will only be allotted five minutes to shower. In addition, hot water flow to showers will be shut off, which is a blatant violation of the prisoners' basic right to personal hygiene and amounts to insult and harsh treatment against them.

The new Israeli government did not stop at these decisions alone, but went beyond them. It approved the introduction of the death penalty law for Palestinian prisoners. Among the decisions was also the decision to isolate new prisoners convicted of 'terrorist acts' for long durations as a means of retaliation against them. Other decisions made by Ben-Gvir included removing television sets from the transit detainee section, forming a committee to implement all the procedures of the emergency committee in Gilboa Prison within a maximum period of three months after assuming his new position, and reducing the types of products in the canteen. These procedures are accompanied by a series of legal changes that will be discussed in the chapter on law amendments.

Ben-Gvir's targeting of Palestinian prisoners was not a new thing after taking the position of Minister of National Security, rather his racist statements against them preceded his presence in the government. Harassment of prisoners was one of the topics he touched upon in his election campaign. After assuming his new position, Ben-Gvir targeted the most basic rights of the prisoners. On 27 August 2023, Ben-Gvir issued a decree reducing family visits to Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons to once every two months instead of monthly visits; a decision was supposed to come into effect on 3 September 2023 for around 1,600 security prisoners in Israeli prisons, particularly those serving life terms.

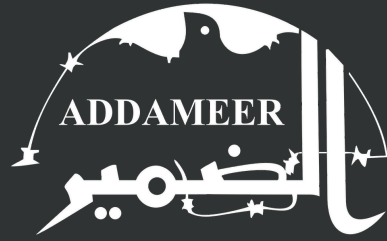
[3] A lawyer interview with prisoner Bilal Kayed in Megiddo Prison on 19 January 2023.

Such a decision is arbitrary and an integral part of the procedures that affect the basic rights of Palestinian prisoners. It is part of a long list of punitive and inhumane measures taken by the extremist government against Palestinian prisoners, particularly the transfer of prisoners from their places of residence in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to Israeli prisons located in the 1948 occupied territories, which in itself constitutes a violation of international laws and affects the prisoners' ability to reasonably benefit from their right to family visits. Family visits are also faced with several obstacles by the Israeli authorities, including denial of visitation permits, and the travel hardships families go through because of the Israeli checkpoints. Despite all this, the occupation state was not satisfied with this amount of torture, as Ben-Gvir sought to use all his powers to reduce communication between prisoners and their families to a minimum for years.

The response from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office to the decision to reduce family visits to Palestinian prisoners to once every two months was that no decision was made in this regard. In response to this measure, the prisoners' emergency committee decided on 3 September 2023 to launch an open hunger strike starting on 14 September 2023 to protest Ben-Gvir's decision. However, Ben-Gvir's decision was not implemented following negotiations with the prison service, and thus the hunger strike was suspended.

A fundamental change took place in Israeli prisons after October 7, with the prison service began taking retaliatory measures against Palestinian prisoners. Such was reflected in the level of the large-scale arrest campaigns against Palestinians across the Palestinian territories, including the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the 1948 occupied territories. It also had an impact on the Palestinian prisoners. The report will review data reflecting the conditions of detention of Palestinian prisoners after October 7.





Starvation Policy



Since October 7, the Prison Service forces stormed all Israeli prisons and began implementing a policy of starvation^[4] by confiscating all food items from the sections and closing the canteen, leaving the prisoners with the food provided by the Prison Service. Furthermore, the Prison Service reduced meals to two meals per day, and after a while, prisoners in some prisons were served three meals per day.

Through the testimonies that human rights organizations were able to obtain from all of the Israeli prisons from October 7 until the end of the year, the inmates unanimously agreed that the food provided was poor in terms of quality and quantity. Prisoner Walid Hanatsha said "Each prisoner had half a cup of boiled rice, and the food was brought in one plate with plastic spoons. The prisoners have apparently lost 25–30% of their weight since the beginning of the events."^[5] Minor M. H. confirmed that the same policies are applied in the juvenile sections saying: "We do not know the meaning of having a full stomach."^[6]

The Prison Service did not only implement this policy on adult and healthy prisoners, but it also affected minors, female prisoners, and sick prisoners in the Ramla Prison clinic, in addition to prisoner patients in the central prisons. Such patients need food in appropriate quantities and of high quality so that they can recover faster. This was confirmed by martyr prisoner Asif Al-Rifai, who was suffering from cancer, was undergoing chemotherapy, and was taking very intense medications to fight the disease and prevent its spread in his body. Al-Rifai told the lawyer during the visit: "The food is very bad and consists of hummus and vegetables with 5–6 pieces of bread. This is what is served daily but it is not compatible with our health conditions and nutritional needs."^[7] Injured prisoner, Mohammad Rabie, who is in Ramla Prison clinic, said, "Fruits are not brought and the amount of food is less than before, and it is constantly declining."^[8] To make matters worse, administrative detainee Mohammad Al-Sabbar was announced dead after suffering from a stomach and intestinal disease and needed a special diet. Due to his poor diet because of the starvation policy, Al-Sabbar's condition worsened until he passed away on 8 February 2024. However, no change occurred concerning the quality and quantity of the food provided to prisoners.^[9]

Although the legal system governing prison nutrition standards is a mixture of domestic policies and international laws, there are few comprehensive laws regulating the provision of food in prisons. It is stated in the rules of the Israeli Prison Service that sufficient food must be provided to prisoners three times per day, but food has always been a punitive tool used by the Prison Service to abuse prisoners. Although the Prison Service has sufficient capacity to provide prisoners with three meals per day, it shirks its responsibilities toward the prisoners, and this did not begin on October 7. Rather, it is a systematic policy that has been implemented for years against the prisoners.

[4] The policy of starvation or deprivation of food is defined as eating food with an energy level below the required minimum, and it may restrict eating food completely or partially.

[5] A lawyer interview with prisoner Walid Hanatsha in Megiddo Prison on 12 December 2023.

[6] A lawyer interview with prisoner M. H. in Ofer Prison on 11 December 2023.

[7] A lawyer interview with prisoner Asif Al-Rifai at Ramla Prison clinic on 31 October 2023.

[8] A lawyer interview with prisoner Mohammad Rabie at Ramla Prison clinic on 15 November 2023.

[9] To learn more about the martyrs of the prisoner movement in 2023 and until the end of February 2024, see the chapter on prison violence

The prisoner movement has confronted and protested such a policy continuously through refusal to receive spoiled or undercooked food, yet the occupying state still uses the prisoners' right to food as a weapon against them and can deny it to the prisoners. The only thing that helped the prisoners was to buy food from the prison canteen at their own expense to cover their nutritional needs. However, the Prison Service has deprived the prisoners of the canteen since October 7, exposing more than 7,000 Palestinian prisoners to severe malnutrition because the daily provision of unhealthy and inhumane food to prisoners by the Prison Service leads to an excessive spread of cardiovascular diseases and negatively affects the functions of the prisoners' vital organs.

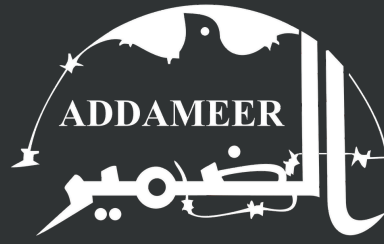
The starvation policy does not only affect the prisoners physically but also affects them psychologically. The prisoners live in anxiety and severe psychological pressure as a result of the harsh conditions imposed on them by lack and malnutrition. They are more vulnerable to depression and anxiety, which causes a deterioration in their mental state. Documentation collected by institutions after October 7 shows that the Prison Service is determined to use this policy and there are no indications that it is backing down from the starvation policy.

Manipulating the quantities of food and water provided to prisoners to achieve retaliatory goals and inflict collective punishment on prisoners is a flagrant violation of human rights and is prohibited by international conventions. This policy blatantly contradicts the principles of human rights and exposes prisoners to inhuman and degrading treatment. It is explicitly prohibited in the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), specifically in Article 22, which stipulates: "Every prisoner shall be provided by the prison administration at the usual hours with food of nutritional value adequate for health and strength, of wholesome quality and well prepared and served." Article 43 of the same rules also prohibits the reduction of prisoner's diet or drinking water as restrictions or disciplinary sanctions.

What confirms the systematic and widespread use of the starvation policy by the occupying state is implementing this policy against more than two million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, as the Israeli occupation controls what enters Gaza due to the siege. After October 7, the Israeli occupation forces deprived Palestinian civilians in Gaza of food, water, and fuel, while blocking the entry of humanitarian and food aid into the enclave, and agricultural lands were destroyed by bombing, fire belts, and tanks, leaving the people of the enclave without the basic food needs that would enable them to survive.[10] The Israeli government's policy of starvation against the people of the Gaza Strip was very clear through the racist statements of its members, as Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said that he 'ordered a complete siege on the Gaza Strip. There will be no electricity, no food, and no fuel, everything is closed. We are fighting human animals and we are acting accordingly.'[11] Other Israeli officials have publicly stated that humanitarian aid to Gaza would be conditional either on the release of [Israeli] hostages illegally held by Hamas or on the destruction of Hamas movement.

[10] International humanitarian law, or the laws of war, prohibits starvation of civilians as a method of warfare. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court states that intentionally starving civilians 'by depriving them of items indispensable to their survival, including intentionally impeding relief supplies' is a war crime. Criminal intent does not require the attacker to confess, but it can also be inferred from the overall circumstances of the aggression against the Gaza Strip. The ongoing Israeli siege of Gaza, as well as its 19-year closure, amount to collective punishment of the civilian population, which is a war crime. As the occupying power in Gaza under the Fourth Geneva Convention, Israel has a duty to ensure that the civilian population has access to food and medical supplies.

[11] The Times of Israel. 'Defense minister announces complete siege of Gaza: No Power, Food or Fuel'. 9 October 2023. https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/defense-minister-announces-complete-siege-of-gaza-no-power-food-or-fuel/



Overcrowding Policy



Overcrowding is related to spatial density. In the case of prisoners, overcrowding is related to the living space allocated to each prisoner inside the cells or the number of beds per the number of prisoners. The higher the number of prisoners inside one cell, whose capacity does not change, the higher the overcrowding rates. Despite the decision of the Israeli Supreme Court issued in 2017, which required expanding the available space up to 4.5 square meters per inmate,[12] the Prison Service began implementing the decision partially, not completely, since then.

However, during the year 2023, the Prison Service began violating the court's judgment, specifically in Gilboa Prison, by introducing one more prisoner to each cell, thus reducing the personal space allocated to prisoners under both the Israeli court decision and international conventions. This was confirmed by prisoner Quteiba Msallam, who said, "In the section in which I am detained, there are 14 rooms, and in each room, there are five prisoners instead of four. The prison administration wanted to detain six prisoners in the room but we rejected it." [13] Prisoner Nidal Meshal confirmed the same issue, saying "The prison administration informed us yesterday that there would be an additional prisoner in each room, even though there are already five prisoners in each room and should be only four. They told us that they would increase the number of beds in each room to reach six beds." [14]



Prisoners inside one of the departments - Palestine Post

[12] For more on the court's decision, see the 2019 report on violations of the rights of prisoners in Israeli prisons, pp. 30–31. https://www.addameer.org/sites/default/files/publications/mdl-tqryr_lnthkt_2020.pdf

[13] A lawyer interview with prisoner Quteiba Msallam in Gilboa Prison on 12 September 2013.

[14] A lawyer interview with prisoner Nidal Meshal in Gilboa Prison on 23 August 2013.

These procedures reflect the policies of the Prison Service to restrict and abuse Palestinian prisoners as much as possible and violate all laws, including Israeli laws as well as Israeli court decisions. This only echoes the formality of Israeli laws and decisions, which are only used according to the disposition and temperament of the Prison Service administration and the Israeli army, and in a way that serves the objectives and the interests of the Israeli government and leaders.

The overcrowding policy was not limited to Gilboa Prison only, but it also spread throughout all Israeli prisons after October 7. This is due to the mass arrests carried out by the Israeli occupation forces since the beginning of the year, which doubled in an unprecedented manner after October 7, although Israeli prisons are unable to accommodate these numbers of detainees due to the dilapidated prison infrastructure. However, the number of Palestinians arrested from October 7 until the end of the year reached up to 5,500, while the total number of arrests during the year reached 11,000^[15], and that resulted in unprecedented overcrowding in all Israeli prisons, even in Damon Prison that contains two sections for female and minor prisoners.

The Prison Service now detains approximately 12 to 14 prisoners in rooms that can only accommodate a maximum of four or six detainees. Prisoner Adnan Habiyeh reported in this regard, saying: "Our room is located in section 24 in Ofer Prison. Currently, there are eight prisoners in the room, but previously our number reached 13, even though there are only six beds, which means the rest of us sleep on the floor."^[16] Prisoner Moath Shoman confirmed that prisoners live in the same conditions in Megiddo Prison, saying: "There are 11 prisoners in the room, so most of us sleep on the floor, and there is a shortage of mattresses and blankets. Most of us sleep on the floor and without a blanket."^[17]

Nearly half of the prisoners held in overcrowded conditions sleep on the floor and are provided by the Prison Service with only a thin mattress with a blanket but no pillow. The amendment to the Prisons Law (Prison Emergency Law) stipulated that a prisoner may be held without a bed in cases where a bed is not available and for the shortest possible period, but in this case, the prisoner must be provided with a double mattress.^[18] This implies a violation of the court's decision regarding the personal space allocated for each prisoner.^[19] Even in light of this unfair amendment to the prisoners, which deprives them of their most basic rights and violates the prisoner's right to personal space and privacy, the Prison Service did not comply with this amendment and only provided one mattress per inmate

[15] These numbers do not include Gazan prisoners (males) who were arrested after October 7. Some of Gazan detainees were released later.

[16] A lawyer interview with prisoner Adnan Habiyeh in Ofer Prison on 8 November 2013.

[17] A lawyer interview with prisoner Moath Shoman in Megiddo Prison on 12 December 2013

[18] Madar Center. "On first reading – extending an emergency law that allows reducing the personal space of 'security prisoner' in prisons and detention centers." 17 January 2024. <http://tinyurl.com/bdeb6myn>

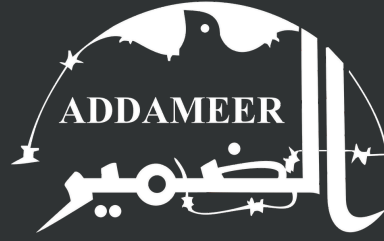
[19] To learn more about this amendment, see the chapter on Law Amendments.

Due to the crisis in prisons, the Public Defender's Office made four visits to different prisons in December 2023, and its report confirmed that both criminal and security prisoners live in inhumane conditions, are forced to sleep on the floor, and are held in harsh overcrowded conditions that do not meet the 'first step' of the Israeli Supreme Court's ruling. According to the report, around 3,400 detainees sleep on the floor. Regarding Damon Prison, where female and child prisoners are held, the report stated, 'In addition to the poor physical condition of the prison, some detainees held in cells sleep on the floor.'^[20]

The report concluded that the representatives of the Public Defender's Office highlighted the conditions monitored during their visits to Israeli prisons, including unbearable and harsh overcrowding, poor sanitary conditions, poor hygiene and pest problems, inadequacy of ventilation, and the lack of basic equipment. In general, representatives of the Public Defender's Office voiced their concern that the increase in overcrowding in prison facilities has significant implications and consequences not only from the point of view of the prisoners, but also from the point of view of the security service and that increased overcrowding in a situation in which prisoners are exposed to stress and anxiety may lead to unnecessary friction between the prisoners themselves and between them and prison staff, and at the expense of the therapeutic and rehabilitative achievements that have been accomplished with great effort.

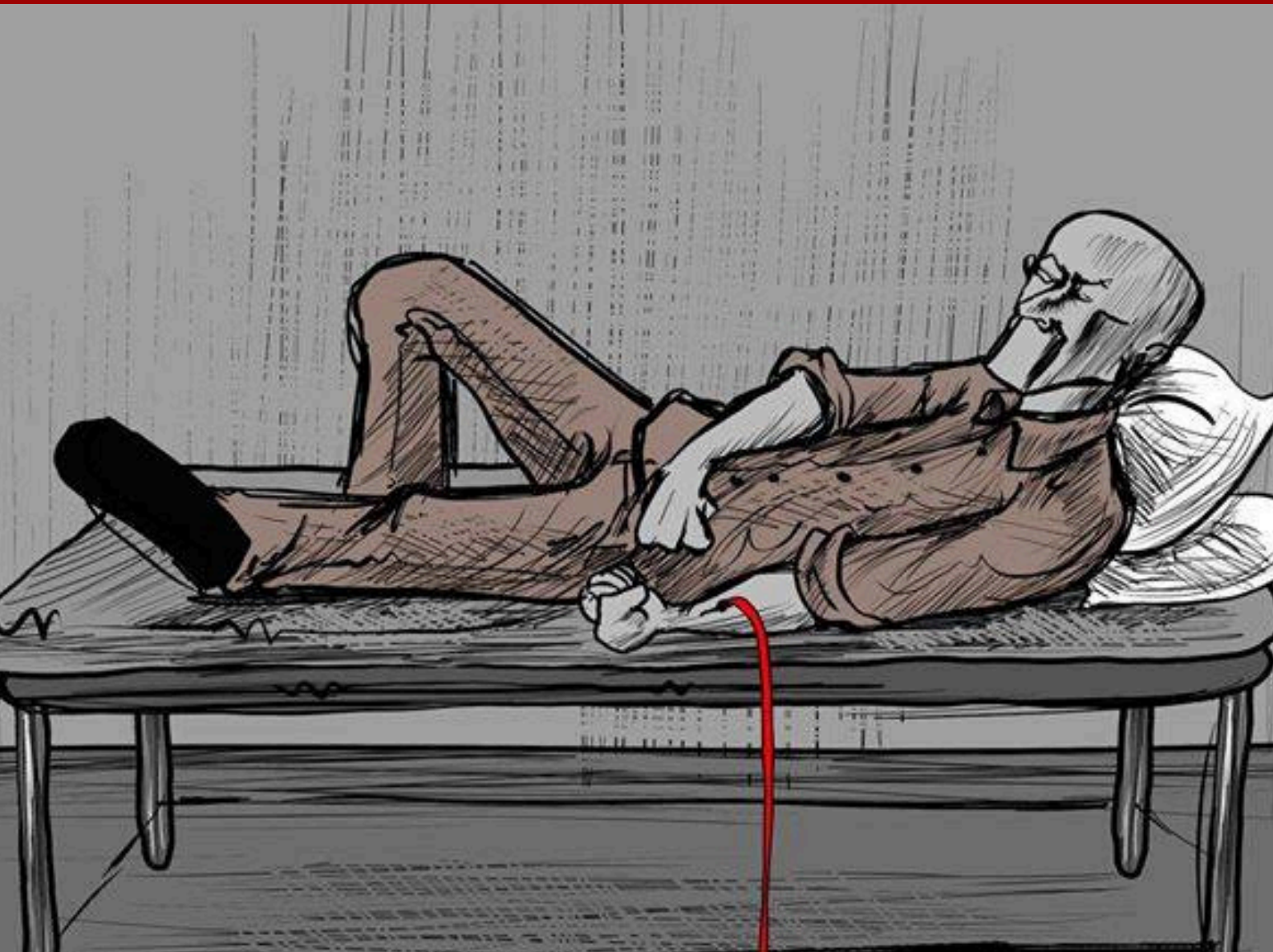
[20] Ministry of Justice. The Public Defender's Officer. "Prison Conditions in Prison Service Facilities. Special Report following the Prison Emergency."





Medical Crimes

as a Basic Component of the Prison Service



The medical crimes policy is one of the established policies implemented by the Israeli occupation army for arresting wounded Palestinians. This policy is supplemented by the Prison Service's treatment of Palestinian prisoners held in detention centers and central prisons, including those who suffer from serious diseases such as cancer, liver, kidney, heart, and other ailments. Although human rights and medical justice constitute a framework for ensuring the provision of necessary healthcare to prisoners, regardless of their legal status, the testimonies and reports collected during the year confirm cases of grave violations in the healthcare provided to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons. This is particularly evident in the so-called Ramla Prison clinic, which the Israeli occupation authorities claim to be a clinic for special medical cases.

However, the reality of the clinic's conditions confirms that it is merely a prison housing some primitive medical materials and does not qualify as a clinic. Despite its limited capacity, accommodating only between 15 to 20 prisoners, it nearly reached maximum occupancy throughout 2023. Consequently, Palestinian prisoners were hastily transferred to other facilities to make room for those with severe medical conditions. This situation confirms the practice of medical negligence and the targeting of sick and injured prisoners, particularly during arrests.

The Prison Service deprives Palestinian prisoners of appropriate treatment for their health conditions, or deliberately delays providing treatment, thus rapidly exacerbating their health conditions. In many cases, the Prison Service refuses to refer prisoners – mainly women – to specialists and does not disclose the results of their medical examinations, while withholding medication from them as a form of punishment. The impact of this policy increased after October 7, as prisoners were deprived of access to their necessary medications for their medical conditions, in addition to stopping the conduct of any examinations or surgical operations that were scheduled for the prisoners before October 7. This policy also affected prison internal clinics, following documented assaults on prisoners, the vast majority of whom needed medical attention, stitching wounds, or splinting fractures. Moreover, wounded prisoners were denied access to prison clinics, and the only treatment provided was painkillers that were given to wounded prisoners after hours of the assaults and following several attempts to obtain them. In other cases, the Prison Service allowed prisoners suffering from a large number of diseases to take specific medications and denied them others.



15 Years of Unchanged Medical Crimes

Prisoner Jamal Ibrahim was exposed to deliberate medical crimes that spanned more than 15 years, since the beginning of his arrest on 3 February 2004. Since then, Ibrahim faced deliberate neglect of his medical needs, after suffering from stomach problems and hemorrhoids.[21] The Prison Service continued to ignore his medical condition for many years, until only four years ago he was allowed to undergo laparoscopy, but the Prison Service refused to disclose the result of the laparoscopy and kept it confidential information. Withholding medical information is not a new policy practiced by the Prison Service. Rather, it is an approved and established policy with a large group of sick prisoners who are proven to need intensive medical follow-up. With this policy, the Prison Service deprives prisoners of their right to view their medical files and their urgent need for medical follow-up.

Ibrahim's condition continued to deteriorate until he was transferred in 2022 to Barzilai Hospital; an Israeli civilian hospital in the city of Asqalan. A doctor reported that Ibrahim needed to undergo surgery for internal hemorrhoids because of their constantly worsening condition, and its complications negatively affected his general health condition and made his life difficult. Ibrahim also suffered from colon problems, which required a special diet, in addition to struggling with blood pressure and iron and vitamin deficiencies.

Nevertheless, Ibrahim's medical suffering did not end there. In August 2020, he began suffering from a severe respiratory crisis and had to use an inhaler in an attempt to mitigate this problem, which was exacerbated by the humidity of the prison cells in which he was being held. In the same year, Ibrahim had an x-ray of his lungs taken and it turned out that his lungs were black with a tumorous lump on them. Doctors said that the tumor was benign even though they did not take a sample and the tumor was not examined to determine whether or not it was benign.

Furthermore, Ibrahim's suffering from back pain due to a disc is considered a complex issue. Although Ibrahim receives medical treatments at the Eshel Prison clinic every two weeks, the journey from Nafha Prison to Eshel Prison is long, and he is transferred via the bosta [prisoner transfer vehicle] rather than by ambulance, which constitutes a journey of torment, as herniated disc pain requires special attention and diligent medical care. The Israeli occupation forces are still abusing Ibrahim by forcing him to sit on the metal seats and handcuffing him throughout the transfer. Ibrahim's deteriorating health and the emergence of symptoms of several other diseases during his detention period highlight the unhealthy conditions of detention. These conditions include poor food quality, inadequate room conditions, lack of medical care, and delays in providing timely treatment.

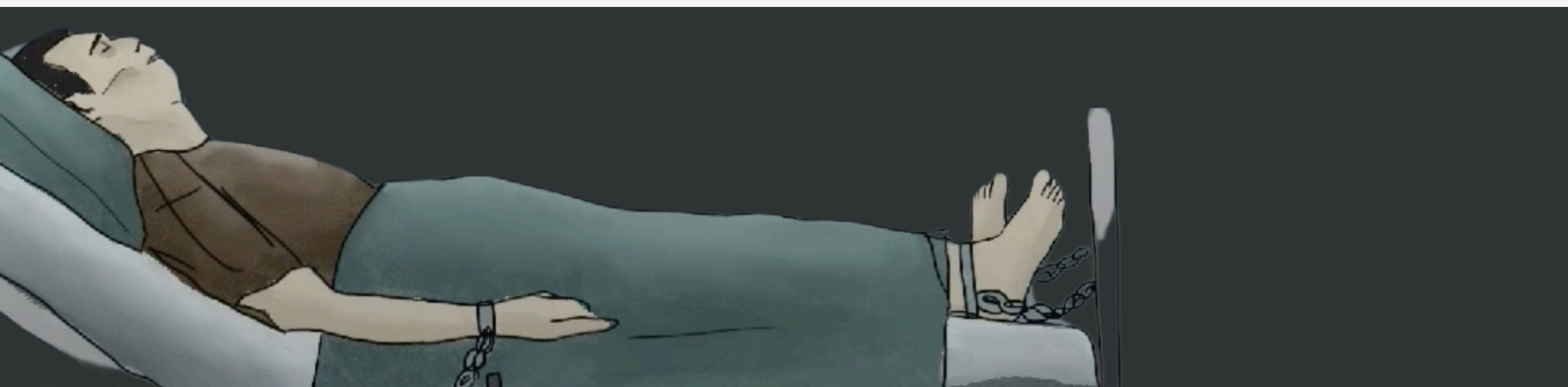
[21] Hemorrhoids are swollen veins in the anus and lower rectum, similar to varicose veins. Hemorrhoids can develop inside the rectum, called internal hemorrhoids, and can also develop under the skin around the anus, called external hemorrhoids. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/en/diseases-conditions/hemorrhoids/symptoms-causes/syc-20360268>

The policy of medical negligence against Palestinian prisoners is being implemented at an increasing pace, which includes the slow response to providing the necessary medical treatments to prisoners, and thus contributing to a rapid deterioration in their health conditions. These practices fall within the policy of systematic medical negligence that the Prison Service has practiced against all Palestinian prisoners for many years, despite the clear effects of this policy on prisoners, which may lead to prisoners losing their lives behind bars. Moreover, this policy contradicts international laws and constitutes a flagrant violation of them. Prisoners have the right to access adequate healthcare and necessary treatment without discrimination or neglect, which is part of basic human rights and human dignity stipulated in numerous conventions, such as the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Abuse of the Wounded

Prisoner Ward Dar-Sharif was arrested on September 4, 2023, after he was shot by the Israeli occupation forces while his hands were raised. The bullet hit the main artery in Ward's right thigh, and he was brought to Rambam Civil Hospital. Ward underwent surgery during which doctors implanted an artery in him, removed the bullet, and stitched up the wound. Ward was hospitalized from September 4 until September 26, during which he was kept handcuffed. "The guards did not remove my handcuffs, neither while I was eating, nor while entering the bathroom, nor while showering, and a hospital staff helped me shower."^[22] Ward was transferred to Ramla Prison clinic by bosta inside a small cell. After arriving at Ramla, a clinic doctor examined Ward's leg because it was bleeding and it became clear that the stitches on the wound had broken open, so they re-stitched his leg again. While Ward was in the clinic, he did not receive any treatment, massages, or physical therapy for his leg, despite being unable to fully extend it straight. However, prisoners in the clinic gave him massages, which led to a slight improvement in the condition of his leg. Given that he was deprived of physical therapy, the administration only gave him antibiotics, yet he is still suffering from pain in his leg.

The policy of abusing wounded or sick prisoners during arrest or detention in medical facilities and transfers to prisons is nothing new. Rather, the occupying state has exercised this policy for years, which in many cases has led to a sharp decline in the prisoners' health conditions, as in the case of prisoner Walid Daqqa, who was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. Despite his life-threatening situation while being detained in the Ramla Prison clinic, Daqqa was transferred to Israeli civilian hospitals for a very limited period and then re-detained in the Ramla Prison clinic.^[23]



[22] A lawyer interview with prisoner Ward Dar-Sharif in Megiddo Prison on 18 March 2024.

[23] For more on the case of prisoner Walid Daqqa, see <https://www.addameer.org/ar/prisoner/5096>

Arrests from Ambulances Made Lawful

At approximately 2:00 p.m. on 29 December 2023, 17-year-old H. Sh., a resident of Qalqilia, was heading back to his house when he was shot with live ammunition and was brought to Darwish Nazzal Hospital in the city, after which it was decided to transfer him to Al-Najah Hospital in Nablus for appropriate treatment due to his critical condition. H. Sh. was placed inside an ambulance and while the ambulance was en route to the hospital, it was stopped by the Israeli occupation forces at a flying checkpoint at the entrance to the city. Despite his serious injury and his presence in the ambulance en route to the hospital, H. Sh. was arrested and forced to wait until an Israeli ambulance arrived and transferred him to Meir Hospital in Kfar Saba.

H. Sh. was hospitalized for six days, during which he underwent stomach surgery. However, H. Sh. was handcuffed for three consecutive days, and his handcuffs were only removed to drink water or to rest, which did not exceed five minutes per day. It should be noted that H. Sh. lost his ability to walk since he was shot, but he was not provided with appropriate treatment for his walking problem, nor did the doctors inform him of the reason he could not walk.

While being hospitalized, H. Sh. was interrogated once, and when he explained what had happened to him, the interrogator accused him of throwing a homemade bomb without providing any evidence.[24] The interrogator's fabrications became evident because when H. Sh. was arrested, there were no confrontations with the occupation forces, in addition to the fact that those who made the arrest were not wearing the official army uniform, and therefore H. Sh. did not have any information about their identity, nor did he know that they were Israeli soldiers or special forces, especially since he asked them about what was happening in Arabic. Based on the information about the incident H. Sh. presented to the defense lawyer, there was no reasonable justification for the masked men to shoot and critically wound him.

Prisoner M. R., 18, was shot by the Israeli occupation forces on 29 September 2023, and the bullet penetrated his stomach and broke four vertebrae of his spine, and platinum was implanted in his back.[25] However, M. R. was arbitrarily arrested and detained, but was released later by a court order on 25 February 2024.

Numerous violations are committed by the occupying state against wounded Palestinians, the majority of which involve arrests from ambulances, the shackling of patients while in hospitals—especially children—and their swift transfer from Israeli hospitals to the Ramla Prison clinic. This denies them access to adequate treatment and results in permanent damage to the prisoners. Such practices blatantly violate human rights and breach the rules of international law that guarantee the right to receive treatment and appropriate healthcare without hindrance.

[24] A lawyer interview with prisoner H. Sh. in Ramla Prison clinic on 15 January 2024.

[25] A lawyer interview with prisoner M. R. in Ramla Prison clinic on 15 January 2024.

Assaulting Paramedics and Preventing Them from Providing Medical Services

During all the incursions carried out by the Israeli occupation forces into various Palestinian territories, the Israeli forces obstructed the work of medical teams, assaulted and targeted them either by arresting them, shooting them directly, or sabotaging ambulances. A number of cases were documented during the year 2023 in which paramedics were arrested or detained and prevented from treating the injured or transporting the martyrs.



Israeli occupation forces attack ambulance crews in Tulkarm camp (Wafa Agency)

On 17 January 2024, Israeli occupation forces consisting of around 120 military vehicles, military bulldozers, and troop carriers, stormed Nour Shams camp near Tulkarm at approximately 4:30 a.m. from several directions. The Israeli forces raided Al-Rabaia neighborhood, blew up doors, carried out intensive searches of homes and shops, caused destruction, and abused and arrested several local residents, resulting in many casualties. A group of volunteer paramedics with the Palestinian Red Crescent turned a house inside Al-Hamam neighborhood into an ambulance station to treat injuries. Later that afternoon, the paramedics heard banging on the front door of the house, so they opened it.

Immediately, around 15 Israeli soldiers stormed the house, some of them dressed in green army uniforms, and most of them spoke Arabic well. There were seven paramedics in the house; five men and two women, all of whom were wearing Red Crescent vests identifying them as medics. The medics had their hands tied with plastic cords in front of their bodies, blindfolded, and led on foot to a nearby house in the same neighborhood where the soldiers had turned into a detention and field interrogation point. There were about 10 people from the camp inside the house, all of them men, bound and blindfolded. One of the detained paramedics saw them, as he was able to see a little from under the blindfold.

After being held in the house for nearly five hours, the paramedics were all taken by military vehicle to Al-Balaawi commercial facility, which is a large warehouse that the Israeli forces also used as a detention and field interrogation point. "During the transfer, the soldiers assaulted us, hit us with rifles, punched and kicked us. One soldier hit me with the stock of his rifle on my neck, and I felt severe pain. Inside Al-Balaawi facility, I saw hundreds of detainees from Tulkarm camp, bound and blindfolded, all of them men. The soldiers interrogated the majority of the young men inside the offices on the second floor of the facility," described medic Mohammad Dmairi^[26], who was held for the next day.

[26] A phone interview conducted by Addameer with Mohammad Dmairi on 20 January 2024.

The next day around 11:00 p.m., Dmairi and 10 others were taken by military vehicle to Taybeh army camp. Dmairi told Addameer that when they entered the camp, he saw from under the blindfold a group of young men from Tulkarm camp on the ground, stripped down to their underwear, and screaming as they were being severely beaten by Israeli soldiers. The detainees were kept outside in the yard on the ground that was covered with rainwater. It was very cold, especially late at night, and they suffered greatly from the cold.

Dmairi also explained that around 1:00 p.m., he was taken for interrogation inside a building in the army camp. The interrogation session continued for nearly three hours, during which his ties and blindfold were removed. The interrogators changed and introduced themselves as Ismail and Hasan; Israeli intelligence officers in charge of Tulkarm and Jenin. The interrogation revolved around Dmairi's work as a paramedic and a nurse, and Dmairi was accused of helping 'wanted persons and resistance fighters.' "If I ever see you holding a needle in the camp, I will cut it off for you," threatened one interrogator. The interrogation session ended around 4:00 a.m., after which Dmairi was released at Taybeh military checkpoint. The Israeli raid on the camp that day resulted in the killing of eight Palestinians and wounding dozens.

All of these attacks on medical staff come in parallel with the attacks on medical facilities and staff in the Gaza Strip, amidst the genocide committed by the Israeli occupation forces. In its daily updated report on the effects of the Israeli aggression on the Palestinians, the Palestinian Health Ministry indicated that 340 health personnel were martyred and 770 others were injured as a result of bombardments or sniper operations between October 7 and 29 February 2024. Additionally, nearly 100 health personnel were arrested/detained, and 150 health facilities were damaged, including 30 hospitals and 123 ambulances.[27]

As part of the ongoing policy of medical negligence practiced by the Israeli authorities against Palestinian prisoners, an Israeli hospital refuses to treat Palestinian captives because treatment would 'offend national feelings'

Following the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, Israeli Health Minister Moshe Arbel announced a new racist policy that strictly bars public hospitals from receiving and treating 'terrorist' patients, and that they should reroute injured 'terrorists' to IOF or prison service medical facilities. Minister of Health informed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he had issued this order to all public hospitals and was quoted saying, 'In these difficult times, it is important to direct the healthcare system's resources towards caring for the victims of the terrorists' brutality, wounded soldiers, and preparing for future developments in the ongoing conflict. The task of treating and providing security for the accursed terrorists in the public healthcare system just detracts from this.'[28]

[27] Palestinian Health Ministry. 'The daily report on the effects of the Israeli aggression in Palestine since 7 October 2023.' 29 February 2024. <https://site.moh.ps/index/CategoryView/CategoryId/24/Language/ar>

[28] Haaretz. 'Israeli Hospitals Refuse to Treat Hamas Terrorist, Sources Cite 'National Feelings''. 17 October 2023. <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2023-10-17/ty-article/premium/israeli-hospital-refuses-to-treat-hamas-terrorist-sources-cite-national-feelings/0000018b-3e79-d2b8-a7db-fe7f7c320000>

Based on the instructions issued by the Israeli Health Minister, Israeli Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem refused to treat a Palestinian prisoner captured in the first week of the Israeli war on Gaza. According to a statement published by the hospital administration, security officials in the hospital attempted to admit the injured prisoner, but the administration refused to receive and treat him, claiming that his treatment would 'offend national feelings'. According to the statement, the administration announced that no 'terrorist' involved in the war would be treated.

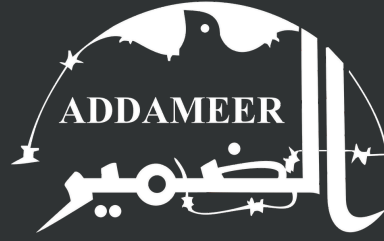
Ichilov Medical Hospital in Tel Aviv also refused to admit a person to the emergency room in the first week of the Israeli war on Gaza. Instead, a doctor examined the person inside the ambulance and referred him to a prison facility to evaluate his condition and treat him. In the same week, hundreds of members of the extreme right-wing organization 'La Familia', known for its nationalist extremism and anti-Arab racism, flocked to Sheba-Tel HaShomer Medical Center in search of a captured Hamas terrorist reportedly being treated at the facility.

In response to these escalation steps announced by the Israeli medical authorities barring the reception and treatment of anyone they consider a 'terrorist,' Physicians for Human Rights denounced these actions, saying: 'The medical treatment of injured captives, even in these difficult times, including times of war, must be in line with law ethics and international agreements. Israel is obligated to provide medical treatment to all prisoners, regardless of their origin or type of crime, in appropriate conditions that respect their basic rights.'[29]



Postponing a wounded person - Palestine News Network

[29] Ibid.



The Ier Forcibly Opens His Doors



Forty-seven days into Israel's all-out aggression on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, although the residents of Gaza are being subjected to genocide through Israeli air bombardment and ground invasions, in addition to assassinations and systematic arrest campaigns that have increased sharply throughout historic Palestine, a humanitarian truce was announced, including a temporary ceasefire and an exchange of prisoners between Hamas and the Israeli occupation.



The first day of the exchange deal began on Friday; 24 November 2023, when Hamas released a group of Israeli prisoners in exchange for the Israeli authorities releasing a group of Palestinian prisoners, a large portion of whom were held in arbitrary administrative detention based on a secret file without charge or trial and for indefinite durations. The prisoner exchange process continued for seven consecutive days, during which Hamas released more than 70 detained civilians and dual citizens, while the Israeli occupation authorities released 240 Palestinian prisoners, including 71 women and 169 children.[30]

Despite the release of a group of Palestinian prisoners, the Israeli occupation forces were still escalating the arrests that increased following October 7. The Israeli authorities arrested ten times the amount of prisoners who were released as part of the swap deal, including dozens of women and children who are still being held in Israeli prisons in harsh circumstances.

It should be noted that there are no guarantees from the Israeli occupation authorities to respect the terms of the swap deal concluded between the two parties. This implies that the released Palestinians could be re-arrested or summoned to Israeli police stations and courts, as in the case of freed prisoner Nofouz Hammad, who was summoned to appear before a court in Netanya on 31 January 2024 after she was sued by an Israeli female prison guard. Freed prisoner Fadwa Hamada had a trial session held for her in absentia on 11 December 2023 in Haifa Magistrate Court, during which a judge claimed that she had committed offenses during her imprisonment against the prison administration, which required her to be held accountable. These practices demonstrate the ongoing persecution of Palestinians, particularly freed male and female prisoners, even though their release in exchange deals necessarily means the dropping of any charges against them and the closure of the files. Nine freed prisoners were re-arrested, including eight children and young men, and a woman.

[30] This number does not represent all Palestinian women and children held in Israeli prisons, as the swap deal did not include all of them.

Case Study: Naqab Prison

Naqab Prison, formerly known as Ansar III Prison, is located in the southern part of the 1948 Territories in the Negev Desert. Naqab Prison is divided into three main architectural spaces: the camps, the caravans, and the concrete buildings (or cells).[31] Naqab Prison is relatively large in terms of area, so Palestinian prisoners are sometimes transferred between the Prison's three sections via the bosta. The spatial division of this Prison in such an architectural layout is due to the urgent need for additional detention places for Palestinian prisoners, with the number of detainees increasing each year.



An old photo of the Naqab prison - Ajjal Network.

Naqab Prison has witnessed overcrowding in the number of Palestinian detainees over the years, despite its harsh nature due to its desert geographical location. October 7 was a turning point in Naqab Prison – as in other prisons – in terms of the rapid increase in the number of prisoners that we had not witnessed for many years, in addition to the difficulty in the prisoners' living conditions. In light of the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, the Naqab Prison administration obstructed access to the prisoners detained there and embraced a policy of restrictions on lawyers for more than 45 days, to cover up their oppressive practices and torture against the prisoners since the beginning of the aggression.

[31] To learn more about Negev Prison, see Addameer's study: 'Prison is a Still Point in a Turning World,' p. 28. 14 March 2023. <https://www.addameer.org/ar/media/5001>

All aspects of life that were almost non-existent before October 7 have changed in Israeli prisons. Israeli forces stormed the various sections of Naqab Prison, and the Prison Service completely cut off electricity except for one hour a day, making the lamps on the poles that illuminate the tents and the courtyard during the night hours the only source of lighting. The Prison Service also confiscated the food and food supplies that the prisoners had previously purchased with their expenses from the canteen due to the poor quality of the food provided by the Prison Service.

After October 7, the Prison Service abused the prisoners by closing the canteen as a first step to starving more than 7,000 prisoners. The administration continued its policy of starvation and thirst by deliberately providing food of insufficient quantity and poor quality. The Prison Service also began serving food in a humiliating manner, with rice served in one tray to all prisoners held in the rooms with plastic spoons, and sometimes without them. "There is very little food. In the morning, we are served a can of yogurt, but for lunch, we eat rice and beans," explained prisoner Bahaa Aldeen Yaish.[32]

Prison Service forces and Special Forces were involved in assaulting and abusing the prisoners. on 12 October 2023, Israeli forces stormed Section 7 in Fort A of the tent Section and transferred all the prisoners to Section 23 in Fort C. The prisoners were handcuffed, their legs were shackled and were led out of the section only to be surprised by two rows of Israeli jailers standing along the road between the section and the bosta vehicle, which the prisoners estimated at approximately 50 meters. The prisoners were then assaulted by the jailers; slapped, punched, and hit by batons all over their bodies. Fort A and Fort C are only a two-minute drive apart. Up to 36 prisoners were placed in the bosta, which can only accommodate 18 prisoners, and were kept inside for about one and a half hours in the intense heat without air conditioning. As a result of these conditions, two prisoners fainted. "Due to the intense heat and pressure inside the bosta vehicle, two prisoners fainted, including Jawad al-Ghazawi, but the jailers did not take them out for treatment. Rather, they lowered them to the ground while taking them out of the bosta by grabbing them by the handcuffs and dragging them on the ground on their backs down," said prisoner Khaled Al-Nawabit.[33]

Around 75 prisoners arrived in Section 23, which did not have any belongings. The jailers even confiscated all the prisoners' belongings that they had brought from Section 7, including clothes and shoes. There were some rooms in which the prisoners had no shoes. The prisoners were held inside the rooms for nearly 30 days and were deprived of yard time, and thus were not able to shower or change their clothes because the showers in this section were outside the rooms. Atop these inhumane conditions, the rooms were continuously raided and searched. On the 17th day of the aggression, one of the rooms in Section 23 was raided by a force of approximately 18 members, who forced the prisoners to kneel on the ground and place their hands behind their heads and their heads between their legs; a posture that was forced upon the prisoners with every security check. After that, the prisoners were assaulted with sticks for almost five minutes, and everyone in the room was left with marks on their bodies due to the beating. Prisoners Khader Radi and Amir Abu Iram were left with a fractured thumb and a fractured rib respectively.

[32] A lawyer interview with prisoner Bahaa Aldeen Yaish in Naqab Prison on 26 December 2023.

[33] A lawyer interview with prisoner Khaled Al-Nawabit in Naqab Prison on 22 November 2023.

Prisoner Jumah Abu Jabal reported being assaulted along with nine other prisoners in Room 10, Section 23, in Fort C. The room was stormed by Keter unit soldiers, accompanied by masked jailers in blue uniforms, and the prisoners were hit with sticks, thrown to the ground, stomped on, and had their backs scratched by a muzzled dog, even though some of the prisoners were old and had health issues. Abu Jabal confirmed that this was not the only attack they were subjected to. "Since this attack, they would burst into the rooms every day and beat up the prisoners. They did that to us five to six times," added Abu Jabal.[34]

To add insult to injury, the prisoners were not provided with any cleaning tools for a long time, as there is only one mob in each section – if any – but there are no cleaning materials that the prisoners can use. As for bathing, the prisoners were allowed to shower after 30 days, but they were given only one bottle of shampoo and were denied any towels or spare clothes, and thus they were forced to wear the same dirty clothes on wet bodies. Toothpaste was available – not in all rooms – but without a toothbrush. As for the toilets inside section 23, there are squat toilets with no doors after they were removed by the prison administration.[35] Toilet paper was cut off for a short period before it was provided but in a small amount.

As for other living conditions in Naqab Prison, prisoners suffer from extreme cold as a result of the prison administration removing the plastic covering of the windows, and prisoners are left with no appropriate winter clothing. "There are 10 prisoners in the room, but four of us sleep on the floor. Every two prisoners have one blanket, and the Prison Service did not bring us any winter clothes after nearly 50 days into the war, the Prison Service provided one jacket for each room"[36] reported prisoner Suleiman Suleiman.



Special unit forces - Naqab Prison - arab 48

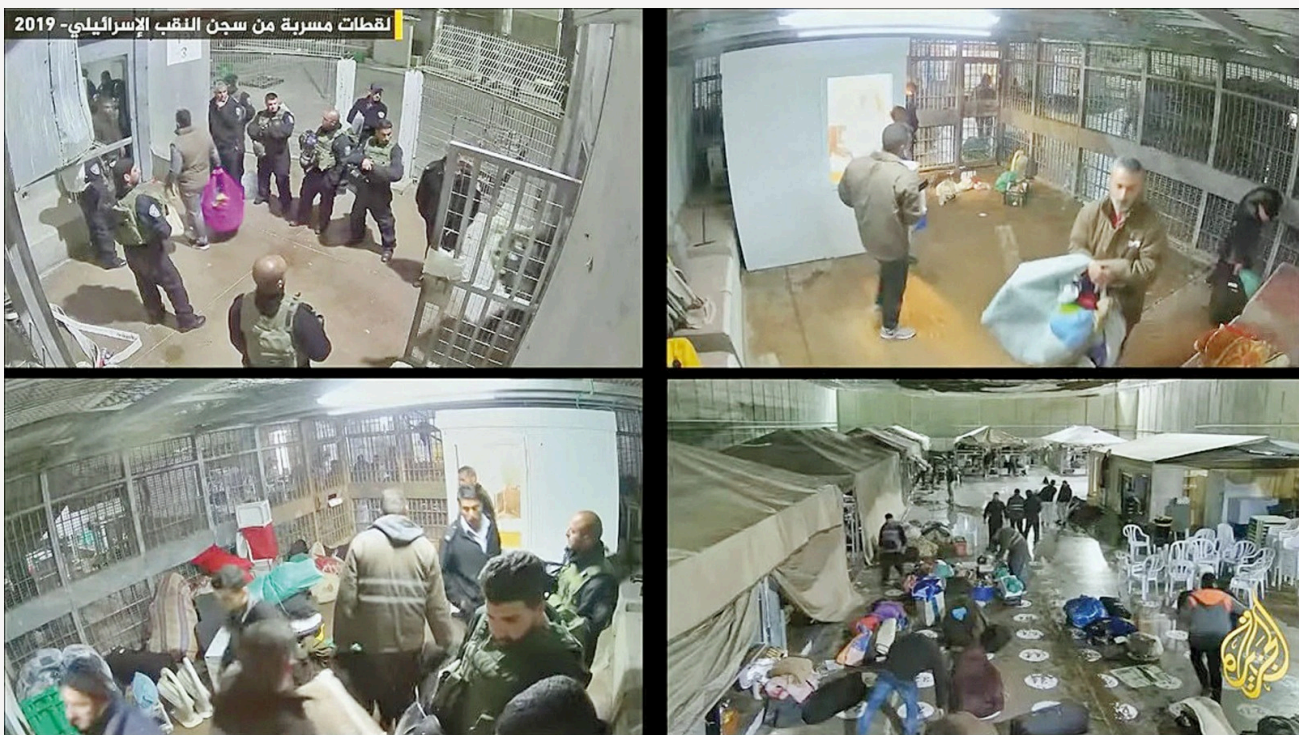
[34] A lawyer interview with prisoner Jumah Abu Jabal in Naqab Prison on 6 December 2023.

[35] A lawyer interview with prisoner Faisal Sabaneh in Naqab Prison on 6 December 2023.

[36] A lawyer's interview with prisoner Suleiman Suleiman in Naqab Prison on 26 December 2023

The Keter Unit's Brutality Against Prisoners at Naqab Prison

The Keter Unit is a special guard unit in green army uniforms stationed at Naqab Prison and is in charge of receiving and transferring new prisoners between the Prison's three forts. Before October 7, the deployment of the unit was limited to emergencies. During a 2019 assault, the Keter and Metsada units joined forces and severely beat a group of prisoners, as outlined by the freed prisoner Abdullah Hamida, who reported the use of excessive force by the Keter Unit.[37] After October 7, the nature of Keter unit's intervention changed, as it started taking part in suppressing prisoners intensively, along with the guards. Their presence inside Naqab Prison's sections became almost daily, and its members used excessive force on the prisoners during the raids. Addameer documented a group of prisoners who were abused and had their ribs broken by the Keret Unit, which is also responsible for the killing of prisoner Thaer Abu Asab, whose case we will discuss in detail in the section on Martyrs of the Prisoner Movement.



The prisoners noticed that the members of the Keret Unit were usually masked during the raids. [38] The prisoners spoke of the severe violence exercised by this unit during the raids. On the 12-13th day of the Israeli aggression on Gaza, the prisoners in the tent sections – specifically sections 1, 2, and 9, were severely assaulted by jailers. The prisoners were transferred from the sections by the Keter Unit with the assistance of forces from the Israeli army's Givati Brigade, and the police's Yamas, Yamar, and Masada Units. Before the transfer, the prisoners were cuffed behind their backs and assaulted, after which they were placed inside a bosta vehicle, at the door of which stood a member of the Keter Unit who assaulted the prisoners as they entered the vehicle. The prisoners were transferred to Fort C, and while exiting the vehicle, they were assaulted by three members of the Keter Unit with wooden batons.

[37] To learn more about the assault on prisoners at Naqab Prison in 2019 by the Kater Unit, see Annual Violations Report 2019, p. 106. https://www.addameer.org/sites/default/files/publications/v2020_online.pdf

[38] A phone interview conducted by Addameer with former prisoner Mohammad Majiarmi on 12 February 2024.

Prisoner Majdy Nasrallah from Balata camp near Nablus was severely beaten by the Keter Unit as he was exiting the vehicle. Nasrallah fell to the ground, yet the officers continued to assault him. The prisoners were also assaulted while being humiliated and strip-searched, causing pain complications to a number of prisoners, including prisoner Baker Daraghmeh from Tubas who was left with a broken arm. "After I was strip-searched, I was thrown to the ground, and my right hand became very swollen and tore after a while and started bleeding," noted prisoner Sami Al-Khalili.[39] No medical assistance was provided to the prisoners after the assault, and they were rather held in cells with no electricity or necessities for human life.

Other prisoners confirmed the violence of the Keter Unit. Former prisoner J. K. said, "Once the Keter Unit storms the place and starts beating the prisoners, they do not leave until they hear the sound of bones cracking and blood dripping down the prisoner's legs. I was assaulted by the Unit when I was transferred from Section 28 to Section 27. They hit me on the arms, legs and head with sticks, but I could not see the face of any of them because they were all masked." [40] Prisoner M. Q. also confirmed the crimes of the Keter Unit, saying: "The Keter Unit is a special unit in Naqab Prison. Its members wear green army uniforms and they break into the rooms with weapons and metal or rubber sticks, accompanied by dogs." [41] Prisoner Alam Massad also witnessed the violence and abuse of the Keter Unit during the transfer from Ofer Prison to Naqab Prison, when he was strip-searched and assaulted. As a result, Massad was left with broken ribs and a broken left forearm and was not provided with medical assistance until the next day. He was brought to a prison doctor and his ribs and arms were x-rayed, confirming the fractures, and his left forearm was plastered.[42]

The Case of Prisoner Nour Al-Qadi Reflects the Abuse of the Keter Unit

On 20 October 2023 around 10:00 a.m., 12 masked members of the Keter Unit with metal sticks and a muzzled dog stormed the cell of prisoner Nour Al-Qadi, and five of them assaulted Al-Qadi, who was dragged and his hands were tied behind his back. One of the guards raised his hands and pulled them up to pin him, while the other four beat him up, mostly on the upper parts of the body, such as the back, chest, and head, and continued for approximately 15 to 20 minutes. Whenever Al-Qadi tried to explain to them that he was sick, he was brutally beaten.



The condition of the wounded prisoner Nour Al-Qadi before and after his arrest - Q.D. platform

[39] A phone interview conducted by Addameer with former prisoner Sami Al-Khalili on 24 March 2024.

[40] A phone interview conducted by Addameer with former prisoner J. K. on 30 November 2023.

[41] A phone interview conducted by Addameer with former prisoner M. Q. on 6 December 2023.

[42] A lawyer interview with prisoner Alam Massad in Naqab Prison on 26 December 2023.

"When I told them that I had a heart condition, one of the officers kicked me with his boots on the left side of my chest near my heart. They were wearing boots with a metal covering on the front. I felt that my ribs were broken from the blow. I immediately lost consciousness, and when I woke up, they threw me to the ground while I was bound behind my back and left. I remained lying on the ground for nearly six hours, during which I had no strength to get up, and no one came to the cell. Then, an officer came in and untied me. I had visible beating scars all over my face, my head and my hands were bleeding, and the left side of my chest was swelling; it felt like a large blood clot trapped underneath."

After about half an hour, a nurse came to the cell and Al-Qadi showed him the location of his injuries. "Good. Perfect. Stay like this," said the nurse and left. Such behavior indicates that prison nurses have nominal jobs and do not respect professional ethics. Rather, they are directly involved and play a pivotal role in the medical crimes to which Palestinian prisoners are exposed and the procrastination in providing the necessary treatment. As a result of the beating, Al-Qadi remained unable to sleep for three days and only slept intermittently in a sitting position due to the pain of his injuries.

About a week later, on 26 October 2023, the Yamas Unit stormed Al-Qadi's cell, handcuffed him behind his back, and strip-searched, after which he was beaten all over again for about 10 minutes. Al-Qadi remained in isolation for approximately two weeks, during which his heart medication was cut off, in addition to the mattress and blanket being taken away every day from 6:00 a.m. until 12:00 or 1:00 p.m. As another punishment, the water was cut off from his cell and was only available for one hour during the day, during which Al-Qadi would fill a 1.5-liter water bottle.

After he was taken out of isolation to Section 5, Al-Qadi spent three days in Room 5, during which Keter Unit and prison guards suddenly stormed the section with muzzled dogs and batons and started beating and gassing all the prisoners for no reason. They were all masked. Then, jailers and prison officers transferred all the prisoners in the section, numbering around 99 prisoners, to Section 6. Al-Qadi and his nine cellmates were the last to be transferred. During the transfer of others, Al-Qadi and his cellmates heard the sounds of screaming prisoners being transferred and felt intimidated.

When it was Al-Qadi and his cellmates' turn to be transferred, a large number of jailers burst into the room, cuffed everyone behind their backs, and each prisoner was dragged out with his back bent over and head down by two or three jailers. Al-Qadi and his cellmates were led on foot to Section 6 about 50 meters away, after which they were stripped of their clothes and beaten while being naked; mostly on the genitals.

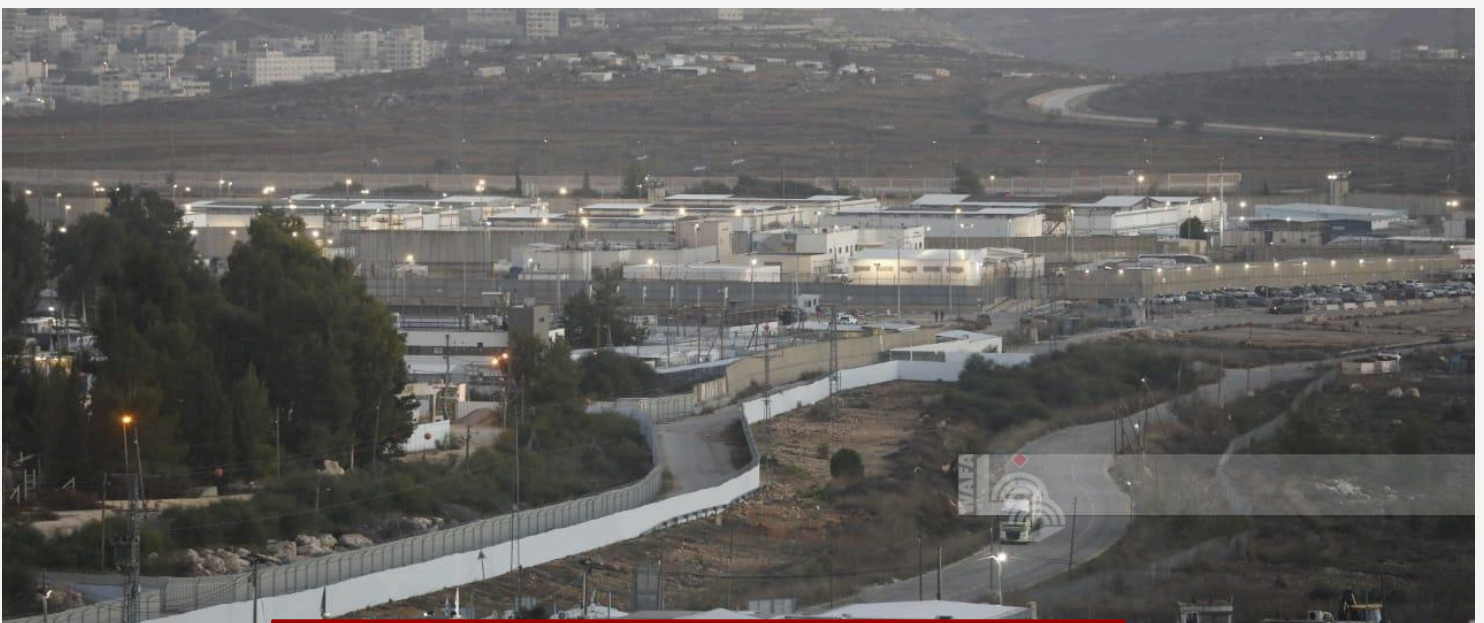
Al-Qadi and the rest of the prisoners were detained for a week in Section 6 and were beaten twice by the Keter Unit; one time under the pretext that it was forbidden to pray out loud. A week later, all the prisoners in the section, around 99 prisoners, were transferred again by jailers and Keter Unit by bus in two batches. The prisoners were first taken to Al-Makhloul search area within Naqab Prison, where every four to five prisoners were strip-searched together and severely beaten with sticks while naked. After the search, 12 prisoners were detained in a room that could accommodate only six prisoners.

Case Study: Ofer Prison

Since October 7, there have been many changes regarding Ofer Prison, in terms of the sections, transit sections, and the living conditions of the prisoners. New transit sections were opened to accommodate the large number of prisoners being held in Ofer Prison. Section 14 was converted into a transit section for new detainees, and the guards, upon orders from the Prison Service, confiscated electrical appliances and all belongings such as pots, kettles, and food supplies. The prisoners were deprived of the yard time and could not shower for more than a week because the showers are located in the yard. Eventually, they were allowed to go out for only half an hour. Thus, all prisoners collectively get half an hour to shower, making it around 4 minutes for each prisoner. The prisoners were also deprived of any communication with the outside world, which includes their contact with their families through family visits, in addition to being denied access to any facility within the prison, including the laundry room, kitchen, etc.

Furthermore, Section 24 was also converted into a transit section, and all the rooms were separated from each other and turned into rooms similar to solitary confinement rooms, in addition to confiscating all the belongings. 10 to 12 prisoners were held in a room about 7x4 square meters and contained a squat toilet and a sink. The prisoners in this section went out to the yard once every two days for a short time, which they used to bathe.[43] As for Section 26, like other sections of the prison, it is empty of everything except mattresses and blankets. The prisoners held in this section were deprived of yard time for 10 days, and inspections were periodic.

As for water, which is the only thing available in the section, it is not valid and not suitable for drinking or use. Prisoner Mahmoud Bernat says: "The hot water in the room is yellow." [44] Prisoner Diyaa Salama confirmed this, saying: "I am in Section 22, Room 5. The drinking water in the room is from the tap but it is not clean, and sometimes it is yellow." [45]



A recent photo of Ofer Prison - Wafa Agency

[43] A lawyer interview with prisoner Sinar Hamad in Ofer Prison on 17 October 2023.

[44] A lawyer interview with prisoner Mahmoud Bernat in Ofer Prison on 26 October 2023.

[45] A lawyer interview with prisoner Diyaa Salama in Ofer Prison on 5 December 2023.

In Section 13, electricity is cut off throughout the day, and at night there are lamps for lighting. There are no showers in the rooms, so the prisoners are forced to shower during yard hours, but they are not allowed to go out daily, but rather once every two days. This section is subjected to inspection once a day, and sometimes the Metsada Unit carries out the inspection. In one of the inspections, the guards confiscated all the prisoners' belongings, including clothes and pillows. The rooms of this section are also witnessing overcrowding, with the number of prisoners ranging from 9 to 10 per room, approximately half of them are forced to sleep on the floor.[46]

As for food, it is provided only by the prison administration due to the prohibition of prisoners from the canteen since October 7, in addition to the confiscation of all food items and supplies that the prisoners had purchased before October 7. The prison administration exploited food as a weapon against the prisoners by manipulating the quantity and quality to starve them and use food to humiliate them. The food provided is insufficient, and prisoners are held in harsh and humiliating overcrowded conditions, and the prison administration did not back down from this policy. "The food is bad and insufficient, and only two meals are provided during the day," explained prisoner Aziz Issa.[47] "Eight prisoners are brought food that is enough only for four prisoners. Each prisoner is brought sliced bread and a small can of yogurt for breakfast, and rice and sausage for lunch," noted prisoner Diyaa Salama.[48]

The prisoners detained in Ofer Prison were subjected to several violations during raids and transfers by the jailers and Nahshon and Metsada Units. On 8 November 2023, the Metsada Unit stormed Section 24 and immediately opened fire on the prisoners. Prisoner Amr Al-Tawil was shot in the left knee and was not provided with treatment but was rather transferred to Section 25 and assaulted.[49] Section 23 was designated to hold prisoners from the Gaza Strip. Lawyers were not able to visit any of them due to the refusal of the Israeli occupation authorities. However, a number of prisoners in the adjacent sections indicated that they constantly hear screaming sounds, with prisoners there forced to chant words in Hebrew.

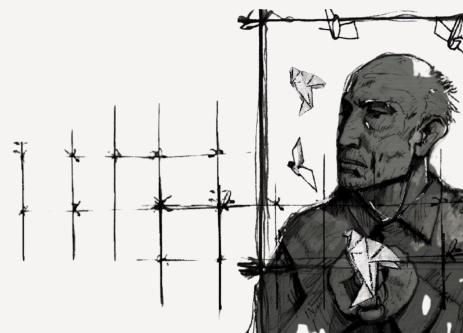
The crime of medical negligence continues to be evident in all prisons, but in Ofer Prison, its features differed depending on the prisoners. The vast majority of the Palestinians arrested and detained after October 7 were not provided with any treatment, even if they were suffering from chronic diseases – meaning all ages were subjected to medical negligence. However, the medications that the prisoners had in their cells before October were not all confiscated. Yet, painkillers were the only medication provided to the prisoners by the IPS, even if they were subjected to severe beatings that led to bleeding or fractures.

[46] A lawyer interview with prisoner Abdulqader Masalama in Ofer Prison on 26 October 2023.

[47] A lawyer interview with prisoner Aziz Issa in Ofer Prison on 5 December 2023.

[48] A lawyer interview with prisoner Diyaa Salama in Ofer Prison on 5 December 2023.

[49] A lawyer interview with prisoner Amr Al-Tawil in Ofer Prison on 29 January 2024.



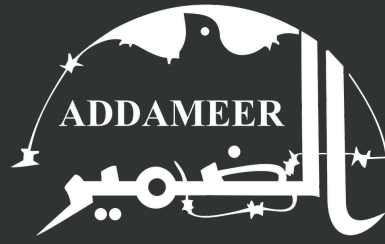
Damon Prison: A Constant Point of Violations

The Israeli occupation authorities continued to arrest, abuse, and detain Palestinian women in conditions that lack the minimum human requirements and humanitarian conditions under international laws and norms. The Israeli occupation escalated its crimes with the escalation of its all-out aggression against our people which reached its peak after October 7. Israeli crimes and violations took several forms against Palestinian women, as they were not limited only to the detention policy, but female prisoners were subjected to all methods of abuse and torture inside Israeli prisons and military camps in which some women from Gaza are held. Violations against female prisoners include severe beatings, separation from their families, being used as hostages to pressure families, being exposed to traumatic experiences in interrogation centers, and being deprived of their most basic rights, such as the right to treatment. Such violations are part of the consistent and systematic policies implemented against prisoners in general. The systematic arrests carried out by the occupation army after October 7 also affected women, and some of the former female prisoners were also targeted and re-arrested.



An archive photo from inside Damoun Prison

The Israeli occupation forces have arrested 300 women since the beginning of the year, including women arrested from the 1948 occupied territories after October 7, while the toll of women arrested after October 7 until the end of the year reached 184 women. This toll also includes women arrested from the 1948 occupied territories, but not the women who were arrested from the Gaza Strip since October 7, as some of them were detained in Sde Tieman military camp near Beersheba and Anatot military camp in the occupied West Bank. Human rights organizations were unable to have access to their numbers, despite the fact that numerous petitions were submitted to disclose the numbers and conditions of these female detainees, but the Israeli courts rejected all of them. As for the remaining female prisoners who were detained in Damon Prison, the human rights organizations managed to have access to their numbers through other female prisoners in the prison, but the Prison Service did not disclose their numbers or their names.



Freed Female Prisoners Re-targeted



Following an Israeli incursion into the town of Beitunia near Ramallah on 7 November 2023, Israeli forces raided the house of R.A.; a former female prisoner, after breaking the front door of the house and shouting 'Army, Army' in Arabic. R.A. immediately got out of bed and headed towards the front door, only to see a group of soldiers standing there. R.A. was approached by a female soldier, who took her to the hallway, cuffed, and searched her. After about half an hour of 20 soldiers being in her house, R.A. was led out without being allowed to change her clothes, blindfolded, and the handcuffs were replaced with plastic cuffs behind her back. R.A. was placed inside a military vehicle and was taken along with two young men from Beitunia to Ofer Prison. After she was presented to a nurse and asked some medical questions, R.A. and the two young men were detained in a room with open windows for three hours. R.A. felt numb in her hands because of the tight plastic cuffs and asked an officer to remove them, but the officer replaced them with metal cuffs.

Then R.A. was taken to a cell about 2x4 meters in size, with white lighting and walls that had a rough surface. "My blindfold was removed, my cuffs were moved from behind my back to the front of my body, and I was detained in the cell for nearly four hours,"[50] explained R.A.. After she was interrogated by the police, showed a video of her participating in a demonstration at Birzeit University, to which she maintained her right to silence, R.A. was taken to a room and photographed in front of an Israeli flag, after which she was transferred to Hasharon Prison, where she met a group of female prisoners held in a cell with an area of about 8x6 meters, and a toilet separated from the rest of the cell by half a door. The cell had four bunk beds without mattresses, blankets, or pillows. About an hour later, the female prisoners were brought thin mattresses and blankets, without pillows, but they were confiscated the next day around 7:00 a.m..

After being detained at Hasharon Prison for one day, R.A. and the other female prisoners were transferred by the bosta [prisoner transfer vehicle] to Damon Prison, during which they were insulted and mistreated. After arriving at Damon Prison, the female prisoners were individually strip-searched by two female guards, after which Ruba was once again photographed in front of the Israeli flag.

The female prisoners were held at Damon Prison in extremely harsh conditions. The rooms were overcrowded, and thus the female prisoners were forced to sleep on the floor. Food was served three times per day but was insufficient. "All the contents of the kitchen were removed except one plate for each female prisoner. The food was three meals per day but in small quantities, and sometimes it was uncooked. We would send it back, and sometimes they would bring it back uncooked or cooked a little more," clarified R.A..[51]



[50] An interview conducted by Addameer with former prisoner R. A. on 17 December 2023.

[51] Ibid.

Other female prisoners were put through similar conditions of violation during arrest, as in the case of student and freed prisoner L.K.. A.T. was also re-arrested after her house was stormed and vandalized by the Israeli occupation forces, after which she was photographed, and Ben-Gvir published the photo on X, formerly known as Twitter, with the caption: "All the respect for the Israeli army forces who tonight arrested the terrorist, who was previously accused of hitting soldiers, and has been since the outbreak of the war expressing sympathy and support for the Nazi human beings on social media. Zero tolerance with terrorists and supporters of terrorists." [52] A.T. and R.A. were released later as part of a prisoner swap deal in November 2023.

On 26 December 2023, Khalida Jarrar, a freed female prisoner and member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, was re-arrested and issued a six-month administrative detention order. Such a policy is not a new policy implemented by the occupying power. After the release of 1,027 Palestinian male and female prisoners as part of Wafa al-Ahrar [Faithful to the Free] prisoner exchange deal in 2011, around 70 of them were re-arrested, and 49 prisoners had secret files submitted against them to nullify their release, whereas the bulk of them had their original life sentences reimposed.



[52] See Ben-Gvir's tweet on X via <https://twitter.com/itamarbengvir/status/1721397948762792020>

Detention Conditions at Damon Prison after October 7

October 7 was a turning point in the detention conditions of Palestinian female prisoners in Damon Prison, and the violations and crimes committed systematically by the Prison Service against them escalated. The prison administration cut off electricity to the entire section. Several hours later, the prison director arrived, accompanied by the intelligence official, the head of the Yamas Unit, and another prison force. Prison guards, who were armed with plastic shields and sticks, were instructed to close the doors. An armored force then burst into the room of M. B., who was with four other female prisoners, and they were all brutally beaten up with sticks and sprayed with gas. M. B. was then transferred to the prison waiting room in preparation for her transfer to Al-Jalame Detention and Interrogation Center.[53]

After that, a group of prison guards entered and confiscated the hotplate, the television set, and the water heating kettle from all the rooms. The female prisoners were deprived of yard time, but they would only go out to shower for nearly 15 minutes per day. In parallel with these abusive measures, the female prisoners were separated and prevented from communicating with the outside world, as they were denied access to family and lawyer visitations, in addition to being deprived of phone calls, and their cells were turned into mass isolation cells.

On 19 October 2023, the female prisoners requested the prison administration to open the canteen to purchase their basic needs, such as water and personal hygiene materials, but their request was rejected, so the female prisoners protested it and started throwing some of the remaining items in the rooms through the door slot.[54] A large force of jailers broke into rooms 9 and 10 and threatened the female prisoners. Female prisoners in Room 10 were sprayed with gas, and prisoner Y. Sh. was assaulted, sprayed with gas, forcibly dragged out, assaulted, and beaten in the face. Meanwhile, female prisoners in Room 4 started screaming, so one prison guard went to their room and sprayed them with gas. Immediately after that, the guards entered all the rooms, took away all of the prisoners' remaining belongings, removed the pictures from the walls, and confiscated clothes, sneakers, books, pens, notebooks, handicrafts, and even the Qur'an.[55]



[53] A lawyer interview conducted with prisoner M. B. in Al-Jalame Detention Center on 12 October 2023.

[54] A small slot in the cell door used to bring food into the rooms.

[55] A lawyer interview conducted with prisoner S. S. in Damon Prison on 24 October 2023.

46 Days in Cell 1 in Al-Jalame Detention Center

Prisoner M. B. was transferred on 7 October 2023 to Al-Jalame Detention Center after she was severely beaten by guards at Damon Prison. M. B. was detained in Room 1 in Section 7, which was monitored by surveillance cameras. M. B. was forced to cover the window with bags to have some privacy. The next day, M. B. was brought before an internal disciplinary court and was punished with seven days in solitary confinement, two months of being barred from the canteen, phone calls, and lawyer visitation, in addition to a fine of 575 shekels. All of these penalties were imposed on M. B. even though she had not committed any violations that would require such penalties to be imposed on her.

These arbitrary penalties, which the Prison Service claims are 'disciplinary offenses', are a number of offenses punishable either by isolation and/or financial fines imposed on the prisoners. The amount of the fine varies and is deducted from the prisoners' private canteen funds.[56] Due to the abuse and transfer to isolation cells, M. B. declared a hunger strike and demanded that she be transferred to Damon Prison. M. B. continued her hunger strike until October 12, when she was informed that she would be transferred to Damon Prison on Sunday October 15. Accordingly, M. B. suspended her strike, yet she was not transferred to Damon Prison.

One day after the court session on October 9, M. B. was moved to Cell 1 in Section 3 of Al-Jalame Detention Center. Section 3 is designated for male and female criminal prisoners and is characterized by a state of chaos and noise. M. B. was held in a cell infected with insects and monitored by surveillance cameras. M. B.'s attempts to cover the cameras failed because there were no tools in the cell to enable her to do so, as the cell was empty and contained only a bed. Furthermore, the presence of cameras prevented M. B. from showering throughout her detention in the cell. She was also prevented from going out to the yard and thus spent her entire time in complete isolation inside the cell. M. B. could not even change her clothes or shower and remained in the prayer clothes that she was wearing when she was brought to the isolation cell. On 24 November 2023, M. B. was released within the first batch of the prisoner exchange deal.



[56] For more information about solitary confinement in Israeli prisons, see Addameer's report 'Light at the End of the Tunnel,' 14 November 2023 <https://www.addameer.org/media/5354>

Restraints at the Forefront

Plastic and metal restraints are one of the first tactics in arrests that the Israeli occupation deliberately uses to abuse and torture Palestinians at all stages of their arrest and detention. The Israeli army restrains all Palestinians with no regard to age, gender, or even health status during arrests.[57] Plastic cuffs that can be squeezed are used by the Israeli occupation to cause physical and psychological damage to the detainee from the start of the arrest. Hands are often tied behind the back to create maximum pressure on the shoulders. Prisoners are also cuffed while moving between prison facilities. Prisoners are also cuffed when they leave the sections to the yard or the visitation space, and metal cuffs are often used to tighten control and maximize humiliation inside Israeli prisons which are the most heavily guarded in the world. Restraining is harsher when transferring prisoners to other prisons, which are supervised by the Nahshon Unit which is notorious for its violence towards prisoners during the transfer, during which the prisoner's hands and feet are cuffed for long periods that may exceed 12 hours.

However, after October 7, there was a shift in the use of various restraints by Israeli jailers. In Ramon Prison, jailers started using metal cuffs and tied prisoners' hands and legs with a connected metal chain while being taken out to see their lawyers, this is the same way Prisoners classified under 'high risk of escape' are also shackled, but only those affiliated with certain factions and not all the prisoners in Ramon. This does not negate the fact that prisoners from other factions were cuffed with metal cuffs only, and the shackles were maintained during the lawyer visitation. It should be noted that these procedures were not implemented from the beginning of October 7. Rather, they were implemented when a new director of the Prison Service was appointed.

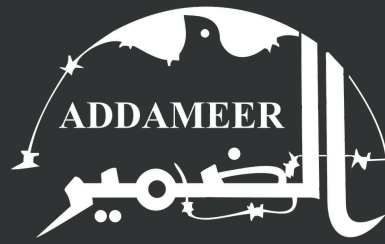
Similar procedures were also implemented in other Israeli prisons. In Nafha Prison, prisoners – regardless of their political affiliation – were taken out in handcuffs and kept so throughout the lawyer's visit, despite the defense lawyer's request to remove the handcuffs so that the prisoners could sign the necessary legal documents. However, jailers refused, and the prisoners were forced to sign while handcuffed. The same thing happened in Gilboa Prison, where prisoners were taken out in handcuffs and kept cuffed throughout the visit. We confirm that the handcuffing policy did not start after October 7. Rather, before that, handcuffs were only used during the transfer and were removed upon arrival for the visit. However, the misuse of this policy by keeping prisoners handcuffed is one of the manifestations of the difference in dealing with prisoners.

[57] Handcuffing is one of the restraint methods used to limit the movement of the hand and arm. However, handcuffing can be misused in a way that amounts to torture and ill-treatment. It is, therefore, prohibited to apply movement restriction in a humiliating or painful manner, and it is prohibited to handcuff as a sanction for disciplinary offenses, in accordance with the Mandela Rules No. (34/2).

During the defense lawyer's visits to various Israeli prisons, the lawyer noticed red marks or skin ulceration on the hands of detainees due to the excessive use or abuse of restraints. This led to damage to the skin of the hand, as prisoners reported to the lawyers that there were bruises and swelling on their hands, and sometimes such marks turned into scars due to the tight handcuffs. Even in the absence of physical signs on the prisoner's hands, the possibility of misuse of handcuffing cannot be ruled out, as the hand nerves may have been damaged due to the intense pressure that handcuffs have on the nerves, or the handcuffs may lead to wrist fractures. Fractures are more common in cases of using rigid handcuffs, overtightening, and resistance.[58]

Not only Israeli prisons utilized handcuffing. The Israeli occupation army also handcuffed Palestinians who were held in military camps. Some of the liberated male and female prisoners reported to Palestinian media that they were handcuffed and blindfolded throughout their detention in these military camps, while others stated that the Israeli army kept them handcuffed even while eating or using the bathroom.





Sexual Assault and Strip Search



From the first moment of arrest, the Israeli occupation forces use all means of oppression, abuse, and humiliation against Palestinian male and female prisoners. Exaggerated strip searches are conducted from the first moment of arrest from Palestinian homes, and at transfer stations before arriving at the prison or interrogation center. Since the beginning of the year, the occupying state continued to conduct an all-out or partial strip search of male and female prisoners upon their arrival at Israeli prisons. Detainees transferred to detention or interrogation centers are searched, and they are searched once again when transferred to prisons. The search is carried out by forcing the detainee to remove all their clothes, including their underwear – in the vast majority of cases – and then female soldiers search female prisoners and male soldiers search male prisoners.

Despite the fact that humiliating strip searches constitutes a violation of human rights, the occupation forces commit numerous violations during strip searches, which include the beating of prisoners and targeting sensitive areas of their bodies while naked – whether by hand, foot, or magnetometers, in addition to sexual harassment by grabbing the prisoner's genitalia, and verbal harassment that was reported by a large number of prisoners. There is also the policy of insults and threats, and in some cases, the violations have reached the extent of soldiers photographing some prisoners with their personal phones.

On 17 December 2023, prison guards stormed the cell in which S. A. was being held with six other prisoners in Shatta Prison. The prisoners were tied to the back and taken outside the cell, and the cell was searched for an hour. After that, the prisoners were returned to the cell in handcuffs and were strip-searched separately in the bathroom. While they were naked and handcuffed, a metal detector was swept over their bodies. "I was searched while I was naked. The prison guards ran a magnetometer over my entire body and hit me with it on my buttocks. Then they threw me on the bed while I was naked, and started throwing my cellmates in the same way on top of me while they were naked," said S. A..[59]

During the year 2023, more than half of the male and female prisoners who were visited by lawyers confirmed that they were strip-searched by prison guards. The violations committed during strip searches were evident after October 7, as the occupation forces escalated their sexual and verbal harassment against prisoners, in addition to severe beatings during the strip searches, which sometimes happened more than once on the same day. "A female soldier brought me into a room and strip-searched me, during which she slapped me in the face and on my back. She also stumped my foot and pulled my hair," reported B. K..[60]

[59] A lawyer interview conducted with prisoner S. A. in Shatta Prison on 15 January 2024.

[60] A lawyer interview conducted with prisoner B. K. in Damon Prison on 21 December 2023.

A report published by the United Nations confirmed that Palestinian women were exposed to all forms of sexual assault and that some Palestinian female prisoners were subjected to strip searches by male soldiers. The report stated that there were at least two Palestinian women who were raped.[61] We note that sexual crimes exceed what has been documented, in light of the detention of a large number of Palestinian women, men, and children from the Gaza Strip in special camps run by the Israeli army. Even after more than 100 days have passed since the aggression on the Gaza Strip, human rights organizations are still unaware of the fate of these detainees and what they are exposed to due to the crime of enforced disappearance and the occupation authorities' refusal to disclose any information regarding their conditions.



A photo published by the occupation army of detainees in the Gaza Strip

[61] United Nations. 'UN experts appalled by reported human rights violations against Palestinian women and girls.' 19 February 2024. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/02/israelopt-un-experts-appalled-reported-human-rights-violations-against>

Double Violations against Student O. W.

The occupation forces have targeted male and female students since the beginning of 2023, but the violations increased after October 7. On 3 December 2023, Israeli forces stormed the home of student O. W. in the city of Bethlehem around 1:50 a.m., searched her room, and confiscated two books and some papers that were handed over to students on campus earlier that year. O. W. was then searched and allowed to put on a coat and sneakers. After being led out of the house, O. W. was handcuffed to the front, blindfolded, and seated on the metal floor of a military vehicle. Upon arriving at a military camp, the military vehicle stopped in the street and a vehicle exited the camp, from which a soldier exited and examined O. W. medically and asked her in Arabic if she was taking any medications. Then, O. W. was moved to the other vehicle and interrogated, after which a female soldier tied her hands behind her back with two plastic cuffs and one set of metal cuffs that were kept around her hands until the following day.

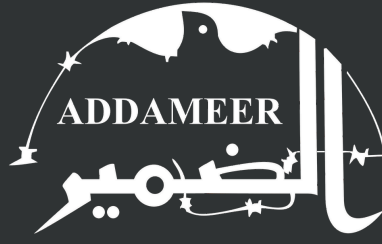
During the field interrogation, O. W. was threatened and assaulted by an Israeli intelligence officer and soldiers. Whenever she refused to answer questions, the intelligence officer would hold her head, press hard on her eyes, and threaten her. She was assaulted by a female soldier, who hit her with the stock of a rifle, slapped her, and threw her on the floor of the vehicle. The abuse of detainee O. W. continued in the vehicle, as the female soldier recorded her voice screaming from the intensity of the beating, and then played the recording on the radio and laughed at her along with other soldiers. The soldiers also tried to humiliate her, as they threw food leftovers and cigarettes at her, and used offensive language to insult her. More than once during the transfer, they took her out of the vehicle, placed her head on the ground between stones, and assaulted her before returning her to the vehicle. The soldiers continued their abuse from the moment of arrest until 2:00 p.m. After arrival at Ofer Prison, O. W. was interrogated by a female interrogator for nearly 15 minutes, after which she was transferred to Hasharon Prison.

O. W. was strip-searched upon her arrival at Hasharon Prison, and she remained in light prayer clothes that did not protect her from the cold. After the search, a female soldier assaulted her and hit her head against the wall. When she was taken to the medical examination, marks and redness were visible on her hands because of the handcuffs, but she was not provided with any medical assistance. During the transfer to and from the medical examination, O. W. was beaten and forced to keep her head down while walking. Then, O. W. was held in a very cold cell, which contained a mattress, a light blanket, and a toilet.

During detention in Hasharon Prison, although for a short duration, O. W. was severely abused and mistreated by the jailers. O. W. was held with five female prisoners in a small cell and was provided with pieces of cheese, tomatoes, and inedible bread, but no mineral water was provided so they were forced to fill water in coke bottles. In the early morning of the next day, the jailers stormed their cell, confiscated everything, and strip-searched the female prisoners in front of each other, after which they were all transferred with their heads bowed and feet shackled to a room filled with water. Later, the female prisoners were transferred by the bosta to Damon Prison.

O. W. is held in Damon Prison in extremely harsh conditions. "The food is inedible. Half a bag of bread is provided for the entire room, which is not enough for four female prisoners. We are forced to drink tap water, and we go out to shower every two rooms together for about half an hour. Female prisoners from Gaza go out for 15 minutes, but we are not allowed to mingle with them at all. Each prisoner has only two items of clothing, and we are allowed to wash the clothes every four to five days because of the large number of female prisoners. Prison forces break into our rooms and conduct searches almost daily." [62]

[62] A lawyer interview conducted with prisoner O. W. in Damon Prison on 17 December 2023.



House Arrest



The practice of house arrest has been implemented in the Palestinian territories for many years and was focused on East Jerusalem in particular. Its practice expanded to target mainly children, but it also extends to include journalists, women, and activists, during which the occupation authorities turn hundreds of Palestinian homes into prisons imposed on family members. This policy has made hundreds of families play the role of jailer over their children, against whom the Israeli courts issue house arrest orders. Thus, families restrict the movement of their children, follow up on their activities, monitor their movements, and prevent them from leaving the house, in compliance with the conditions of their probation imposed on them by the Israeli courts per their judicial decisions, and to avoid the arrest of their sponsor or family member on charges of non-compliance with the conditions.

House arrest means holding a 'detained' inside the house for the entire period while the court is examining their file until the end of the judicial procedures against the detainee, and the court issues its ruling in the case, which may extend for a few days, weeks, or months. In some cases, the duration of the house arrest may reach more than a year. It is worth noting that the duration of the house arrest is not included in the duration of the actual sentence that is subsequently issued against the detainee. Although such a policy is arbitrary, the occupation authorities use it to its benefit and impose other penalties alongside it, which makes the matter more difficult.

The occupation authorities implement the house arrest^[63] on Palestinian children under the age of 14, because the 'Israeli' law does not permit their imprisonment. Statistics issued by the Palestinian Prisoner's Club and the Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs indicate that the occupation authorities issued about 2,200 house arrest orders between January 2018 and March 2022 against minor children, 114 of whom were under 12 years old, compared to about 228 house arrest orders between 2015 and 2017. According to the same source, the occupation authorities issued 316 house arrest orders against Palestinians from Jerusalem during the year 2023, and 70% of children arrested in recent years in Jerusalem were placed under house arrest before their cases were decided.

As for adults, the occupation authorities resort to house arrest in an attempt to prevent them from carrying out their work and activities within their jobs or daily lives. House arrest often affects Palestinian national leaders in Jerusalem, including Adnan Ghaith, Jerusalem governor, who was targeted at the end of 2018 and early 2021.

There is an increase in the use of this policy and its targeting of Jerusalem children in particular. However, it is not limited only to children from Jerusalem, but also affects men and women. Journalist Lama Ghousha was placed under house arrest for more than 10 months. In the court's decision to end the house arrest period, the court required Ghousha to perform 9 months of community service and sentenced her to 6 months in prison, suspended for 3 years and fined 4,500 shekels [\$1,210]. Journalist Somaya Al-Jawabra is still held under house arrest.

[63] There are two types of house arrest. The first obliges the person, whether a child or a girl, a man or a woman, to remain in the house and never leave for a specified period. In some cases, Israeli courts allow children to go to school. The second type, which is harsher than the first, places the person under house arrest in the home of a relative or friend far from the family home and area of residence. This distracts the family and increases their anxiety. Perhaps the most recent form of house arrest is the so-called 'night house arrest', which begins every night at exactly 8:00 and ends at 6:00 a.m., and may extend and be extended for a few months based on a decision from the Israeli military commander or the so-called Home Front Commander, who in turn exploits the Mandatory emergency systems in this area due to its broad powers to restrict Palestinian citizens.

International human rights law and international humanitarian law provide a large space to guarantee children's freedom and their right to security, protection, and dignity. Article 37a of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) ensures that no child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, whereas Paragraph (b) stipulates that no child shall be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily, and the arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child shall be in conformity with the law and shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time. However, the occupying power resorts to house arrest extensively, as demonstrated by the number of children held under house arrest. This applies to adults as well. The method of implementing house arrest, which prevents a person from leaving their home, is considered an abuse of this policy.

A Mother, pregnant woman, and journalist Imprisoned and Held under House Arrest

On 5 November 2023, the father of journalist S. J. received a phone call from a person who identified himself as an Israeli intelligence officer and informed him that S. J. must head to Al-Jabal Police Station located near Maale Adumim settlement, southeast of Jerusalem in the central West Bank. After S. J. went with her husband to the police station, she was taken inside and her husband was informed that she had been arrested, even though she was a mother of three children, the eldest of whom was six years old, and was seven months pregnant and in need of special care.

The arrest and detention of S. J. came approximately two weeks after settlers' incitement against her via a Telegram group called 'Nazi Hunters,' which targeted a large group of journalists, influencers, and Palestinians, claiming that they are 'inciting' against the State of Israel. Numerous Palestinians were detained following the incitement of this group, which shows the illegality of the detention of these Palestinians and the lack of a legal basis for such allegations.

Prisoner S. J. was held at Hasharon Prison and Damon Prison. She was transferred directly from Maale Adumim to Hasharon Prison's transit section. During the transfer, S. J. was assaulted and beaten by female soldiers, even though she was seven months pregnant. S. J. arrived at Hasharon around midnight and was detained in a small room monitored by cameras and only contained bunk beds. Mattresses were given to her and her cellmates around 8:00 p.m. and taken away at dawn, forcing the female prisoners to sit on the floor in the extreme cold. Due to her pregnancy, S. J. was allowed to keep her mattress. After being watched on camera asking her cellmates to sit with her on the mattress, S. J. was threatened by female guards that her mattress would be confiscated if she tried to have any of the prisoners sit on it. If any of the female prisoners looked at the female soldiers, they would be punished and beaten.

The female prisoners were abused in numerous ways while being held at Hasharon Prison, the first of which was the strip search that they were forced to undergo morning and evening, during which they were called names and insulted. Prison conditions were generally poor, as the food provided to female prisoners was poor in quality and quantity, and the drinking water was contaminated. The sanitary condition was generally poor, as some female prisoners had blood stains on their clothes due to the lack of sanitary pads.

As there was nothing in the cell that might guide them to the time, they did not know the times of the day or the times of prayer. The floor was filthy, and thus the female prisoners' foreheads got dirty when they prayed, and their request to have cleaning materials was denied.

S. J. was then transferred to Damon Prison and had all her belongings and the belongings of her cellmates confiscated, including their clothes, and the prisoners were left with only one item of clothing, and were forced to exchange clothes and shoes with each other due to the shortage. As for the blankets, they were insufficient in quantity, were thin, and did not protect against the cold. Despite this, there was overcrowding in the cells, with up to 10 female prisoners held in one cell, and thus four were forced to sleep on the floor.

S. J. was released by an unfair court order on 12 November 2023, under harsh retaliatory conditions, including a financial bail of 10,000 shekels and a third-party bail of 50,000 shekels, in addition to house arrest for an indefinite period,[64] preventing her from using social media, and keeping her under home supervision with her husband and mother-in-law under the guise of implementing the conditions of the probation release. Such conditions are part of the systematic retaliatory policies in which the occupation forces are involved in, along with the Israeli courts, to undermine Palestinian journalistic work, silence the voices of journalists, and terrorize them for not exposing the crimes of the occupation. The conditions of complete house arrest imposed on S. J. are considered an abuse of this policy, and constitute a collective punishment on the entire family, as the family members are not allowed to practice their lives and daily activities in a normal manner, forcing them to remain in a state of fear and tension to ensure that they do not breach the conditions of the house arrest.

These practices come in light of the aggression launched by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people, which has affected all segments of society, particularly journalists, the largest percentage of whom are convicted on charges of incitement via Facebook. Israeli courts handle charges of incitement on the basis that each post constitutes an offense in itself, taking into account when issuing the ruling, the number of friends, the number of likes on each post, and the number of comments and shares. The attack on journalists as human rights defenders violates all international conventions that consider freedom of opinion and expression a right that cannot be infringed. Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates freedom of expression and opinion.

The occupation authorities ban journalists from practicing their profession freely, by criminalizing their journalistic work, and directly targeting them with arrest and other forms of violations such as direct targeting with live bullets and others. The occupation's violations against S. J. did not stop at depriving her of doing her job as a journalist but rather went beyond pirating her funds and imposing heavy fines in an arbitrary and unjustified manner as part of her punishment and economic pressure on her and her family. These fines must be paid within short periods and constitute a financial burden on the families of prisoners as they lead to further imprisonment if not paid.

[64] House arrest: The detention of a person inside his/her home or place determined by the Israeli court while his/her case is being examined by the court and until the end of the judicial procedures. The duration of examining the case may take a few days or weeks, or may extend to several months or a full year or more, and it is not included in the actual imprisonment term. House arrest can be within the person's family home, or the court may order the person to be removed from the family or residential area while being held under house arrest.

S. J. was not the only female prisoner held under house arrest. Y. Q. was also arrested, even though she was a mother and pregnant, and was subjected to abuse, malnutrition, and medical neglect during her detention in Damon Prison, and was released on conditions, one of which was house arrest. The policy of house arrest was also imposed on Dalal Abu Amna, a Palestinian artist and a PhD holder.[65]

Children from Jerusalem under House Arrest

On 1 May 2023, 14-year-old A. B. was arrested after the occupation forces raided his family home in Bab Hatta in the Old City of Jerusalem around 6:00 a.m. A. B. was then handcuffed and taken to Al-Qashla Interrogation Center, then to Al-Mascobiya Interrogation and Detention Center, where he spent eight days. A. B. was transferred daily to Al-Qashla in the afternoon hours for interrogation, during which he was slapped and hit all over his body. During one of the detention extension sessions, a judge examined the effects of the beating on the body of A. B., and this was recorded in the minutes of the session.

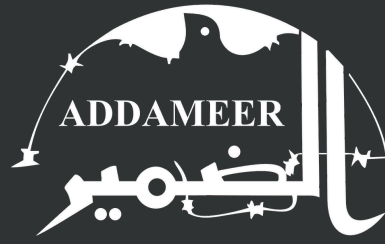
On 8 May 2023, A. B. was released by a court order, held under open house arrest, and ordered to pay a fine of 25,000 shekels if he did not comply with the conditions of release and house arrest. A session to consider his house arrest was held on 6 September 2023, during which his detention was extended until the next session, which was scheduled for 17 December 2023. A. B. was allowed to leave the house only to go to school accompanied by a parent. From the beginning of his arrest until the September session, A. B. was forbidden from leaving the house or going to school.

To increase the burden and oppression of house arrest on a 14-year-old boy, the occupation forces would break into the house of A. B. twice a day at night, the first of which around 8 p.m. and the second between 2:00 and 5:00 a.m. Seven to eight Israeli soldiers from Al-Qashla Center would raid the family house to check on A. B., forcing the family to wake him up in the early morning hours to make an appearance at the front door so that the soldiers could confirm his presence in the house. One day, the soldiers went to the house, but A. B. was suffering from fever and flu. His father confirmed that his son was in the house and asked the soldiers to enter his room to check for themselves, but the soldiers refused to enter and forced the father to wake up A. B. and carry him to the door because he was unable to move due to illness.[66]

With the widespread spread of house arrest in Jerusalem, children of Al-Salaymeh family were placed under house arrest. The family rejected this arbitrary policy, and thus the boys surrendered themselves to the Israeli occupation authorities to serve an actual sentence, instead of spending months in house arrest that are not included within the actual sentence.

[65] To learn more about the details of Dalal Abu Amna's arrest, see the chapter on Legal Amendments, Administrative Detention, and Incitement.

[66] A phone interview conducted by Addameer with A. B. on 7 September 2023.



Vandalism and Seizure of Funds



The occupation army confiscates a person in Birzeit - Ramallah Mix

The implementation of violence and destruction are rarely absent from any Israeli incursions into Palestinian cities, villages, camps, or homes, leaving behind destruction in the street infrastructure, cutting off water, electricity, communications, and the Internet from homes. Such destruction costs municipalities huge sums of money to repair the damage, and as soon as it is repaired, the occupation forces storm the area once again, causing further destruction to the infrastructure and landmarks, as well as damage to cemeteries and martyr monuments.

As for the devastation that befalls houses after raids, it is estimated at thousands of dollars and usually begins with blowing up the doors, although the Israeli forces can enter the house without the need to use explosives that do not only damage the doors but also to the walls and windows. After breaking into the house, the Israeli forces initiate a process of sabotaging and breaking sofas, beds, and other furniture items, in addition to tampering with food and supplies. Furthermore, the Israeli forces steal jewelry and money found inside the houses, in addition to vehicles, and others. This is not limited only to cases of raids aimed at arrest, as targeting the families of detainees goes beyond that and involves aggressive behavior that only seeks to continuously pursue detainees and their families. This is evident in the raids on the homes of detainees and merely tampering with or confiscating their contents.

The policy of collective punishment, represented by the punitive home demolitions, is conceivably the most horrific of these crimes practiced by the occupying state against martyrs and prisoners. During the year 2023, 11 cases of house demolitions were documented as a form of collective punishment against prisoners^[67] allegedly accused of carrying out military attacks. This policy also affected the martyrs, as 14 martyr homes were demolished during the year, compared to eight homes of prisoners demolished in 2022.^[68]

The occupation authorities had seized the funds of a number of Jerusalemite prisoners and liberated prisoners, their families, and their wives under the pretext of receiving funds from the Palestinian National Authority. This new, old policy, the features of which have appeared during this year, seeks to strike the Palestinian presence in Jerusalem and indirectly displace Palestinians. This seizure has no legal basis, and the seizure of Palestinian bank funds has not been undertaken by any previous Israeli government, which indicates the amount of extremism, direct targeting, and racist policies practiced by the new right-wing government.

The family of Mohammad Al-Firawi was one of the families affected by this policy. On 16 February 2023, a list containing approximately 200 names of prisoners from Jerusalem and their families was leaked, and it included an order to confiscate their money. Al-Firawi received this list, which contained his name and the name of Musa Al-Firawi (mohammad's father) and stipulated the confiscation of an amount of 107,585 thousand shekels. Musa went to Leumi Bank to find a seizure on the aforementioned amount, which is the same amount required for confiscation. When he asked the bank about the reason for the seizure, he was informed that the seizure was by an order issued by the Minister of Finance on 10 February 2023 to seize and freeze the amount until 1 May 2025. When Al-Firawi tried to withdraw the amount, he was informed that he could not withdraw more than 3,000 shekels.

[67] See Appendix I: Names of Prisoners whose Homes Were Demolished, along with the demolition dates.

[68] Statistics obtained from Al-Haq.

Later that day, Mohammad Al-Firawi woke up to the sound of banging on the front door of his house. The knockers were eight Israeli intelligence officers, wearing olive or navy-blue trousers, a regular shirt, and a cap with the word 'police' written on it. "I know them. They were interrogators from Al-Mascobiya and Al-Qashla interrogation centers. They were accompanied by Yasam agents, and all of them were armed," said Mohammad. The officers raided the house, and Mohammad thought that they had come to arrest him, so he changed his clothes, but they informed him that the goal of the storm was not to make an arrest but rather to search for contraband.

When Mohammad asked about what contraband they were looking for, they said, "Such as jewelry and money. You take money from Abu Mazen, and this money is prohibited and we want to confiscate it." The officers searched every corner of the house, even under the tiles and inside power cables. They emptied the clothes, bedrooms, and boxes in the house. They stayed in the house for nearly two hours, during which they carried out a thorough search, but they did not take anything. The family later discovered that Mohammad's work vehicle had been seized.[69]

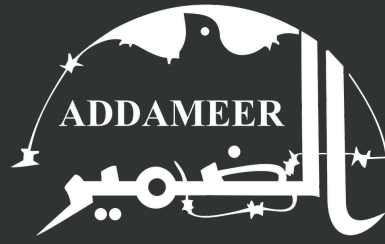
After October 7, theft operations carried out by the Israeli occupation forces escalated, with the knowledge of or by orders of the government. The occupation forces simultaneously stormed a number of money exchange outlets in numerous areas – Ramallah, Jenin, Tulkarm, Nablus, and Hebron, on 28 December 2023, and stole hundreds of thousands of dollars, financial files and statements, and metal safes, in addition to arresting their owners after their homes were raided, claiming that these firms provided support to Hamas movement. The occupation army radio announced that its forces raided five money exchange offices in the West Bank classified as 'terrorist,' and confiscated about 10 million shekels.

The occupation forces stormed Al-Ajoli family's home in Ramallah's Al-Balou' neighborhood and a money exchange outlet owned by the family in central Ramallah, and arrested Ghazi and his brother Anwar Al-Ajoli. The forces also stormed Nour Al-Huda money exchange outlet, Fakhr al-Din money exchange outlet, and Bayt al-Maqdis money exchange out, which are owned by Mohammad Awad, conducted a thorough search, seized some of their contents, and arrested a number of workers after the raid.

As part of its ongoing policy targeting the families of prisoners, the Israeli occupation forces stormed the house of prisoner Walid Daqqa's wife in Baqa al-Gharbiya on 5 February 2023, and the Israeli police seized some of Daqqa's property and pictures. On 16 February 2023, the occupation forces stormed the house of prisoner Ahmad Manasra's family in Beit Hanina. According to Saleh Manasra, prisoner Ahmad Manasra's father, the occupation intelligence forces confiscated his wife's jewelry worth 15,000 shekels, in addition to two vehicles owned by the family.[70] On 15 January 2024, the homes of prisoners Nael Barghouti, Rabie Barghouti, and Murad Barghouti in the village of Kobar near Ramallah, were stormed by Israeli forces, causing widespread vandalism, destruction and confiscating two vehicles and money.

[69] A phone interview conducted by Addameer with Mohammad Al-Firawi on 19 February 2023.

[70] A fieldworker interview with Saleh Manasra on 19 February 2023.



Ongoing Aggression against the West Bank Camps



The occupation army storms Jenin camp and destroys the infrastructure - Al-Fasaha

Aqbat Jabr camp near Jericho has been targeted extensively since the beginning of 2023, as the occupation forces escalated their raids into the camp, arresting and using Palestinians as human shields, destroying property, and turning civilian homes into military points, in addition to expanding the excessive use of force through indiscriminate shooting and extrajudicial executions.

On 6 February 2023, the Israeli occupation forces raided Aqbat Jabr camp and headed to the house of Awadat family. Thirty-nine-year-old Abdulhafez Awadat and four of his relatives were sitting outside the house when they were tied with plastic cuffs, blindfolded, and forced to sit on their knees with their heads bowed. They were kept in the bitter cold and were not allowed to wear any warm clothes. After nearly two hours, they were taken to Deir Hajla army camp, where they were detained inside a metal room until 6:00 p.m. and were kept tied and blindfolded, even while using the bathroom. "Our daughters killed your sons," said an Israeli officer to the detainees, but without saying who was killed.

Hours later, an Israeli soldier showed Abdulhafez a set of photos. The first photo was of the face of the young man Malek Lafi with his eyes closed, while the second photo was of Abdulhafez's brother, but he was unable to determine if his brother was still alive. All the detainees, including Abdulhafez, were then transferred to Ofer Prison, strip-searched, and detained in cells for 12 days with no charge or trial.[71] Abdulhafez was later released with no conditions, only to find out that the occupation forces had killed six people that night.

As part of the collective punishments of residents during camp raids, Maha Abdulhafez sustained shrapnel injuries to her right leg after the Israeli occupation forces blew up the front door of her house around 6:00 a.m. on 1 May 2023. Despite her injury, Maha was held in her room by four soldiers. "After I fell to the ground, the soldiers entered the room, held me by my legs, and put me on the bed because my leg was almost cut off and was dangling," Maha told Addameer.[72] The soldiers then went on and started shooting from the window of her room at Jibreel Kamal, a resident of the camp, who was killed. The soldiers continued to shoot from her window for 20 minutes, while Maha was lying on her bed and bleeding, but no medical assistance was provided to her except until the soldiers stopped shooting.

After that, one soldier injected Maha twice to stop the bleeding, and she was taken to the DCO checkpoint near Jericho, where she waited until a Palestinian ambulance arrived. Maha was then transferred to the hospital, and it became clear that as a result of the explosion, her leg was hit by shrapnel and sustained two fractures: 6 centimeters deep into the bone. Maha's leg tissues were also torn, and she suffered leg burns. The Israeli raid resulted in the killing of one Palestinian, the injury of six others, and a huge destruction to Maha's house that became uninhabitable.

[71] An interview conducted by Addameer with freed prisoner Abdulhafez Awadat on 22 May 2023.

[72] An interview conducted by Addameer with Maha Abdulhafez from Jericho on 22 May 2023.

Aqbat Jabr camp was not the only target of the occupation forces. Rather, the year 2023 witnessed repeated escalated incursions into Jenin camp that lasted a few hours in previous years and escalated into a military aggression lasting for days. On 3 July 2023, the occupation forces launched a large-scale military attack on Jenin and its camp. Large forces, estimated at 150 military vehicles, stormed the camp from many directions, imposed a siege on it, cut off the electricity supply to large parts of the camp, and seized a number of houses overlooking the camp in addition to some houses inside the camp and turned them into military points. During the attack, civilian homes were bombed, property and street infrastructure were destroyed, and field investigation tents were set up, in addition to money and jewelry were stolen from citizens' homes.

Due to the difficult humanitarian conditions in the camp during the aggression, nearly 3,000 Palestinians were forced to flee to the city after the Israeli forces threatened to bomb their homes, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent. The occupation forces deliberately prevented ambulances from reaching the injured and providing them with the necessary treatment. Furthermore, the occupation forces destroyed a large number of homes and vehicles, in addition to bombing and targeting the Freedom Theater with a drone missile, with a group of citizens inside, most of whom were women and children.

According to Addameer, 114 Palestinians were arrested and tried at Salem Military Court on 6 July 2023, after which 54 of them were released, while 60 others had their detention extended. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, the Israeli military aggression resulted in 12 martyrs, including children, in addition to 120 injuries.

The occupation forces started storming the houses, accompanied by military dogs. "Soldiers stormed the room in which my sister and I were taking shelter. A military dog attacked me and bit me on the hand, while the soldiers just laughed and enjoyed the scene without interfering. After about 15 minutes, a soldier approached and tried to push the dog away from me, but he could not hold or control the dog, and the dog pushed the soldier to the ground. Then a second soldier came and tried to push the dog away, but then popped out a 40cm-long gray knife like a blade and wanted to cut off my hand. I started screaming. A third soldier tried to open the dog's mouth and was able to get it away, but the dog attacked my sister but could not catch her, and the soldiers quickly muzzled the dog," Fatima Saleh told Addameer.[73]



Fatima Saleh's hand after being attacked by an Israeli military dog

[73] An interview conducted by Addameer with Fatima Saleh on 17 July 2023.

Following raids and field investigations to which a large portion of the camp's residents were subjected, a number of citizens stated that they were subjected to sexual and verbal harassment by the Israeli occupation forces. A child told Addameer, "I was in the living room with a number of my family when I was arrested and held in the neighbors' house with my cousin. We were both handcuffed and led to the kitchen, where soldiers started playing with their genitals in front of us and other children."^[74] According to M. Kh., the occupation soldiers blew up their neighbors' house while she was there around 10:00 a.m. on 4 July 2023, after which an officer questioned her for about half an hour. "During interrogation, they threatened me with rape in front of all the soldiers, and the officer started holding my hands, touching my face, and feeling me over while I tried to push his hands away. He did it three times."^[75] M. Kh. was kept detained with her three-year-old son, and the officer was trying to pressure her all the time to get information from her. Then the officer tried to interrogate her son and ask him about the location of their house and the young men in the camp.

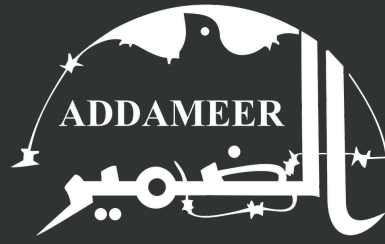
Nour Shams camp near Tulkarm witnessed an aggression similar to the aggression on Jenin camp, where the occupation forces blew up a number of citizens' homes in the eastern parts of the camp, causing damage to the targeted homes and neighboring homes. Military bulldozers also destroyed the walls of numerous homes, schools, and mosques, crushed vehicles, and destroyed the camp's infrastructure. The camp was announced as a closed military zone, as entry into or exit from the camp was prohibited, and military points were established inside houses in various neighborhoods of the camp.

The Israeli occupation forces launched continuous mass arrests targeting various Palestinian areas. On 8 August 2023, the occupation forces carried out a massive arrest campaign in the village of Kobar near Ramallah, targeting nearly 25 Palestinians, the majority of whom were released after hours of detention inside the village, while eight were kept in detention. On 29 August 2023, another mass arrest campaign was launched in various areas of the occupied West Bank, mainly in the village of Deir Samet near Hebron, during which 31 Palestinians were arrested, including freed prisoners and students.

Tulkarm camp was also raided on 17 January 2024 for more than 40 hours, during which the occupation forces took control of a number of homes and turned them into points for field investigation. The occupation forces launched a massive arrest campaign that affected more than 500 Palestinians, caused severe damage during searches of homes and shops, and killed eight people, including three children.

[74] An interview conducted by Addameer with M. N. on 6 July 2023.

[75] An interview conducted by Addameer with M. Kh. on 6 July 2023.



Use of Human Shields

During Arrest



Israeli occupation forces use human shields during military operations in the occupied Palestinian territories, and this practice has been spreading and expanding. Palestinian civilians, including children and women, are used by Israeli soldiers to protect themselves during raids, arrests, and even during assassinations, although it is a crime prohibited by international law in the context of international armed conflicts, including the Geneva Convention III (Treatment of Prisoners of War), the Geneva Convention IV (Protection of Civilians), Additional Protocol I (Protection of Victims), and the Statute of the International Criminal Court that states that 'utilizing the presence of a civilian or other protected person to render certain points, areas, or military forces immune from military operations,' constitutes a war crime in international armed conflicts.

Concerning non-international armed conflicts, Additional Protocol II does not explicitly refer to the use of human shields, but this practice is prohibited by the duty that 'the civilian population and individual civilians shall enjoy general protection against the dangers arising from military operations.'^[76] It is important, moreover, that the use of human shields is often considered equivalent to hostage-taking, which is prohibited by Additional Protocol II^[77] and customary international law (see Rule 96). In addition, the intentional use of civilians to cover military operations violates the principle of distinction and the duty to take feasible precautions to separate civilians from military objectives (see Rules 23-24).

Although the use of human shields is prohibited under international law, and such acts are clearly defined as war crimes under international humanitarian law, the occupying state does not refrain from this crime. Human rights organizations monitored and documented dozens of cases of human shields. Addameer documented the use of Shaloun children as human shields during an Israeli incursion into Aqbat Jabr camp on 1 March 2023. At approximately 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., special Israeli forces stormed Jamal Shaloun neighborhood in the camp in an attempt to surround Maher Shaloun's house. However, the special forces threw a bomb at Mohammad Ayush's house, with five people inside, including two-year-old Ahmad Abdel Nasser with his mother. As they left the house, Mohammad Ayoush, who was carrying Ahmad in his arms, shouted to the soldiers and told them that he would return the child to his mother, but he was instructed to bring the child out with him.



[76] Article 13(1) of the Additional Protocol II.

[77] International Committee of the Red Cross. IHL Databases Rule 97. Human Shields.

<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/ar/customary-ihl/v2/rule97>

"At first the soldiers cuffed me behind my back with plastic cuffs and threw me to the ground for about 15 minutes, while the child was standing next to me and screaming. And because the child cried a lot, I was untied to carry him. I carried the child in my arms, but he continued to cry and scream, and his mother came twice trying to take him, but she was threatened at gunpoint. Then they forced us to stand near the military vehicles outside the houses, whereas the rest of the family was standing not far away. They made the child and I stand in front of the military vehicles and the soldiers as a protection for them from the clashes that were going in with young men." [78] The raid on the family home continued for nearly two hours, during which Mohammad and the child were used as human shields at gunpoint amidst clashes.

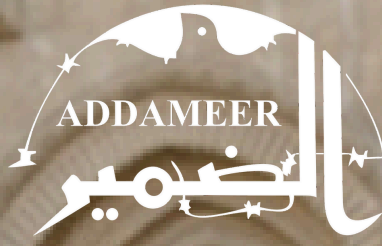
Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCIP) confirmed that during the first five months of 2023, five Palestinian children were used as human shields in various Palestinian areas. Human rights organizations also documented the use of dozens of Palestinians of all ages as human shields throughout the Palestinian territories. Additionally, the Israeli occupation forces practiced this policy in its aggression against the Gaza Strip during the year 2023. The occupying state seeks to cover up these appalling crimes under the guise of political and security considerations to legitimize these crimes. In his testimony, Mahmoud Hamdan stated, 'They arrested me from inside Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza City. I was told to open the sewage pits and communications lines and go down into them and make sure there were no Palestinian fighters. They installed cameras on my head and ordered me to go to all the underground manholes, open them, and move inside them.' [79]

This is just one example of hundreds of testimonies that human rights organizations managed to monitor and document. Despite all these documents, there is no actual accountability for what the occupation soldiers commit against the Palestinians. A report issued by Human Rights Watch stated that an Israeli military court's sentence on 21 November 2010 for two soldiers found guilty of using a Palestinian boy as a 'human shield' during the 2008-09 offensive in Gaza appeared inadequate considering the gravity of the offense. "The slap on the wrist for these soldiers is another slap in the face for the victims of violations during Operation Cast Lead," said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East director at Human Rights Watch. "Not only do these sentences seem unjustifiably lenient, but two years later, they are the only sentences Israel has handed down for serious human rights violations among the many alleged during the Gaza offensive." [80]

[78] An interview conducted by Addameer with Mohammad Ayoush on 22 May 2023.

[79] Al-Khaleej. 'Human shields: a repeated Israeli crime in its war on Gaza.' 19 December 2023. <https://khaleejonline/VJZdx8>

[80] Human Rights Watch. 'Israel: Soldiers' Punishment for Using Boy as 'Human Shield' Inadequate. 26 November 2010. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2010/11/26/israel-soldiers-punishment-using-boy-human-shield-inadequate>



Attacks on Holy Places Recurring Scenes Every Day and Every Year

The occupation police assaulted a cleric in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher

Attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque and worshipers are not a new phenomenon. Rather, Al-Aqsa Mosque witnesses daily raids by settlers, with restrictions imposed on the number of Palestinian worshipers allowed to enter and pray there, and many other attacks that violate the Palestinians' right to worship and practice religious rituals. These violations are evident during the holy month of Ramadan every year. Last year, the occupation forces stormed the compound and attacked worshipers. The scene was repeated in 2023 with the same flagrant violations of international law.

On 5 April 2023, around 400 to 450 group of Palestinian worshipers were inside Al-Qibli Mosque [prayer hall of the qibla]; the main prayer hall in Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound, practicing religious rituals. After Tarawih prayers [special prayers performed in Ramanda], the occupation forces, specifically the Yamam Unit, surrounded the mosque from all sides and stormed the place through the clinic attached to the mosque, which is separated from the mosque by a drywall. The forces broke the drywall and stormed the mosque, while other soldiers climbed onto the roof of the mosque, cut off the electricity to the mosque, and broke the windows so they could throw stun grenades and teargas into the mosque, after which they began shooting rubber-coated steel bullets randomly at the worshipers. The Israeli forces broke into the mosque in large numbers and used excessive force against the unarmed worshipers, attacking them with batons and rifles.

"I was beaten for five minutes when they first raided the mosque. I was standing in the first row," said Ihab Zaloum, one of the worshipers who was attacked. "They beat me with batons and rifles on my head more than once, as well as on my arms and all over my body. The beating continued for five minutes, during which my head started to bleed, but they refused to give me first aid or provide me with any treatment." [81] H. S., a boy, was also beaten up. "A soldier next to the door shot my leg with a rubber-coated steel bullet from a distance of five to seven meters. I sat next to the door, and a man in civilian clothes and a police cap approached me and kicked me with his military boots five to six times on my body, legs, and stomach." [82]

A few minutes after the attack, the worshipers present inside the mosque were cuffed with plastic ties and thrown on the floor on their abdomens and faces, after which they were taken to the courtyard and sorted out to residents of Jerusalem and residents of the West Bank. The sorting process included beatings. Nearly an hour after the attack, all the detainees were transferred to Al-Mughrabi Gate on foot. Because some of them were inside Al-Aqsa Mosque for prayer, they were barefoot and the soldiers deliberately trampled on their feet in a very painful way. They were forced to kneel while still handcuffed for nearly three hours, after which they were transferred to Atarot police station via buses. In Atarot, they were also forced to kneel with their heads bowed. At approximately 6:00 a.m., the detainees were brought before Shabak and police interrogators, but they were not interrogated on any charges or suspicions. Rather, they were only threatened and intimidated

[81] A phone interview conducted by Addameer with Ihab Zaloum on 9 March 2023.

[82] A phone interview conducted by Addameer with H. S. on 9 April 2023.

Not only the occupying power committed all these violations and caused humiliation to the worshipers but also imposed arbitrary punishments on the worshipers. Some of the worshipers were kept away from Al-Aqsa Mosque for varying periods, while others were transferred to Ofer Prison and detained in the transit section 14. Due to the lack of allocated space, some of the detainees were held in isolation cells.

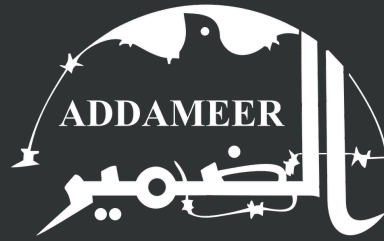
Some of the West Bank detainees appeared in court on 7 April 2023, and their detention was extended for 72 hours until Monday; April 10, on charges of entering Jerusalem without a permit. In the court session held on April 10, the judge decided to release the detainees on bail of 3,000 shekels without any indictments being brought against any of them. Due to the inability of the families to pay the bail set by the court, 17 detainees were transferred to Jerusalem Magistrate Court, which filed indictments against all of them, including entering Jerusalem without a permit, obstructing police work, and harming public security. The court fined them 1,000 shekels per each, payable until May 20, and sentenced them to a two-year suspended term. After that, the 17 detainees were released.[83]

With these violations, we note that the occupying power does not only target mosques. Rather, settlers storm churches, destroy their property, direct racist speech at worshipers, and assault them, in addition to burning mosques and churches. All of these systematic and continuous violations that are not met with mechanisms of deterrence or accountability by the Israeli authorities are not but a systematic crime against the right to worship that escalates significantly during holidays and months in which the Palestinian people practice religious rituals, such as the holy month of Ramadan.

All of these attacks on places of worship constitute racist acts by the occupying power and a flagrant violation of international law. Attacks on places of worship are classified as a war crime under international humanitarian law, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of 1998, which considered attacks against buildings dedicated to religion a war crime under Article 8(2).



[83] A phone interview conducted by Addameer with Ashraf Ruman on 13 March 2023.



Extrajudicial Executions alongside Arrests



The right to life is a constitutional right guaranteed to all human beings, and none of the other rights can be respected without respecting the right to life. Extra-legal, summary, or arbitrary executions constitute a violation of this fundamental right. The Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death of 2016^[84] states that extrajudicial executions can occur in several situations, including:

- 1.The death may have been caused by acts or omissions of the State, its organs or agents, or may otherwise be attributable to the State, in violation of its duty to respect the right to life;
- 2.The death occurred when a person was detained by, or was in the custody of, the State, its organs, or agents; and
- 3.The death occurred where the State may have failed to meet its obligations to protect life.

The practices of the occupying state during incursions into the West Bank and the excessive use of force and indiscriminate shooting led to extrajudicial executions, which expanded very significantly during the year 2023. Addameer documented three cases of extrajudicial executions of family members of detainees, including Samir Aslan, Mohammad Manasra, and Mohammad Hamdan. What indicates the occupation's intention to execute in cold blood is the sniper practices committed in the Gaza Strip after October 7, when the occupation forces executed large numbers of Palestinians, including children and women, while they were carrying white flags and fleeing to safe areas. Despite this, the occupation forces deliberately targeted and executed all segments of Palestinian society.

Father Executed, Son Arrested

On 12 January 2023, the occupation forces stormed Qalandia camp near Ramallah around 3:00 a.m., blocked all entrances and exits to the camp, and headed to one of the neighborhoods where Aslan family lives, searching for 19-year-old Ramzi Aslan. During the search, around 20 to 25 soldiers stormed one of the houses and went to the bedroom, only to discover that they were in the wrong house. Then they went to Aslan's three-story residential building, blew up the door by breaking the lock, and stormed the apartment of Ramzi's uncle. The soldiers interrogated the uncle and asked him about Ramzi. The latter answered that Ramzi was not his son. However, they did not leave the house. They had a military dog with them.

Meanwhile, due to the noise caused by the soldiers, Samir Aslan and his wife woke up, and Samir woke up Ramzi. Then the soldiers entered Samir's apartment and asked about Ramzi. They shouted and threatened the family with bombs. They searched Ramzi's room and caused a big mess. The raid on the apartment continued for about an hour, after which they cuffed Ramzi with plastic ties and took him outside. Meanwhile, Ramzi's parents went to the balcony overlooking the street, but they were forced to go inside when clashes erupted between Palestinian young men and the soldiers. The family headed to the third floor of the building, and Samir looked out from the balcony to check on Ramzi.

[84] The Economic and Social Council recommended the approval of these principles in its Resolution 1989/65 of 24 May 1989. Revised in 2016. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/MinnesotaProtocol.pdf>

At that moment, the soldiers opened fire on the family, and Samir was fatally hit in the chest by a bullet. Meanwhile, Ramzi's mother was heading downstairs to see what had happened to Ramzi, but when she heard the sound of screaming inside the building, she returned to the apartment and saw Samir had fallen on his back, covered in blood, so she called for an ambulance immediately, but the occupation forces prevented the ambulance from reaching Samir, who remained on the third floor bleeding for about 20 minutes until the family was able to take him down the stairs while he was unconscious.[85] Samir's brothers put him in their private vehicle and tried to take him to the hospital, but the soldiers blocked their way after they had driven about 20 meters, forced them at gunpoint to exit the vehicle, put Samir on the ground, and did not allow anyone to approach.

Then a person whom the soldiers claimed was a doctor came and injected Samir. Until that moment, the family thought that Samir had been injured in the hand until the soldiers lifted his jacket and realized that he had been critically injured. Then one soldier said, "This man is dead, let him take him." Then, Samir was returned to the vehicle and taken four to five meters away before the ambulance arrived. The soldiers allowed them to go to the hospital. Upon their arrival, the doctors tried to save Samir's life, but they declared him dead.[86]

Extrajudicial executions carried out by Israeli forces constitute a grave violation of international law, in particular the right to life, which is applicable at all times and in all circumstances and must not be undermined during armed conflicts or other public emergencies. However, the Israeli occupation authorities give their soldiers absolute authority to fire on Palestinians, which falls within the policy of excessive use of force against Palestinians, even those who do not pose a threat. This, according to the principles of international humanitarian law and the Rome Statute, is considered a crime against humanity.

The occupation's violations did not end with Aslan family at this point. Rather, after Ramzi was arrested from his home, he was led on foot towards the mountain and Kochav Ya'akov settlement amidst the shooting. Ramzi was seated in the open, bound and blindfolded, for a few hours, during which he was verbally assaulted and urinated on. "I felt that it was urine from its smell, heat, and the amount of flow that came down on me,"[87] said Ramzi during a lawyer's visit. When Ramzi wanted to use the bathroom, his hands were kept tied.

Ramzi was then transferred to Ofer Prison, searched while almost naked, and held in a cell measuring 2×2m that contained a bed, and a bathroom that was separated from the rest of the cell by a door that was about 40 cm above the floor. His interrogation lasted about 41 days, and each session sometimes continued for long hours. The occupation forces sought to obtain information by placing him with "informants" for a week. In the end, after all this torture and abuse, Ramzi was presented with an indictment consisting of two items: throwing stones and homemade explosives.

[85] Interview conducted by Addameer with Mirvat Aslan on 23 May 2023.

[86] Interview conducted by Addameer with Nidal Aslan on 23 May 2023.

[87] A lawyer interview with prisoner Ramzi Aslan in Ofer Prison on 1 June 2023.

The case of Aslan family was not the only case. On 5 December 2023, at approximately 6:00 a.m., the occupation forces stormed Al-Jabal neighborhood in Qalandia camp, north of Jerusalem, and then moved to the house of Manasra family. Before storming the house, Abdullah Manasra woke up his 21-year-old brother, Islam, and told him that there were Israeli soldiers outside. Islam went to the living room and sat on the sofa with his 26-year-old brother, Mohammad, and their mother. After about five minutes, the family heard the sound of breaking glass and screaming, so Mohammad got up and went to the door to open it, but masked soldiers blew up the door and the house was filled with gray smoke.

Islam had no other choice but to seek refuge in one of the rooms, along with his 25-year-old brother, Abdullah. Their mother remained in the living room, and after the smoke had cleared from the house, she saw her son Mohammad lying on the floor on his stomach and bleeding, but the Israeli soldiers prevented her from approaching him. She asked the soldiers to approach Mohammad, but she was forced to enter her room.[88] About five minutes later, the soldiers headed to the room where Islam and Abdullah were hiding. The soldiers recognized Abdullah and pulled him out of the room. As for Islam, a soldier with a Star of David on his shoulder approached him, while his hands were stained with blood before he examined Islam, whose nose was bleeding after sustaining shrapnel injuries as a result of the explosion.

The Israeli occupation forces withdrew from the house after about 15 minutes, and Islam left the room and saw his brother Mohammad lying on the floor on his stomach, with a large blood stain underneath him. Mohammad was not moving. He was rushed to the hospital and attempts were made to save his life, but he was declared dead. According to the forensic report, which the family provided Addameer with a copy of it, Mohammad sustained shrapnel injuries to the neck as a result of the explosion, which led to his death. Islam also sustained shrapnel injuries to the nose and underwent a nose operation.[89]

[88] A field interview conducted by Addameer with Shireen Manasra on 22 January 2024.

[89] A field interview conducted by Addameer with Islam Manasra on 22 January 2024.

Appendix I: Punitive Demolition of Prisoners' Homes

Name of prisoner	Place of residence	Date of demolition
Younis Hailan	Hajjah - Qalqilia	3 May 2023
Islam Al-Faroukh	Ramallah	8 June 2023
Osama Al-Taweel	Nablus	15 June 2023
Kamal Juri	Nablus	22 June 2023
Maher Shaloun	Jericho	21 October 2023
Khaled Kharousha	Askar camp - Nablus	3 November 2023
Mohammad Al-Zalbani	Shuafat camp - Jerusalem	8 November 2023
Mohammad and Saqr Al-Shantiri	Hebron	10 November 2023
Hamed Sabah	Orif - Nablus	15 December 2023
Osama Fadl	Aqraba - Nablus	19 December 2023
Ziad Safadi	Ourif - Nablus	15 December 2023