



Hostages of Israeli Revenge in the Gaza Strip

Contents

Introduction	3
1. Numbers of prisoners, detainees, and places of detention	8
2. Arrest pattern, methodology of arrest	11
3. Phases of brutal, degrading, and inhumane treatment that Palestinian detainees are subjected to	23
4. Types of torture and inhumane and degrading treatment meted out to Palestinian prisoners	34
5. Enforced disappearances	56
6. Israeli legal justification for arrests	59
7. Legal context	63
8. Recommendations	65



Israeli soldiers fill a military truck with Palestinian detainees from Gaza after stripping them to their underwear, handcuffing them, and blindfolding them - Reuters - December 8, 2023.

Introduction

Since the start of the massive and unprecedented Israeli military attack on the Gaza Strip and the genocide against its entire Palestinian population, ongoing since 7 October 2023, the Israeli army has launched widespread arbitrary arrest campaigns. These campaigns have targeted Palestinian civilians, including women, children, the elderly, and displaced people, and have occurred most commonly during Israel's ground incursions into cities, refugee camps, and various residential neighbourhoods in the Strip.

The Israeli army launched its so-called "ground manoeuvre" operations in the Gaza Strip on 27 October 2023, storming and deeply penetrating densely populated areas.

Areas that became filled with forcibly displaced people, such as cities, refugee camps, and shelter centres, particularly in Gaza City, North Gaza, Khan Yunis, and the two Al-Maghazi and Burij refugee camps, were then besieged by Israel's military. The invading infantry and armoured forces, heavily supported by the air force, artillery, and battleships, adopted a method of comprehensive destruction of everything in their path, putting a "scorched-earth policy" into practice.

Tens of thousands of civilians have been killed and injured as a direct result of Israeli military operations that targeted civilians and civilian objects in the Gaza Strip in a systematic and widespread manner; the majority of these casualties were women and children. Additionally, approximately two million people have been forced to evacuate, with 10s of thousands more trapped inside their homes, schools, or United Nations-designated shelters. These individuals, including those displaced to the southern Gaza Strip, have been subjected to crimes such as willful killing, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, and inhumane and degrading treatment at the hands of Israeli army forces.

Since the start of the arbitrary detention campaigns, numerous Israeli media outlets and Israeli-owned social media accounts—including the personal accounts of Israeli army personnel—have released images and videos of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in deplorable conditions. The images and video footage show Palestinians being stripped of their clothes, shackled, blindfolded, and lined up in rows in the streets, and brings to mind the brutal treatment of detainees in the United States-run Abu Ghraib and Guantánamo prisons.

There have been numerous reports of severe crimes and abuses committed against Palestinian inmates and prisoners in Israeli jails and detention facilities, including various types of willful killings. Among these are extrajudicial killings, arbitrary killings, torture that results in death, and denial of essential and life-saving medical care.

The true scope of the crimes committed by the Israeli army against Palestinian prisoners and detainees from the Gaza Strip is still unknown, particularly since the majority of those arrested—including women and children—are subject to the crime of enforced disappearance from the moment of their arrest. This is because Israel withholds lists of the names of those arrested from the Gaza Strip, refuses to provide any information about their whereabouts or fate, and forbids any party from visiting or communicating with them, including lawyers and the International Committee of the Red Cross.



A photo published by an Israeli soldier of blindfolded and handcuffed Palestinians who were stripped to their underwear after their arrest in Gaza - social media - December 2023.

This report documents the crimes committed against Gaza Strip detainees, including serious and dehumanising abuses that are part of an ongoing genocide perpetrated by Israel.

The report is based on statements, testimonies, and in-person interviews conducted by the Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor team with 100 detainees who had been released from Israeli army custody following ground operations in different parts of the Gaza

Strip. Approximately half of the detainees were men under 50, while the remaining 17 were elderly men; 22 were women, and four were children. Additional information was gathered from reports released by the relevant authorities, local and international media, and human rights organisations.

The information gathered leads to the conclusion that the Israeli army routinely and widely commits crimes of arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, willful killing, torture, inhumane treatment, sexual violence, and denial of a fair trial. It also confirms that the Israeli army used physical and psychological torture against Palestinian civilian detainees, including beatings with the intent to kill, sexual violence, electrocution, blindfolding, and long-term hand and foot shackles. Detainees were also denied access to food and medical care, including critical and life-saving care, were spat and urinated upon, and were subjected to other cruel and degrading acts and psychological abuse, including threats of rape and death, insults, and other forms of sexual violence.

Many cases of arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances by the Israeli army against vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the elderly were also documented by Euro-Med Monitor's team. Analysis of statements from those who were released indicates that these crimes were primarily committed for retaliatory purposes, i.e. because the victims were Palestinians from the Gaza Strip. Detainees suffered from various forms of physical and psychological torture and ill-treatment, despite the fact that Israeli investigators, from their own intelligence, were aware of their backgrounds and that they were civilians who did not participate in military activities.

Along with being detained and subjected to torture in Israeli military bases and detention facilities, including covert and unofficial detention centres, particularly those near the borders of the Gaza Strip, Palestinian detainees were also subjected to detention and

prolonged detention without any due legal procedures or appearing before judicial authorities, in violation of pertinent international laws.

Not only did Israeli forces arbitrarily and illegally deprive Palestinian civilians of their freedom, but they also purposefully imposed further hardship and separation from their families by releasing them at the Kerem Shalom crossing, at the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah. Since the Israeli army has imposed a military separation between the northern and southern areas of the Gaza Strip, the released northern residents are prevented from returning home and reuniting with their families, as the return of civilian residents from the southern and central regions of the Gaza Strip to the northern area is strictly forbidden.



Leaked photos from Sde Teiman detention center reveal the harsh conditions faced by Palestinian detainees -
Social media - 28 May 2024



Palestinians detained by the Israeli army from Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip - social media – 10 December 2023.

1. Numbers of prisoners, detainees, and places of detention

The precise number of Palestinian prisoners and detainees from the Gaza Strip is unknown, but Gaza's Government Media Office estimates that at least 5,000 citizens have been arrested there; hundreds of these individuals were later released. In addition, several thousand other Gaza Strip residents were arrested inside Israel and the West Bank, despite the fact that they had work permits and were employed within the Green Line and Israeli settlements at the time.

In an effort to formally justify the arrest of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip and strip them

of all remaining rights, the Israeli authorities made a number of arbitrary amendments to Israeli legislation that essentially violate international law. Section Seven of this report will address these amendments.

Rather than being referred to the Israeli Prison Service, as in the past, detainees are now directly under the control of the Israeli Army and the General Intelligence Service. They are held in camps and detention centres affiliated with them, including those that were established after 7 October, such as Israel's Sde Teman camp, where Palestinians are held inhumanely in iron cages surrounded by barbed wire, which resemble animal cages. This is a practical application of official and popular Israeli incitement to treat the people of the Gaza Strip as animals and to deprive them of their humanity, a sentiment expressed by numerous ministers, officials, media figures, and Israeli settlers, especially in the first days of the Israeli military attack.

In these fenced compounds, Palestinian prisoners and detainees of all ages—including children and the elderly—are held by the Israeli army and subjected to harsh interrogations while being kept handcuffed and blindfolded for long periods of time. During the night, they are subjected to intense lighting that is intended to wear them out and prevent them from sleeping. They are also subjected to other forms of abuse and torture. Throughout their incarceration, they are denied access to any form of medical care, legal representation, or visits from the International Red Cross Committee.

Information gathered by Euro-Med Monitor indicates that the Israeli army permits its members to conduct large-scale, arbitrary arrest operations against civilians in the Gaza Strip under the pretext of the “unlawful combatant” law, which deprives Palestinian prisoners and detainees from the Strip of their legal protections as guaranteed by international law, particularly international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

By virtue of this new law, Palestinians lose their ability to be treated as civilian detainees under the Fourth Geneva Convention and the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions, or as prisoners of war under the Third Geneva Convention. With the start of the crime of genocide in the Gaza Strip, this law was amended to allow for the detention of Palestinians there for a maximum of 75 days, with a possible indefinite extension based on the existence of secret evidence that neither the detainee nor the detainee's attorney is allowed to view, thus denying the most fundamental rights to a defence and a fair trial.

Data from the Israeli Prisons Authority indicate that approximately 800 Palestinians were detained in the Gaza Strip under the aforementioned law, added to the thousands of others who are being held indefinitely in military detention facilities for unclear reasons.



The Israeli army detains Palestinians from Hamad City in Khan Yunis and gathers them in a swimming pool, blindfolded and dressed in coronavirus protective gear - March 2024.

2. Arrest pattern, methodology of arrest

High-violence arrest operations are carried out by the Israeli army against civilians in the Gaza Strip. The violence starts at the point of arrest and continues through the phases of transfer, detention, and investigation, before detainees are released. All victims, male and female, as well as children, are subjected to the same pattern of violent detention, with the Israeli army and security services using similar violent tactics on nearly all of them. It should be noted that victims who were arrested from their homes and places of residence were subjected to higher levels of abuse and violence at the time of their arrest.

This violent behaviour fits into a similar and recurring pattern that is directed against Palestinian adults from the Gaza Strip in general. It also fits into Israel's clearly stated

policy of dehumanising Palestinians, including prisoners and detainees, and giving no consideration to their humanity, pain, or dignity. The pattern includes the crimes of brutal and sadistic killing and torturing of detainees and the subsequent hiding of their bodies without notifying families of their whereabouts, publishing their names and other details, or returning their remains.

In the treatment of all male victims in detention, the Israeli army followed a standard protocol. First, it bound their hands with a thin plastic tie, then blindfolded the detainees with a cloth prepared for this purpose. Next, it subjected them to severe beatings and various forms of physical torture, humiliation, and ill-treatment. It took away any personal property detainees had on them at the time of arrest, kept them in degrading conditions, and finally, transported them in trucks to unidentified locations.



Journalist Diaan al-Kahlout after his release from Israeli prisons - social media - 9 January 2024.

Forty-two-year-old journalist Diaan Al-Kahlout reported the following to the Euro-Med Monitor team:



“On 7 December 2023, we were surprised when Israeli army soldiers ordered us to leave the house via loudspeakers. There was no conflict or military presence in the area at the time. Many locals were gathered, and they ordered those between the ages of 18 and 60 to stay in the area and instructed women and those under the age of 18 to go to Kamal Adwan Hospital. We then turned

ourselves in. Since we were civilians with no ties to any military or organisational affiliations, I initially believed that the investigation would take place on the ground and that we would be released.

The soldiers made us take off all of our clothes, save our underwear, before brutally beating us. We were accused of being Hamas members, which we strongly denied. At the site were Hebrew-speaking Palestinian detainees who informed the soldiers that we did not belong to Hamas. But from the moment of our arrest until we were placed in the detention camps, we were treated as if we were Hamas members who had surrendered and turned ourselves in. It was a very severe and harsh treatment, [involving] covering my mouth with duct tape.

The soldiers then transferred us to the Zikim military site. There, we were sorted into several sections. At the soldiers' request, my two brothers and I went to the exit to return to Gaza. However, at the last minute, it appeared that our number did not meet the detention quota, so they brought us back to the place of detention. The Shin Bet [official] asked to meet me and for me to introduce myself. I told him that I was a journalist working for the New Arab newspaper. He asked me about my previous work at Al-Jazeera, and I informed him that this was true."

Regarding the Palestinian women who were detained in the Gaza Strip, the majority of them experienced violent acts during their arrest, including sexual assault. They were also sometimes kept nude in front of male soldiers and were strip searched by female soldiers. Together with verbal and physical abuse, they were also threatened with rape and endured the same forms of torture meted out to male inmates and prisoners, such as beatings, handcuffing, blindfolding, and theft of personal belongings.

Twenty-year-old Palestinian Sh. D., who requested that her full name be withheld due to safety concerns, provided the following information to the Euro-Med Monitor team:



"I was arrested in front of my mother after the soldiers stormed the Amr Ibn Al-Aas school, and she broke down as a result. After the school was evacuated, I was searched in a nearby mosque, with my hands bound behind me and my face blindfolded. Except for underwear, the search was conducted while naked. Following that, we were driven in a military jeep to the Zikim military site in the Gaza Strip, where we spent roughly two hours on the sidewalk as the soldiers joked in Hebrew. We were then searched once more, and at that point, they removed my personal belongings. The soldiers asked us to board a truck so they could take us somewhere. We were seven girls, and I recall that the truck ride to the Anatot detention centre in a mountainous area close to Jerusalem was rather difficult. I suffered a muscle strain in my hand, which was handcuffed behind me, and when I tried to change my position, a female Israeli soldier hit me on the back."



A Palestinian woman detained by the Israeli army and placed among a group of men after her veil was removed and her eyes were blindfolded.

• Locations where arrests were made

Most of the time, Israeli army forces detained thousands of Palestinian civilians during ground operations against Gaza Strip cities, refugee camps, and shelter centres. They also targeted civilians at military checkpoints they established on Salah al-Din Street in the Zaytoun neighbourhood, south of Gaza City, and the coastal Al-Rashid Road.

These checkpoints were set up after the Israeli army drove civilians out of their homes and places of residence, forcing them to relocate to the central and southern regions of the Strip, and began requiring them to pass through the checkpoints—which are intended to serve as traps to detain civilians in the Strip. The Israeli army has set up surveillance cameras and other special equipment, which



At least two children, detained by the Israeli army from one of the shelters in western Gaza, stripped to their underwear, along with other detainees at the Yarmouk Stadium on Wehda Street in Gaza- December 2023.

it forces civilians to pass in front of in order to identify them via artificial intelligence systems; these systems are based on databases whose data was gathered in violation of Palestinians' individual rights.

- **Detention campaign in ground incursion areas**

The Israeli army intentionally destroyed all or nearly all of the Gaza Strip with heavy air, land, and sea bombardment prior to conducting its ground incursions. People living in the targeted areas are typically left stranded in such situations. Some of them are injured or killed in the attacks, and others are stuck inside their homes or nearby shelter centres, unable to evacuate before the arrival of the Israeli army, when they risk being executed, arrested, or tortured.

When the Israeli army moves into residential areas, it detains all of the men there, including male children who are 13 or older, and separates them from their families. After their male relatives are detained, the women and their other children are driven from

their homes and forced to evacuate. Gaza City and North Gaza residents were forced to evacuate southwards, Khan Yunis residents were forced to evacuate to the coastal areas and Rafah, and residents of the central Gaza Strip refugee camps were told to evacuate to Deir al-Balah by the Israeli army.

According to the testimonies gathered by the Euro-Med Monitor team, Israeli army forces engaged in severe and potentially fatal violence during all arrest operations in homes and residential neighbourhoods. This violence was particularly evident when the soldiers stormed residential homes, driving civilian occupants out under live bullets, a barrage of shells, and through the use of unleashed military dogs. Additionally, male detainees were detained in front of their families after suffering severe beatings and humiliations.

Radwan Katkat, a 43-year-old Palestinian Authority employee who resides in the Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip, spoke with the Euro-Med Monitor team as follows:



“After my apartment in Jabalia Camp was bombed by Israeli aircraft, I went to my uncle’s house in the Beit Lahia project area, close to Kamal Adwan Hospital, until Israeli army tanks arrived and drove me out. On 11 December 2023, the army ordered us over loudspeakers to evacuate our home and assemble at Kamal Adwan Hospital after Israeli vehicles surrounded the house we were in. We went down and surrendered ourselves, and they later ordered us to take off our clothes before they handcuffed us. We were later brought to a nearby piece of land. They took me to a house on the land where I was subjected to tough interrogation and beating while I was kneeling. I recall that the intensity of the beating at the time tore the muscles in the back of my hand, and my son and other family members

who were held in the same conditions also experienced this.”

Along with residential areas, hospitals and shelters—the majority of which were set up in UNRWA-run schools—witnessed large-scale arrests of Palestinian civilians by the Israeli army during military sieges and raids.

Abdul Qadir Jamal Tafesh, 33, reported the following:

“Between 11 and 13 December 2023, Israeli forces stormed Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahia, where I had sought shelter. Tanks stormed the hospital, and [Israeli forces] ordered men over the age of 16 to come out to the hospital yard and raise their hands and personal ID cards [in the air]. We were brought out of the hospital and placed on a public street, wearing only our underwear.



The Israeli army detains around 90 Palestinians, including patients from inside Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza - Daniel Hagee, spokesperson for the Israeli army - December 16, 2023.

We went out in groups of ten, and I estimate that we were less than three metres away from the military vehicles. After seeing the fighting with our own eyes while we were being held captive, we began to feel like human shields and extremely vulnerable. The soldiers had detained four individuals on about three of the military vehicles. Before we left the hospital, I noticed a bulldozer excavating the hospital yard where dead bodies were buried.

On 12 December 2023, the soldiers arrested and detained me in one of their camps in the northern Gaza Strip. They interrogated me inside the Al-Barawi family villa on Beit Lahia Street, which the army had converted into a military barracks.

As soon as the other prisoners and I arrived in this home's yard, we were inspected with tools including specific 'eye fingerprint' scanners. After being stripped of our clothes and placed in handcuffs, [one in five people] were told to line up in front of cameras, get down on their knees, and bow their head. I was among these people.

Once I was on the ground, one of the soldiers blindfolded me, put a sticker with a number on my shoulder, and made me run for about 500 metres before throwing me to the ground. Another soldier beat and tortured me, switching my handcuffs from front to back even after I revealed that I was hurt and had previously had a surgery during which platinum was inserted into my left shoulder, which the soldier could see because I was naked. He also hit me with his shoe, which made the pain worse, and [specifically] at the operation site, which made me pass out multiple times. I asked them to bring a doctor or take me to a doctor, but they refused. I was approached by a soldier who asked, 'Do you want to die?' He lifted his weapon and fired close to my head."

- **Arrest at military checkpoints and displacement corridors**

On 13 October 2023, the Israeli army issued a military order to carry out the immediate, illegal eviction of all residents of the Gaza City and North Gaza governorates. This amounted to the crime of forced displacement against approximately 1.1 million people,

half of whom were children, committed on the pretext that they resided in a dangerous combat zone. They were forced to evacuate via Salah al-Din Street to areas south of the Gaza Valley, including the Central Gaza, Khan Yunis, and Rafah governorates.

Following the commencement of the Israeli ground incursion on 27 October 2023, Israeli forces positioned themselves along Salah al-Din Street, which links the Gaza Strip's governorates. They later established a military checkpoint there, near what was once known as the Netzarim Junction, and installed surveillance equipment and special cameras that allow them to identify the individuals they have forcibly displaced from the north and driven south, and who are being made to pass through the checkpoint. Additionally, the Israeli army has physically divided the Gaza Strip by enforcing its position on this major street and separating the Strip's north from its south. Later, the Israeli army established a similar military checkpoint on Al-Rashid Street, which is located south of Gaza City.

Upon the arrival of the internally displaced individuals at these military checkpoints, Israeli soldiers would identify the individuals they planned to detain, either by name or by the colour of their clothing, over loudspeakers. The Israeli army frequently detained civilians on the basis of their physical characteristics, age, family names, or medical conditions. Despite the fact that there was no real reason for their detention in the first place and that they posed no threat, the Israeli army frequently mistreated these individuals, made them strip naked, subjected them to various forms of torture, humiliation, and inhumane treatment, and seized their belongings before ultimately releasing them.

Omar Abu Mudallala, a 43-year-old resident of northwest Gaza City, told the Euro-Med Monitor team:



“I live in the Sudaniya area near Al-Khazandar station. Due to the intensive bombing, we were forced to leave the area entirely. I made the decision to walk with my family through Salah al-Din Street to the areas south of Wadi Gaza that the army claimed were safe. I set out to flee to the areas south of the Valley on 19 November 2023, leaving my house in the Sudaniya neighbourhood, north of Gaza [City], to Salah al-Din Street in the south. Israeli army soldiers called us at random when we arrived at the checkpoint erected in front of the Central Governorate. They confiscated my personal ID to ‘check’ it. Some of the people were later released, while I was kept held along with many others.”

The Israeli army’s invasion of Khan Yunis, which started on 4 December 2023, was similar to what had happened in the Gaza City and North Gaza governorates. It began by the army advancing into the eastern towns of Khan Yunis and continued into the city’s neighbourhoods, storming numerous homes and shelter centres set up in schools and installing a military checkpoint on the sea road west of Khan Yunis, forcing the residents to leave their homes and pass through it in order to access the Khan Yunis or Rafah highways. In addition, they installed equipment to identify people there, including cameras, and detained dozens of bystanders as they went through the checkpoint.

Following the siege of Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, which was housing thousands of displaced people, the Israeli army also erected makeshift checkpoints and detained dozens of civilians, many of whom were medical personnel, in violation of international humanitarian law. Many of these individuals’ fates are still unknown.

Sixty-two-year-old M.Q., who requested that his full name be withheld due to safety concerns, reported the following:



“I was receiving medical treatment at Nasser Hospital for injuries I sustained from an Israeli bombing on my son’s home. The Israeli forces stormed the hospital, took everyone out, and left the patients behind. They then arrived with trucks to transfer us. We were roughly seventy patients and detainees.

Like a pack of animals, they threw us into the truck and made us strip off. For the entire sixty days that I was detained, I was blindfolded and handcuffed.”

- **Arrest of Gaza Strip workers**

In addition to Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip, thousands of Palestinian workers from the Strip who held security permits from Israeli authorities and worked inside Israeli settlements and within the Green Line were



A Palestinian worker from Gaza, blindfolded and handcuffed after his release - Safa Agency - November 2023.

also detained by the Israeli army. The granting of these permits is known to require the completion of extensive security checks on the applicants and their families. In spite of this, the Israeli police and other security agencies launched a persecution and detention campaign against these workers, picking them up both individually and in groups from

their workplaces, pursuing those who fled to the West Bank, and subjecting them to cruel interrogation, torture, and other forms of inhumane treatment. More than 3,000 of the workers were eventually released, though it is still unclear how many remain in detention.

A.D (46), who asked that his full name be withheld for safety reasons, provided the following report to Euro-Med Monitor:

“I was granted a work permit based on economic need to work in Israel. On 19 January 2023, I started working in the Rishon LeTzion region’s agricultural sector (Qatif). When the armed operation occurred on 7 October 2023, I was spending the night at my employer’s place in Rahat. I remained there for three days along with other workers. Upon the withdrawal of my permit, I turned myself in to the army at the Rahat police station.

There, they seized my money and personal items before handcuffing and blindfolding me in a cramped, tiny room along with about 150 other workers. They did not provide us with food or drink during our 14-hour confinement, and they also forbade us from using the restrooms. Not only did they beat and torture us, but they also let their dogs run amok on us. They transported us by bus the following day, and I was sent to Ofer Prison. Everyone was sleeping on the ground, there was no adequate food, blankets, or mattresses, and the place was packed and incredibly cold.

On 27 October 2023, I was brought to be interrogated while handcuffed. My shackles were taken off and I was brought in when it was my turn. They questioned me on a number of topics, including where the Hamas leaders were hiding, a few individuals and houses, the locations of the rocket launch sites, and my whereabouts at the time of the events. After four hours of questioning, they took me back to the detention area, where we were placed under the same harsh conditions.”



Injuries on the hands of Palestinian detainees after their release from the Israeli Sedot Tiyman camp – CNN.

3. Phases of brutal, degrading, and inhumane treatment that Palestinian detainees are subjected to

Palestinians arrested by the Israeli army during military operations in the Gaza Strip were subjected to a range of cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment, including torture on both a physical and psychological level as well as other forms of cruel, degrading, and inhumane treatment from the time of their arrest through their detention, interrogation, and up until their release.

- **Torture and inhumane treatment upon arrest:**

The victims' testimonies—whether they were arrested during an Israeli military raid or at an Israeli military checkpoint—make it evident that they suffered various forms of torture

and inhumane treatment from the moment of their arrest. This occurred even before they were subjected to an interrogation, as the Israeli soldiers made them remove their clothes and then beat, kicked, and humiliated them, in addition to unleashing military dogs on them.

Almost always, the victims endured cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment while in custody—even before questioning about their identities and jobs. This occurred with all groups and in different detention facilities, indicating that these acts of torture and the most heinous and violent crimes that followed were not singular or isolated incidents, but rather part of a larger, organised, and systematic state policy that the various Israeli military units, divisions, and brigades operating in the Gaza Strip adhered to against all Palestinian prisoners and detainees from the Strip.

Clearly, had they not received explicit orders from the military leadership to act in this manner and been assured of the complete cover provided by the Israeli government, soldiers could not have acted in this manner, with absolute impunity and without fear of being held accountable for crimes of such a high degree of seriousness. At present, Israeli authorities have not brought any charges against or held accountable any Israeli army personnel who have been shown to have participated in torturing Palestinians. This includes any Israeli soldiers who have shared images and videos of themselves engaging in these crimes on social media platforms.

- **Torture and inhumane treatment in military bases prior to interrogations:**

Following the initial round of torture during the detention process in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli army moves prisoners to unofficial detention facilities, the majority of which are found

in military bases near the Strip. Prisoners endure terrible and cruel treatment throughout the entire process of being transferred to those locations.

Upon arrival at military bases and before interrogation, Palestinian detainees are immediately subjected to various forms of torture. These tortures include beatings, being abandoned for extended periods of time, having military dogs set loose on them, and being held in rooms with uncomfortably bright lighting and loud music in an effort to exhaust them and prevent them from sleeping. They are also made to spend extended amounts of time sleeping on rough surfaces like iron and gravel. In addition, all Palestinian detainees are bound with either plastic or iron handcuffs, which are purposefully



A photo published by an Israeli soldier of a Palestinian man stripped to his underwear and handcuffed to a blood-soaked chair due to torture – 5 February 2024.

fastened to their hands and feet extremely tightly for extended periods of time. As a result, the majority of them have severe wounds and/or deep, permanent scars. Some Palestinian detainees and prisoners have even had their hands and feet amputated as a result of damage caused by these shackles.

The following information was provided to the Euro-Med Monitor team by Munir Abu Shahla, 64, a resident of the Shati'i refugee camp, in the west of Gaza City:



“Our residential block was invaded by the Israeli army on 7 December 2023. At dusk, a tank and a bulldozer moved forward, demolishing the house’s

entrance. The raid was crazy and brutal. After gathering the men in the house, the soldiers took us to a nearby school, where they made us lie on our knees on the debris of the destroyed houses. After that, we were beaten and degraded for about fifty metres until we came to a hole, where I believed we would be executed and buried.

The soldiers led us to a site where we spent roughly three hours. After that, they loaded us into a troop carrier in a humiliating manner and drove us to an unknown location. From there, we boarded a bus that brought us to a large area with barracks. Under torture and humiliation, the soldiers led us to a barrack room where they made us kneel on a gravel floor and gave us flimsy, pastel-coloured clothing.

The soldiers then led us to a room in the barracks and severely beat us. After that, the soldiers led me to what appeared to be a cage and placed me in a sleeping position on the ground. They severely beat me while handcuffing my hands to the cage. Due to the severity of the beating, I recall being delirious and unable to speak until the other prisoners began sobbing over my state. Not content with that, the soldiers led me to another room where they shocked me on the hand with an electrical device before putting me back on the barracks. I experienced all of this even before the interrogation.”



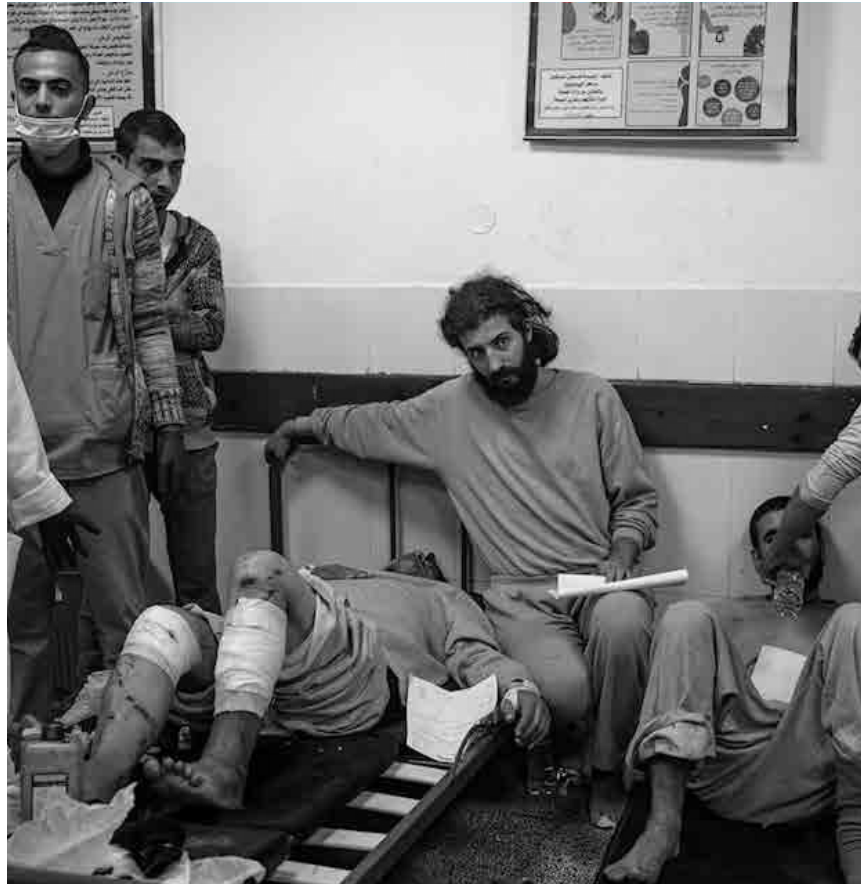
Sufian Abu Saleh had his foot amputated inside the prison due to torture and medical negligence. He was released in April 2024. - Photo by Hassan Eslayeh

- **Interrogation-related torture and inhumane treatment:**

All the detainees who provided testimony to the Euro-Med Monitor team for this report were civilians who did not engage in any military activity, yet their interrogations were centred around the military operations of Palestinian factions in the Gaza Strip. The majority of them were treated as if they were Hamas armed wing members, without any

explanation or justification. The main focus of the interrogators' questions, in addition to those concerning the storage locations of rocket shells, tunnels, and Israeli prisoners in the Strip, was the military attacks on Israeli military sites and settlements early on 7 October 2023.

Detainees were interrogated about family members and neighbours and subjected to torture in every instance, even after the Israeli interrogators realised that the people under interrogation were civilians and unaffiliated with any faction. It appears that these civilians were tortured by Israeli interrogators and their goons as a means of both exacting revenge and punishing them simply for being Palestinians from the Gaza Strip.



Palestinian detainees receive medical treatment after their release, following severe torture - Source: Associated Press - December 23, 2023.

After being physically stripped, blindfolded, handcuffed, and tied, these detainees—including women—were taken to an interrogation room. There, they endured severe beatings resulting in broken bones and teeth, prolonged periods of being abandoned, psychological intimidation, harassment, profanity, humiliation, blackmail, and recruitment attempts.

The following was disclosed to the Euro-Med Monitor team by 15-year-old M.D., whose full name has been withheld for safety reasons:



“The soldiers led me into a caravan where I was questioned. Prior to starting the questioning, they shocked me with an electric device on my chest, which hurt me extremely. After that, we were handcuffed and placed in military vehicles, where we remained for roughly a day before moving on to a new detention facility. There, the soldiers gave us pastel-coloured clothing, inquired about our names once more, and found out which of us had chronic illnesses before seating us on our knees inside an iron bar that was rife with cockroaches and rats.”



Jamal Al-Eisawi displays the effects of torture on his body after spending 60 days in detention - Photo by Hassan Eslayeh -2 May, 2024.

Every person in this barrack had a tattered blanket and a shabby mattress. We were afraid to sleep there because the place was completely unfit for

human habitation. Following 20 days of imprisonment, I was brought to the interrogation room, where I endured the most horrifying acts of torture. They placed me in a room with music playing around the clock and a floor made of stones on which we were forced to sleep. Following that, the soldiers led me to a nearby location where I spent the next 24 hours, positioned roughly 1.5 metres above the ground. I endured brutal beatings, torture, and my body being sprinkled with cold water during these hours.

After that, I was locked in a cement room for about two weeks. Only roughly four hours of sleep a day are allowed, while the soldiers kept raiding the area where we sleep with dogs. During a night raid, I remember that I was sleeping when someone stepped on my stomach.”

A. Sh. (35), who works for a local company, lives in the Tal al-Hawa neighbourhood in the southwest of Gaza City, and also requested that his full name be withheld due to safety concerns, made the following statement to the Euro-Med Monitor team:



“The soldiers broke into the house, handcuffed, and blindfolded us. An Israeli officer then beat, tortured, and humiliated us while we were being questioned on the ground. One of the soldiers even tore my skin off my back with a knife and poured melted plastic and wax on my body.

I was questioned three times in the same place, and in front of my wife and kids, the soldiers repeatedly beat, cursed, and insulted me during each interrogation. I remember that my son was screaming and crying while I was beaten and tortured. The interrogator asked me, ‘Is this your son?’ When I answered yes, he said, ‘I will bring him and your wife to be beaten like you if he does not shut up.’”

Subsequent to his transfer from the Gaza Strip, which involved multiple rounds of torture, the victim was questioned multiple times, experiencing further rounds of torture and humiliation. “We arrived at what I believe to be a detention centre in the northern Gaza Strip’s Sderot settlement,” A. Sh. stated, citing conversations between the soldiers as confirmation. “There, we were beaten severely by new soldiers till my entire body was covered in blood.”

A. Sh. continued: “There, I was questioned three times: once by Army Intelligence, and twice by the Shin Bet. Before the interrogations began, I remember being completely stripped of clothes, and subjected to loud music, and big air fans shining down on us. My feet were shackled to a chair by the soldiers as the interrogation got underway. The interrogation focused on the events of 7 October, my place of residence, my knowledge of members of the Hamas movement, and the rocket launching pads, as well as the locations of the tunnels. The interrogator accused me of being a member of the Al-Qassam elite (the military wing of the Hamas movement). Nevertheless, I refuted that, telling him that I was a civilian with no ties to the military or any organisations.”



The effects of torture on a child and an elderly man detained by the Israeli army from Gaza Strip - Photo by Hatem Al-Rawag - April 2024.

Both men and women were affected by these crimes during the interrogation period. Women and girls suffered from sexual violence including forced nudity, sexual harassment, threats of rape, severe beatings, and various forms of torture, cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment. They were also subjected to death threats.

Thirty-two-year-old former detainee, N.K., from Al-Shuja'iya neighbourhood in the east of Gaza City, provided the following information to the Euro-Med Monitor team:



“The interrogator severely beat me all over my body and stomped on my mouth with a military boot until my jaw and teeth broke and blood gushed from my mouth. Three days later, the soldiers called me for interrogation again. I was first told that I was being questioned on suspicion of engaging in unlawful combat. I was questioned about the identities of people I had never heard of, the tunnels, the 7 October attack, and the Israeli prisoners in the Gaza Strip. I replied, ‘I am a single mother raising her daughters without the support of anybody.’ The investigator threw a cup of boiling coffee in my face and spat on me. I cried bitterly from the pain.”

- **Torture and inhumane treatment following interrogations**

The torture episodes that detainees endure do not stop when the interrogation phase ends; rather, they continue until the moment of their release. This involves prolonged incarceration, harsh beatings, oppression, and having military dogs let loose on them, as well as being held in cruel conditions and made to sit for extended periods of time while tied, with their heads bowed. In addition, after interrogations the detainees are purposefully kept in detention for extended periods of time—weeks or longer—

without being informed of their potential fate, which exacerbates their already severe psychological distress stemming from their precarious conditions and exposure to severe violence.

Thirty-five-year-old lawyer Muhammad Khairy Daloul, a resident of Al-Zaytoun neighbourhood in the south of Gaza City, gave the following testimony to the Euro-Med Monitor:

“After fifty-six days of imprisonment, the soldiers called me and placed me in a cage along with a hundred other prisoners. While we were in the cage, they severely beat us and made us mimic sheep sounds. After that, I was moved to



Detainees released by the Israeli army, who were injured due to torture, receive treatment at Abu Yousef Al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah - Sa'id Al-Khatib/AFP – 24 February 2024.

a nearby site, where I endured harsh abuse and taunts against all the people of Gaza. I was brought to a person who appeared to be a judge. He asked, 'Have you been interrogated?' and I replied that I had. The soldiers then ordered us to lie down on the ground, and they started beating us terribly while we were lying there with our hands cuffed. After that, a bus took us to Al-Sabaa Detention Facility. Because of the strong plastic rope that was tying us, our hands were covered in blood.

On the fifty-sixth day of detention at around one a.m., they called us outside the detention tent and told us that our hands would be bound from behind. The soldiers brought us socks and light summer shirts and ordered us to head to the buses. Before we boarded the buses, we were again beaten, and I was limping from excruciating pain. One of the soldiers came over to me after noticing my feet, took a picture of them, and made multiple calls. Then they brought in an ambulance and loaded me and three other prisoners—two of whom were elderly and one of whom was partially paralysed—into it. The ambulance took us to the Kerem Shalom (Kerem Abu Salem) crossing gate, where I was released early in the morning.”



An elderly Palestinian receives treatment at Abu Yousef Al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah due to torture in Israeli prisons - Sa'id Al-Khatib/AFP - February 24, 2024.

4. Types of torture and inhumane and degrading treatment meted out to Palestinian prisoners

Israeli army and security service personnel regularly subjected Palestinian detainees in the Gaza Strip to various forms of physical and psychological torture, along with inhumane treatment, with the aim of exacting forced confessions, and punishing them for being Palestinians from the Strip.

The punishments included beatings with hands and iron sticks or other weapons; additionally, detainees' hands and feet were bound with iron handcuffs and/or sharp plastic clamps, which were fastened so tightly that some individuals had to have their limbs amputated. Along with being deprived of food, water, and adequate sleep, detainees were also forced to sleep on surfaces made of gravel and iron, plus endure assaults, electric shock torture, and beatings to wounds and injured areas of their bodies. They were also subjected to loud music being played in their rooms and large fans blowing on them in the winter. Additionally, Israeli soldiers routinely conducted strip searches on detainees, dressed them in diapers, prevented them from using the restroom, took photos of them in degrading positions, and spat and peed on them—all actions that contributed to the degradation of their human dignity. Moreover, they were subjected to intense psychological pressure, particularly for the female prisoners who faced threats of rape and child murder.



A photo from inside Sde Teiman detention center, published after the revelation of the deaths of two detainees due to torture and medical neglect - Social media - 28 May, 2024.

The most prominent types of torture and inhumane and degrading treatment meted out to Palestinian prisoners:

Stripping male and female detainees of their clothing	Blackmail for recruitment purposes
Frequent strip searches	Insults and profanity
Holding naked detainees together	Spitting and urinating on them
Keeping hands and feet tied for prolonged periods of time	Depriving them their right to identity and identifying them only as numbers
Blindfolding them for very long periods of time	Removing women's veil
Willful killing, murder under torture	Verbal sexual violence
Brutal beatings that shattered teeth and bones	Sexual violence by touching private parts
Electric shocks	Threatening indecent assault and rape
Severe beatings	Deprivation of food and water
Throwing stun grenades at them	Sleep deprivation
Pouring hot liquids on their faces	Denial of medical care
Producing severe scars on the body	Dressing detainees in diapers
Marking offensive words on their bodies	Refusal to let them shower
Lengthy interrogations	Long-term deprivation of personal hygiene supplies
Questioning by multiple investigating parties	Denying female detainees sanitary pads
Imposing extended periods of time sitting on knees	Preventing the performance of religious rituals
Forcing them to sleep on gravel and/or iron surfaces	Attacking them with vicious dogs
Forcing them to sleep on dog droppings	Inviting Israeli officials and civilians to witness torture operations
Subjecting them to loud noises	Photographing them in humiliating situations
Holding them in cold environments without adequate clothing	Denying them contact with the external world
Threatening to commit crimes against detainees and their family members	Forced disappearances

- **Premeditated murder and murder under torture**

Since the beginning of the Israeli military attack on the Gaza Strip in October 2023, there has been a marked increase in the number of deaths among Palestinian prisoners and detainees in both official and unofficial Israeli prisons and detention facilities.

- **Willful killing and killing under torture**

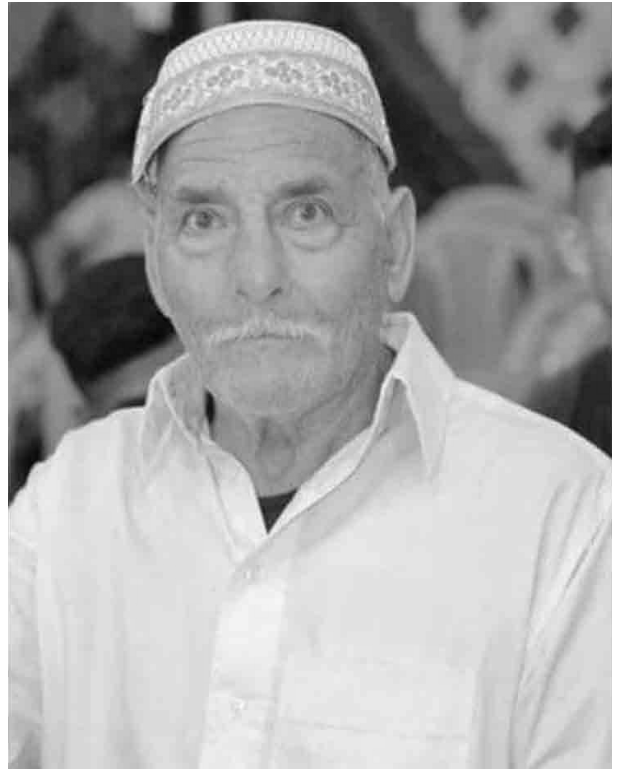
Since the beginning of the Israeli military attack on the Gaza Strip in October 2023, there has been a marked increase in the number of deaths among Palestinian prisoners and detainees in both official and unofficial Israeli prisons and detention facilities.

The officially reported number of dead prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons as of 2 May 2024 was 18, including six from the Gaza Strip. However, additional information, including information published by the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, supports the much higher official death toll of the murder of at least 27 detainees from the Gaza Strip in an Israeli detention facility, including two workers from the Strip who were arrested by the Israeli army in retaliation for the 7 October attack and subjected to torture and abuse.

No exact details about the circumstances surrounding the deaths of these prisoners and detainees are available because the Israeli army has not yet made any information about these deaths public. Additionally, no impartial party has been able to confirm and determine the circumstances surrounding these deaths, and their bodies have not yet been identified, returned to their families, or even exhumed.

The following are some of the Gaza Strip detainees who have died in detention and have been identified thus far:

1. Rajai Wasfi Ibrahim Abu Samour, a 46-year-old worker who resided in Khan Yunis. He was killed in an Israeli detention centre on 4 November 2023. A few weeks after his death, the Prisoners' Commission and the Prisoners Society declared his killing without disclosing his identity. Later, his name was revealed based on local information, but no information regarding the circumstances of his death was provided.



The elderly Ahmad Rizq Qudeih from Khan Yunis was announced dead on March 1, 2024, inside the detention center after torture and denial of medical treatment.

2. Majid Ahmed Salim Zaqoul, a 33-year-old worker who lived in Jabalia, north of Gaza. He was killed in one of the Israeli detention centres on 4 November 2023. His death was revealed several weeks later by the Prisoners' Commission and the Prisoners Society, while no details were revealed about its circumstances.

3. Ahmed Rizq Qadeeh, a 70-year-old resident of Khan Yunis. He was arrested by the Israeli army during its ground invasion of Khan Yunis on 7 February 2024. His death was announced on 1 March 2024, after he was subjected to torture in an Israeli military camp, in addition to being deprived of medical treatment.

4. Ismail Abdel Bari Khader, a 33-year-old Gaza resident. He was killed in one of the Israeli detention centres on an unknown date. His death was revealed on 2 May 2024, when his body was released that day along with dozens of Gaza detainees who were released through the Kerem Shalom (Kerem Abu Salem) crossing, east of Rafah. It is noteworthy that he is the only dead prisoner whose body was turned over with visible signs of torture.

The director of the Abu Youssef Al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah, Dr Marwan Al-Hams, [explains](#): “Upon examining the body, we discovered swelling in the knees and shoulders as well as signs of torture on the wrists. His chest was obviously swollen, indicating that he was tortured to death.”

5. Adnan Ahmed Attiya Al-Bursh, a 50-year-old consultant physician who oversaw the orthopaedic department at Al-Shifa Medical Complex. In December 2023, the Israeli army detained him along with several medical professionals from Al-Awda Hospital. He was killed in Ofer Prison on 19 April 2024, and his death was announced on 2 May 2024.



Doctor Adnan Al-Bursh, who was killed in Ofer Prison due to torture and medical negligence on April 19, 2024, with his death revealed on May 2, 2024.

Israel’s killing of consultant doctor Adnan Al-Bursh under torture is a stark example of its violations of international law. Palestinian

competencies—including medical personnel with extensive schooling—are directly and intentionally targeted.

Dr Al-Bursh had gained notoriety for his recent work at Al-Shifa Medical Complex, where he saved thousands of injured patients. He also made media appearances, explaining the impact of the Israeli attack, the number of dead and injured victims it left behind, the nature of the resulting injuries, and the crimes Israel committed against the health sector in the Gaza Strip. Dr Al-Bursh graduated with a bachelor’s degree in orthopaedic and joint surgery from Janš University in Romania’s Faculty of Medicine. After obtaining the Palestinian Board and the Jordanian Board, he was awarded a British fellowship

for complex fracture surgery in London. Owing to his experience, Al-Shifa Hospital had appointed him head of the orthopaedic department.

A week-long siege by the Israeli army forces culminated in their storming of Al-Shifa Medical Complex on 16 November 2023, destroying its courtyards, parts of its buildings, and medical equipment. Israeli forces also carried out arbitrary arrests, destroyed civilian property, and killed people. Patients, medical staff, and displaced individuals sheltering inside were forced to evacuate. While everyone else headed south, Dr Al-Bursh went instead to Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahia, in the North Gaza Governorate, where he was injured in an Israeli bombing. His brief stay at Kamal Adwan Hospital ended when he was forced to evacuate to Al-Awda Hospital in the Tal Al-Zaatar neighbourhood, east of the Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Strip. From there, he was detained by the Israeli army in December 2023 and held in Ofer Prison, where he was subjected to cruel torture until his death.

Following Dr Khaled Hamouda's release from Israeli prisons, he stated:



“They brought Dr Adnan Al-Bursh with four other doctors after they arrested them from Al-Awda and Al-Mamadani Hospital in Gaza. Dr Adnan was in miserable condition. He informed me that he had been badly beaten and that he had severe injuries all over his body. I helped him in using the bathroom as he had difficulty doing it by himself. After spending a day or two there, they moved him.”

Other released detainees witnessed the deaths of prisoners and detainees inside the detention centres without ever being able to identify them, as Israeli authorities turned

prisoners and detainees into numbers and prevented them from speaking to one other under the threat of torture.

Northern Gaza resident and medical equipment engineer Ismail Ibrahim Shaaban Qarmout, 33, reported the following:



“On the eighteenth day of detention, at approximately 5:00 p.m., one of the prisoners asked to see a doctor as he was suffering from breathing problems due to a heart attack. Instead of taking him to the doctor, the soldiers asked the sergeant to look after him. When the prisoner who requested to see a doctor failed to wake up at around five a.m., the soldiers asked the sergeant to wake him up. When he did, he discovered that the prisoner had passed away. We then started shouting ‘Allahu Akbar’.

However, several soldiers broke into the barracks and attacked us with dogs, batons, and stun grenades. After a half-hour of suppression, they took the deceased detainee, who was not identified.”

- **Beatings**

From the time of arrest and transfer, through the interrogation and post-interrogation periods, Israeli army soldiers systematically and severely beat all detainees. Beatings were usually carried out with hands, feet, sticks, weapons, and sharp tools. Detainees were beaten on various parts of their body, including the head, face, and buttocks. As a result of severe and prolonged beatings, detainees frequently experienced broken bones and teeth, and were left with long-term health issues and other permanent injuries.

In his testimony to the Euro-Med Monitor team, Omar Abu Mudallala said:



“I spent fifty-two days of hell in detention. In all the stages of detention and in all the sites we passed through, the beatings and assaults did not stop. The soldiers beat me severely, especially on sensitive places. We were beaten at the moment of arrest, during our transfer to the Zikim military base, and throughout the twelve days at the base and then in the Negev prison. The soldiers used sticks, metal batons, and electric batons. As a result of the severe beating, I lost my right testicle, and sustained several fractures in my chest ribs.”



Gruesome photos showing the effects of brutal torture and mistreatment endured by Palestinian prisoners inside detention centers - Source: Quds News Network - April 2024.

• Electric shock torture

According to the testimonies of former detainees—many of whom were children—they were subjected to electric shocks during army and General Security Service (Shin Bet) interrogations. The interrogators utilised specific equipment to administer electric shocks, causing the detainees excruciating pain.

In his testimony to the Euro-Med Monitor team, 15-year-old M.D., from Al-Zaytoun neighbourhood in the south of Gaza City, told the Euro-Med Monitor team:



“I was with my mother in a house in Al-Zaytoun neighbourhood, where we took shelter. On 8 December 2023, the Israeli



Palestinians in a tragic state after being released from Israeli detention camps, where they revealed being subjected to torture, electric shocks, and starvation - Al Jazeera Mubasher - December 2023.

army stormed the area and asked the men and young men via loudspeakers to come out naked and to raise their hands. I left the house with the other [males], and we were told to walk beside the soldiers next to the demolished houses until we reached a hole, in which we were held for roughly three hours. Then we got on a bus and traveled to a stone-and gravel-filled area inside Israel. They then violently beat us while tossing us onto these stones.

The soldiers then took me into a caravan for interrogation. And before the interrogation started, they put an electric device on my chest, which shocked me severely and caused me great pain, while they kept asking questions.”

• **Sexual violence and blackmail**

Most Palestinian detainees from the Gaza Strip, both men and women, were victims of acts of sexual violence; however, women and girls were particularly vulnerable to these practices, as they were threatened with rape and indecent assault, humiliating

strip searches, touching of private parts, insults, death threats, and being denied the opportunity to see their children.

Former detainee N.A., from the Mukhabarat neighbourhood, northwest of Gaza City, requested that her full name be withheld for safety reasons. In her testimony to the Euro-Med Monitor team, she said:



“My family and I took refuge in the Amr Bin Al-Aas government school in the Sheikh Radwan area. We spent twenty-four days there. My brothers came back to our house the day after we arrived with the intention of bringing blankets and mattresses, but as they got to the door, a reconnaissance plane’s missile hit them, killing two of them along with two sons of one of them. On 10 December 2023, an Israeli sniper shot and killed my third brother in his home in Sheikh Radwan.

On 24 December, tanks surrounded the school and we heard gunfire, the sounds of soldiers storming the houses next to the school, and the screams of the residents of those houses. Israeli trucks broke through the school’s wall at 10 a.m. and stormed the building, while the soldiers used the loudspeakers to summon us to the yard. After asking the women to form a line at the school, they led us to Al-Taqwa Mosque, where a soldier asked me to give my five-year-old son Sahib to the next person in line and took our ID cards.

I was questioned in the mosque about the events of 7 October. I told the soldier that I had heard about what had happened along with everyone else. He asked me what I was doing at the time, and I told him that I was getting

my kids ready for school. He also asked if I had eaten any candy that day, to which I replied, 'No.' ' Hamas killed us and opened the women's stomachs,' he told me. 'As a mother, I fear for my children, but it is not my fault,' I told him. He then asked me, 'Did you see any armed members at the school?' I told him, 'No.' Then he asked: 'Do you know if any of your relatives are Hamas members?' I answered, 'I do not know.' 'You do not want to assist us, and we will arrest you if you do not provide information,' he said. I replied, 'I have children', so he ordered my arrest.

We were sitting with our heads bent during the ride, and we kept getting hit on the heads and shoulders with every word or movement. The soldiers cursed and yelled at us to keep quiet. Approximately five hours passed during this time. One of the female soldiers pushed me as we were getting off the bus; I had my hands and feet bound, so I fell on my face, injuring my eyes, and blood was streaming from my face.

We were threatened with rape if we did not provide information about Hamas. This kept happening throughout the interrogations, and it had a terrible effect on me and the other female detainees. We were also threatened with not being able to see our children if we did not respond [to the orders and questions]. For the most of the interrogations, I and the majority of the detainees were repeatedly threatened with rape."

A man named M.W., who requested anonymity due to safety concerns, reported the following:



“They arrested me in Beit Lahia, and forced me to completely undress. They beat me severely while holding me in an open space. They raked their hands over my body. After severely beating me with rugs and rifle butts, they hung me by my legs. I was subjected to severe stress positions for 46- hours [daily]. They demanded information that I was unaware of and threatened to rape my family. They were pressuring us to support Israel, disparage specific groups and individuals, and declare that the dog that was assaulting us was ‘the crown of our head’.”

G, a 37-year-old woman who also requested anonymity for safety reasons, reported the following:



“They arrested me at the Salah al-Din Road checkpoint while [I was] being evacuated. I was led to a sand berm where I was asked questions about Hamas and the tunnels while blindfolded and being physically searched. After that, I was transferred to an open area and subsequently taken to a detention facility. They forced me to take off my clothes. Soldiers were staring and hurling insults. They provided me with nothing but pajamas and no undergarments. I was questioned multiple times while I was in custody. Before that, every time I was stripped naked, female soldiers would crowd me and put their hands on my body, while male soldiers would occasionally stare and make comments. Threats of indecent assault were made, along with severe insults that I cannot repeat.”

• Denial of health care

The majority of the cases documented by the Euro-Med Monitor team show that Israeli army personnel and even the Israeli prison administrations to which detainees are transferred wilfully deny detainees access to medical care in spite of the fact that they are in desperate need of it, as many of them suffer from torture-related injuries or have chronic illnesses. These medical issues have resulted in some of their deaths.

Thirty-five-year-old former prisoner A.S., who asked that their full name be withheld for safety reasons, testified as follows:



“After a round of torture, the soldiers said that they would take us to a doctor. We were taken into a room where a man was standing, and we were beaten terribly in front of him. I asked him to treat the wounds on my body and told him I had a respiratory allergy, but he did not reply. In contrast, the soldiers were beating and yelling at me in front of him.”

Similarly, the child M.D. said: “Despite the pain that I and the rest of the detainees were suffering from as a result of the severe torture and beating, the army refused to take us to a doctor or provide us with medical treatment. The soldiers finally gave us each one Acamol tablet for all of our pains after much pleading.”

- **Practices degrading human dignity**

In addition to causing physical harm to Palestinian detainees, Israel's systematic policy of torture and ill-treatment also aims to cause the greatest amount of psychological harm by purposefully dehumanising and humiliating them. This includes making them wear diapers, inviting Israeli officials and civilians to watch them being tortured, denying them the right to use the restroom, making them imitate the sounds of various animals, mocking them, throwing food to them, and forcing them to urinate on themselves. Detainees were sometimes made to wear transparent clothing that did not cover their genitals while being photographed. They were made to sleep on the droppings of police dogs, while being spat and urinated upon.



A photo posted by an Israeli account on platform X, showing a soldier stepping on a Palestinian with his shoe while another soldier aims his weapon at him - October 31, 2023.

Forty-one-year-old detainee A.Q., who requested that his full name be withheld for safety reasons, provided the following information to the Euro-Med Monitor team:



"I was made to remove my clothes and run through a metal detector before being allowed to enter [an area] for an interrogation. After that, I was made to wear a diaper, while being handcuffed and blindfolded. They forced me to sit

on an iron chair in a tiny room with two soldiers inside. One of my hands was tied behind the chair and the other was tied to the chair in front. My feet were also tied to the chair. Afterwards, they took off the blindfold. One of them, I believe an officer, started questioning me about my whereabouts on 7 October, the residences of my neighbours, and whether I knew any Hamas members. He grabbed my face tightly and pushed me when I denied knowing anyone from Hamas. After about five hours of questioning, they led me outside to a room with a gravel floor. During the waiting period, my hands were bound to the top of an iron bridge and my feet were barely touching the floor. I was restrained until they had completed questioning the other prisoners and took us back in the evening.”

In many cases, Israeli army personnel deliberately took photos of detainees while they were being tortured and abused.

In his testimony to the Euro-Med team, former detainee Omar Abu Madalla said:



“Soldiers in the Israeli army used to bring Israeli civilians to witness our torture and record it on their cell phones. We were beaten severely on a regular basis. Israeli citizens were recording our abuse, beatings, and humiliation while laughing, after the soldiers informed them that we were saboteurs who had murdered their relatives and raped their women on 7 October. This occurred five times while I was being held. Once, when we were blindfolded in Barkasat Zikim, one of the detainees who knew Hebrew informed us that the soldiers were interacting with Israeli civilians and asserting that we were fighters who had been detained. The Israeli army brought successive groups of Israelis to

the detention tents to watch and photograph the torture operations we were subjected to, without allowing any verbal or physical contact between us and them. I witnessed this four times because we were not blindfolded at the time.”

Similarly, Palestinian prisoners were degraded by Israeli army personnel by wearing indecent clothing, he said. Omar Abu Madalla continued:



“I was interrogated for the first time on the fourth day of detention. Prior to that, the soldiers started completely stripping me, putting me in a diaper, and presenting me to the interrogator in an extremely degrading manner. I recall that before going through one of the interrogation rounds, the soldiers at the Zikim military site stripped me and covered my private parts with a transparent robe.”

According to testimonies, the Israeli army was tossing food scraps to the detainees [who were] on the ground and asking them to pick them up with their mouths while they were handcuffed, as part of cruel treatment practices meant to offend and humiliate them.

Forty-five-year-old former prisoner Nadia Nayef Al-Helu, meanwhile, stated that after 11 days in a cage, she was subjected to physical and verbal abuse, spit upon by both male and female soldiers, and that “food was thrown at us from the ground, as if we were animals”.

Muhammad Khairy Dalil, another former prisoner, stated: “I was handcuffed and blindfolded for 14 days during my detention at Al-Sabaa Detention Centre. The food that

was served to us appeared to be leftovers from the [food given to] animals. It was thrown in front of us, and each prisoner had to struggle to get to it, as we were handcuffed.”

Female Palestinian detainees were also harassed and made fun of by Israeli army personnel. The 32-year-old former detainee N.K. said:



“I am a mother of two girls. To escape the harsh reality of Gaza and pursue a better life, my husband left me four years ago and travelled to Europe. The investigator started questioning me about my spouse and informed me that he lives in Austria and raises money for terrorist groups. I told him that I was an abandoned wife, and I didn’t speak to him for four years. He said: ‘Your husband left you because you are not beautiful, and he is not satisfied with your beauty and you do not do such and such to him (obscene words)’, so I broke down in tears.”

- **Sleep deprivation**

The majority of the former detainees the Euro-Med Monitor team spoke with described how the Israeli army deprived them of sleep during the day and frequently interrupted the few hours of sleep they did get at night. This happened in spite of their desperate need for rest after being subjected to prolonged interrogations and constant torture.

Apart from conducting nighttime inspections and suppression campaigns that involved beatings, insults, and the unleashing of military dogs on the detainees, Israeli soldiers also made noise by playing uncomfortably loud music or banging on the walls of the rooms and the barracks.

Former prisoner A.D. (57 years old) from the town of Khuza'a, east of Khan Yunis, requested anonymity due to safety concerns. A.D. testified before the Euro-Med Monitor team as follows:



"We were not permitted to take a nap or rest. I recall that on two separate occasions, special forces broke into the barracks with military dogs. The soldiers started abusing and beating us, unleashing dogs on us that mutilated our bodies, and banging on the walls with sticks to make noise in order to keep us awake and prevent us from sleeping."

- **Starvation and lack of access to food, water, and restrooms:**

Since last October, Palestinian inmates and detainees have been purposefully starved by Israeli forces, who deprive them of sufficient food and liquids. All of the prisoners who were later freed disclosed this and stated that they had lost 10s of kilograms of weight during their detention. This starvation is in addition to denying them the right to use the restroom other than once a day, and is evidence of an explicit public policy designed to violate their human dignity and degrade them by keeping them from accessing the basic necessities of life.

In his testimony to the Euro-Med Monitor team, journalist Daa Al-Kahlol said:



"During my 33-day detention, we were served mouldy bread, and I lost 20 kilograms as a result of the poor food we had."

Similarly, the 62-year-old former detainee M.Q. stated:



“All the food that was given to us was [only] to keep us from starving to death. We suffered collective punishments, such as being kept from eating for extended periods of time. [Starvation] was employed as a weapon of mass punishment. Regarding water, we were only permitted to take one hour a day to drink medium-salt water directly from the tap; on some occasions, we were forbidden from doing so or from going near the tap for extended periods of time; and eventually, we were only permitted to do so for a very brief amount of time after we strongly insisted.”

- **Refusal to let detainees shower or access personal hygiene care, supplies**

The majority of former detainees interviewed by the Euro-Med Monitor team were denied access to personal hygiene care as they were not permitted to shower or change clothes, even though some of them were held for up to 60 days. Women were disproportionately impacted by the denial of feminine necessities, such as sanitary pads, during menstruation.

Former detainee S.D., a 20-year-old resident of Jabalia Camp, north of Gaza City, requested anonymity due to safety concerns. She provided the following testimony to the Euro-Med Monitor team:



“I prayed to God that I would not get my period while I was in the detention cage after witnessing the suffering of the women who were going through their periods at that

time. There were three women who were unable to take care of their health or hygiene properly during their period, and when we asked for sanitary pads for them, the soldiers started laughing at us.”

• Arrest and torture of children:

Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip did not escape arbitrary arrest, physical and psychological torture, and inhuman treatment. From the moment of arrest and during their detention, they were exposed to these serious violations. They were separated from their families, placed in cells alongside adult detainees, subjected to beatings and physical assault, and even forced to witness the ongoing torture of their fellow detainees before their eyes.

A 12-year-old Gazan child, who Euro-Med Monitor will refer to as N.N. for their own protection, provided the following information to the team:



“On April 1, 2024, my father and I were waiting for aid [distribution] on the outskirts of Beit Hanoun. We were surprised by Israeli army jeeps coming behind us. The soldiers opened fire on us. Four bullets struck my side, legs, thighs, and back, causing me to lose consciousness. When I woke up, I found one of the soldiers ordering me to stand up. The soldiers opened fire once more as



A Palestinian child released by the Israeli army after being arrested, shot, and tortured - Photo by Hassan Asleh - April 15, 2024.

I attempted to stand up. I could not stand when I saw my blood and how serious my wound was. After that, the soldiers put me on a stretcher, got me into a jeep, and drove me to one of their military sites.

I was taken to a hospital by ambulance, where I received medical treatment. My right leg's tendons were severed, preventing me from moving, and the excruciating pain in my side was killing me. I spent the next two days in solitary confinement. They then brought me to the hospital, where I had surgery. As I was beginning to regain consciousness, an investigator approached and started questioning me about my home, how I got hurt, why I had gone to the border, and why shots were fired at me. I informed him that I had been awaiting aid supplies.

I was beaten while in the hospital. After a week of hospitalisation, I was moved to a cell with three other people who were handcuffed and blindfolded. Every day, the soldiers brought the dogs to attack us. I was extremely terrified and covered myself with a blanket in the corner. Then they would move to the adjacent rooms and attack the detainees there; I could hear them screaming. The inmates were threatened with gunfire if they protested.

They took me to the hospital two days before I was released, and after we left, they took me in an ambulance. When I got there, one of the soldiers stopped me and threatened to snipe me again, so I thought there would be no way out, but they allowed us to move again. On a different ambulance ride, I noticed other inmates who were handcuffed and blindfolded, but I was not. The soldiers hit an elderly man with their cleavers in the chest, near his heart. Then they fitted him with a breathing apparatus when we got into Gaza”

- **Prevention of the performance of religious rituals**

According to the testimonies provided by most of the former detainees, Israeli soldiers purposefully prevented them from performing religious rituals such as prayer and ablution. They were frequently forced to carry out deeds against their religious and spiritual convictions, like cursing their religion and prophets.

The 57-year-old former prisoner A.D. said, “We were not allowed to perform prayers or ablution. We were praying in secret while seated on the floor and using the Tayammum method rather than ablution.”

In the same context, the 35-year-old former detainee A.S. said, “During the duration of our incarceration, they forbade us from praying at all and made us chant offensive slogans and vulgar insults.”

5. Enforced disappearances

Since last October, Israel has been engaging in a systematic and pervasive practice of the crime of enforced disappearance against Palestinian prisoners and detainees from the Gaza Strip, affecting nearly all of those held by Israeli forces. After their arrests, Israel refuses to acknowledge that the people it detains are being deprived of any freedoms and to divulge any details about their place of detention or conditions. It keeps attorneys and the International Committee of the Red Cross from visiting or meeting with them, or even granting them access to the secret camps where the majority of those detained are being held captive.

All Palestinian prisoners and detainees from the Gaza Strip who spoke with Euro-Med Monitor were subjected to these unlawful measures, which isolated them from the

outside world, kept them outside the circle of legal protection supposedly granted to them, and denied them access to all of their fundamental rights, including the right to legal representation, since they were not permitted to see any attorneys during their incarceration. Additionally, they lost their ability to interact with any external national or international human rights organisation, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, and to ensure due process and the right to a fair trial.

Other rights of Palestinian prisoners and detainees that are severely impacted by enforced disappearances include the right to identity and recognition of legal personality; the right to freedom and security; the right not to be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment; the right to know the truth about the circumstances and cause of disappearance (in the case of their loved ones, who are left wondering where they were taken); and the right to life, given that numerous cases have come to light in which prisoners and detainees were killed inside Israeli prisons and detention centres.

There is currently almost no information available regarding these killings, and neither the Israeli authorities nor any independent party has been able to confirm or identify the circumstances surrounding these individuals' deaths. Their bodies have not yet been exhumed, their identities have not been disclosed, and their remains have not been returned, nor have their families been notified. The only information available about these killings comes from the few cases that the Israeli authorities have disclosed, as well as the information that the Israeli newspaper Haaretz uncovered during its investigation into the deaths of 27 detainees.

Forced disappearances against Palestinian detainees and prisoners in Israel are perpetrated at multiple official levels. Apart from the Israeli army and government, this crime is committed and allowed to continue with the approval of the state, as well as the

support and approval of the legal and legislative systems, the Prison Service authorities, and the Israeli police forces.

On 20 December 2023, the International Committee of the Red Cross declared that since 7 October, it had been unable to pay visits to any Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli detention facilities.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has failed to adequately address the ongoing rights violations, however, in spite of the horrifying treatment Palestinian detainees from the Gaza Strip have endured following their enforced disappearances. In her statement on 9 March 2024 about the Gaza Strip and Israel, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mirjana Spolijaric, made a brief mention of the need to treat Palestinian detainees humanely and permit them to communicate with their families. She also stressed the need of giving the International Committee access to Palestinian detainees in Israeli facilities and information about their whereabouts.

Usually, attorneys from the Palestinian government-run Prisoners and Ex-Detainees Authority are allowed to visit the prisoners. But this ministry has consistently stated in joint statements with the Palestinian Prisoners' Society that there is no information available about Gaza Strip detainees and that they are victims of forced disappearance.

On the 200th day of the attack, the Palestinian Prisoners Society and the Palestinian Prisoners' Authority declared that the Israeli occupation is still committing the crime of enforced disappearance against Gaza detainees, and that Israel will not permit legal teams to see or speak with them. They further stated that the information that is currently available is still very limited and comes from detainees who have been recently released from prisons.

According to one of the released prisoners who asked to remain anonymous:



“I was moved to multiple prisons; I am not sure to which or where, but each time involved rounds of questioning and physical beatings. I was not brought before a judge, attorney, or court during that time. I believe that everyone’s arrest, including mine, was a retaliation.”

6. Israeli legal justification for arrests

To justify depriving prisoners and detainees of their fundamental rights—such as the right to a fair trial and legal representation and the right to be held in appropriate detention conditions—and in order to disregard the prohibition against arbitrary arrests—the Israeli Knesset amended the laws governing the arrest and investigation of Palestinian prisoners and detainees. These amendments essentially violate international law. The most significant amendments are as follows:

- **The 1990 Detention Law amendment**

On 24 October 2023, the Israeli Knesset made the first amendment to Article (33) of the aforementioned law, which originally restricted the right to legal representation. Prior to the amendment, the Israeli courts had the authority to bar detainees from seeing their attorney for a maximum of 21 days. The ban period was extended to 90 days by the amendment. On 16 January 2024, a second amendment was made, extending the ban period to 180 days.

• 1996 Israeli Criminal Procedure Law Amendment

The Israeli Knesset has amended Articles (17), (59), and (62) of this law, which regulate the detention duration. As per Article (17), the detention period may be extended for a maximum of 15 days, with subsequent extensions of up to 15 days and 35 days, respectively.

According to Article (59) of the same law, a prisoner could only be held for a maximum of 75 days before being released if no indictment was filed against him. However, Article (62) of the law provided that the Supreme Court may extend the detention to 90 days, with a maximum detention period being limited to 150 days.

On 7 November 2023, the Israeli Knesset amended Article (17) of the aforementioned law, making the period of detention mandatory 45 days instead of 15 days, meaning the judge cannot shorten the period. In the second extension, the mandatory period was 45 days instead of 15 days, and the judge could shorten it.

Regarding Article (59), which stipulated that the detainee must be released if an indictment was not filed against him after (75) days of detention, it is no longer valid. This means that even if the detainee's detention period surpasses (75) days and no indictment is filed against him, he will not be released.

Article (62) of the aforementioned law, which previously granted the Supreme Court judge the power to extend detention for 90 days, and for a maximum of 150 days, was amended to give the government's judicial advisor the authority to extend detention for an unidentified period.

- **The 2002 Unlawful Combatant Law**

Article 1 of this law was amended by the Israeli Knesset on 13 October 2023, and a second amendment was made on 18 December 2023. The following additional clauses were added to these amendments:

1. The detainee is released if an arrest order is not granted within 21 days of the day of intake. Then, in compliance with the Second Amendment, it was extended to 45 days, although prior to the First and Second Amendments, it had only been seven days. If an arrest warrant is obtained, the detainee must appear before the District Court within 30 days. This period may then be extended to 75 days in accordance with the Second Amendment, even though it was only 14 days prior to the First and Second Amendments.

2. After 21 days from the date of the arrest order, the detainee may meet with his attorney. This period is then extended by the Second Amendment to 30 days; prior to the two amendments, it was only seven days.

4. The Director of Intelligence can prevent the detainee from meeting with his lawyer for a period of up to 28 days from the date of his arrest order, then extend it according to the Second Amendment to 75 days, knowing that it was 10 days before the two amendments .

5. The ban on meeting with a lawyer may be extended by the District Court for a maximum of 45 days. However, in compliance with the Second Amendment, the ban may be extended for a further 180 days; notably, it was 21 days prior to the First and Second Amendments.

The Israeli District Court, the second instance in litigation, was also given the authority by the Knesset, in compliance with the Second Amendment, to uphold the order prohibiting the selection of a lawyer without the lawyer's presence, and only in the detainee's presence when using video conferencing services. Low-ranking military personnel in the Israeli army were also authorised to issue arrest warrants by the second amendment.

- **The 1971 Prison Orders Law, Amendment No. 64**

The Prison Orders Law has been amended by the Israeli Knesset in the following ways:

The Minister of Internal Security, with the approval of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence, may declare a state of emergency in the prisons if additional detention facilities are required and detainees lack living space or a mattress. In such a case, the prison director may increase the number of beds in the room, only some of which must have mattresses .

These amendments only apply to administrative detainees, "illegal Palestinian detainees", and security detainees under criminal law. The aforementioned amendments will come into effect on 18 October 2024 and will remain in effect for 90 days . Subsequent extensions may be granted.

It should be emphasised that the detainee's living space must be four square metres, as per the law and Supreme Court rulings, and does not include the bathroom. However, the reality indicates that the living space of security detainees was three square meters before 7 October 2023. After this law was amended, the living space actually decreased by half, and in certain prisons, it is only one metre. In other prisons, there is only one mattress per all detainees in a single room .

The Israeli Knesset approved on 7 February 2024, in preliminary reading, denial of the right to legal representation for detainees from the Gaza Strip (who were arrested after 7 October) before Israeli military courts. This relates to the Public Defense Law amendment, as the draft was presented by the Chairman of the Knesset Law and Constitution Committee, Simcha Rotman, from the far-right Religious Zionism Party, along with other MKs. This supports the Israeli practice of denying detainees the right to a fair trial.

7. Legal context

The testimony provided to the Euro-Med Monitor team, along with all the data and testimonies found in other reports from international organisations and United Nations experts, demonstrate that Israel is violating international humanitarian law when it comes to Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including men, women, children, and the elderly. These crimes include, but are not limited to, unlawful imprisonment, premeditated murder, torture, inhumane treatment, sexual violence, denial of a fair trial, and enforced disappearance. These crimes call for the prosecution of those responsible, as well as the provision of justice for the victims.

Under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Israel's practice of committing crimes of torture and/or inhuman treatment—that is, attacking Palestinian prisoners and detainees (men, women, children, and the elderly) as well as assaulting their dignity and purposefully causing them great pain and suffering—amounts to committing war crimes and crimes against humanity due to being carried out as part of a systematic and widespread attack against civilians.

The killing of Palestinian detainees and prisoners inside detention centers is unlawful and may amount to willful murder and extrajudicial execution, prohibited by international

law and jurisdiction, particularly under international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international criminal law. Deliberately killing civilians is deemed a war crime and a crime against humanity according to the Rome Statute.

War crimes and/or crimes against humanity include arbitrary arrest, wrongful detention, denial of a fair trial, and persecution, all of which are forbidden by international law. International law also forbids detaining and arresting someone with the intention of depriving them of legal protection for an extended period of time, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of their liberty or to disclose any information regarding their whereabouts or fate. The Rome Statute classifies this as a crime against humanity and defines it as an enforced disappearance.

Despite being distinct, comprehensive, and stand-alone war crimes and crimes against humanity, these offences are also related to the genocide that Israel has been committing in the Gaza Strip since 7 October 2023. This is particularly relevant to acts of grave physical and/or psychological harm committed against members of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip with the intent to eradicate them as such, given that international courts' case law lists harm resulting from acts like torture, cruel or inhumane treatment, beatings, sexual violence including rape, and death threats during interrogations, as well as harm that impairs health or results in disfigurement or injury, as among the material acts that constitute the crime of genocide.

8. Recommendations

Based on the data reviewed in this report, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor demands the following from the international community:

1. Uphold its legal responsibilities under international law to pressure Israel to stop its crime of genocide and all other full-fledged crimes against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, including prisoners and detainees, since 7 October 2023, and use effective pressure tactics to compel Israel to immediately cease these crimes, and to protect Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip.
2. Call for all world nations to fulfill their international obligations and cease providing Israel with any kind of political, financial, or military support for the crimes it has committed against the civilian population in the Gaza Strip. In particular, these nations must immediately halt all arms transfers to Israel, including export permits and military assistance, or else they will be found to be complicit in and accomplices to the crimes, including genocide, that have been committed in the Gaza Strip.
3. Request that the High Contracting Parties to the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention fulfill their duties and put an end to Israel's egregious violations of Articles 146, 147, and 148 of the Convention, which includes torture and the inhumane and degrading treatment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees.
4. Pressure Israel to immediately stop the crime of enforced disappearance against Palestinian prisoners and detainees from the Gaza Strip, reveal all covert detention facilities right away, and disclose the identities of all Palestinians it is detaining from the Gaza Strip along with their whereabouts and conditions of detention, and take full

responsibility for these Palestinians' safety and well-being.

5. Pressure the Israeli authorities to release all Palestinian detainees held arbitrarily, and ensuring that if they face trial, all necessary measures are taken to ensure a fair trial.

6. Return the bodies of all Palestinian prisoners and detainees who died in Israeli jails and detention facilities.

7. Pressure Israel to stop enforcing any laws that violate the rights of Palestinian detainees and prisoners, including those laws that have recently been amended.

8. Call on the International Committee of the Red Cross to take up its responsibilities and visit Palestinian prisoners and detainees in all Israeli prisons and detention centres, verify the conditions of their detention, search for missing and forcibly disappeared people, help uncover their fate, and take public positions, including making statements, each time Israel forbids it from carrying out its mandated duties, most notably visiting Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

9. Launch an immediate, impartial, and independent international investigation into the circumstances surrounding the deaths of all Palestinian detainees and prisoners in Israeli prisons, particularly since Israel launched its historic, massive military assault on the Gaza Strip in October 2023. The investigation should also take appropriate measures to hold those responsible accountable and provide justice to the victims.

10. Collaboratively and seriously work at all levels to submit substantiated referrals to the International Criminal Court regarding crimes against Palestinian detainees and prisoners held in Israeli prisons and detention centres, particularly following 7 October of last year.

11. Pressure the International Criminal Court to finish the investigation into the situation in Palestine that has been open since 2021, make the situation in the Gaza Strip a top priority, and issue arrest warrants for everyone involved in these crimes, hold them accountable and bring them to justice.

12. Collaborative efforts should be undertaken to activate the process of universal jurisdiction for holding perpetrators of crimes against Palestinian prisoners and detainees accountable before national courts of states exercising universal jurisdiction. Since these crimes mostly constitute violations of imperative rules of international law, they are classified as serious breaches of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocol I. This should trigger universal jurisdiction, regardless of the location of the crime, the nationality of the perpetrator and/or victim, in accordance with the laws applicable in those states.

13. Calling for pressure to enable the entry of international and United Nations investigative committees into the Gaza Strip, including the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel.

14. Invite and demand the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions; and the Working Groups on Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to conduct prompt, thorough investigations into all crimes committed by the Israeli army against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, each in accordance with their respective mandates, and to interact with the victims and their families as well as provide reports on these crimes to all relevant parties in order to prepare for the work of fact-finding committees and international courts in reviewing,

probing, and holding trials regarding the Israeli crimes and justice for victims.

15. Ensure that the principles of international law are upheld by providing restitution and justice to Palestinian victims of Israeli crimes and their families. Additionally, take measures to address the harm caused by Israel's egregious crimes and violations against them.

16. Ending the root causes of Palestinian suffering and persecution over the past 76 years, and immediately working to end the Israeli occupation and settlement colonization imposed on Palestinian land, including the Gaza Strip. This includes dismantling the apartheid regime imposed against all Palestinians, ending the unlawful blockade imposed on Gaza and its residents for 17 years, and decisively intervening to support the Palestinian people's path to liberation and their exercise of their right to self-determination.



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