



**Escalating Oppression: Israel's Systematic Violations Intensify in Palestine
Post-October 7, 2023**

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A History of Violations Leading to the Inevitable Response

The Palestinian struggle and resistance have roots reaching back before October 7, 2023, originating with the Balfour Declaration in 1917. The British Mandate's promise of the Palestinian homeland to the Jewish people fueled Zionist forces' plans to forcefully expel Palestinians from their homes and claim Palestinian land solely on the grounds of being Jewish. Since 1948, Palestinians have endured dispossession and ethnic cleansing, leaving many as citizens without a genuine identity, forced to live as refugees in their own country. Presently, 2.3 million Palestinian refugees are scattered across 32 camps in the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinians continue to witness and experience the tragedies of losing their identity, culture, and land to Israeli settlers.

Since 1967 Israel has occupied the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. Human rights organizations, in particular, have seen this occupation as being marked by numerous violations against Palestinian civilians. This is an abridged list of violations: for example, demolition of homes as a form of collective punishment, alarming increase in killings, enforcing arbitrary detention, and unfair trials.

These same measures intensified in the years following the Second Intifada with the addition to; restrictions on movement caused by the checkpoints and separation barrier, expansion in Israeli settlements in those regions, military patrols, including invasions around Palestinian cities or villages where clashes with people have occurred. The Second Intifada erupted late in 2000 and is the most significant event since those violations are another critical piece. During this period, Palestinian civilians clashed violently and brutally with Israeli security forces.

The Second Intifada differed from the first in its intensity and measurements against civilians. The Israeli government's response took the form of military incursions, targeted killings, and more restrictions on movement for Palestinian people. The wall separating the West Bank from the rest of the occupied territories was also established during that time, but not before the measures taken against Palestinians by the Israeli government reached their peak. The construction of the wall was constituted as a form of illegal annexation of territory as an attempt to undermine the right of Palestinian self-determination. Thus, in December 2003 the General Assembly asked the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion on the question: What are the legal consequences arising from the construction of the wall being built by Israel? Israel tried to dispute the request and claim lack of jurisdiction of the ICJ, however, the ICJ declared the wall as a violation of international law and an issue to international peace and security. Israel ignored the

opinions and decisions of the plan as a whole. The Second Intifada also differed from previous years since Palestinians witnessed the mass reinstatement of Israeli prisons across different locations.

Gaza¹ has been subject and a target to the inhumane violations and atrocities committed by the Israeli Occupation for overall 5 wars starting from 2008. These five major years of bloodshed and aggression involving Gaza range from 2008-2009, 2012, 2014, May 2021, and the current 2023 bloodshed. With each passing year, the cruelty and acts of brutality committed by Israel only increased tenfold all across Palestine as a way or form of collective punishment. The aggression and torture within the Israeli prisons on the Palestinian prisoners after each event of resilience and resistance by the Palestinians intensified and reached beyond the violations of basic human rights. Many of the acts committed by the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian prisoners go against many of the basic rules of International Humanitarian Laws that revolve around the limitation of effects of armed conflict. The inhumane treatment inflicted upon the Palestinian prisoners violate IHL treaties such as the 1949 Geneva Convention (III) on Prisoners of War; “prisoners of war must be treated humanely at all times”. Any unlawful act or omission by the detaining power causing death or seriously endangering the health of a prisoner of war in its custody is prohibited and will be considered a serious breach of humanitarian law” (GCIII Art. 13). In addition to the violations of the Forth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilians.

Escalation of Arrests and Detentions: A Disturbing Snapshot from October to January 2024

With every event of resistance by Palestinians, the Israeli occupation uses the tactic of mass arrests and increased brutality of Palestinians prisoners since the start of the occupation. As mentioned, with time the intensity of the brutality and arrests only increases as a form of punishment and as a way to suppress the resistance with an aim to control all aspects of Palestinian lives and punishment of a whole society. This is exactly the case since the 7th of October, following the Israeli aggression against Palestinians. Since October 7th up until January 23, 2024, the number of Palestinians detained by the Israeli occupation has only increased with the total number of arrest campaigns exceeding 6220. The majority of arrests came from the Hebron governorate with the

¹ Gaza — a tiny enclave wedged between Egypt, Israel and the Mediterranean Sea.

number surpassing 1000 arrests. The arrest campaigns do not discriminate as they consist of women, children, elderly, journalists, and University students alike.

The total number of arrests among women reached 200, including those arrested from the territories occupied in 1948. The recorded number of children arrested is said to exceed 355. After October 7th, 50 journalists were arrested, with 35 still under arrest. Out of these, 20 were transferred to administrative detention. University students from all parts of the West Bank and occupied territories are another specifically targeted group by the occupation due to their involvement in student movements and active support of Palestine on social media. The student movements in Palestinian territories specifically have been declared as illegal by the occupation authorities. The Israeli occupation and Israeli “academic institutions allege that the students’ posts violate the university's disciplinary regulations by either "supporting terrorism" or "sympathizing with terror organizations”.² Oftentimes, the posts simply show solidarity with Palestine or are said to be quotes in Arabic or verses of the Quran. The recorded number of arrests of Palestinian university students up to date is more than 100 students. There is no accurate information on the numbers pertaining to Gaza university students due to the lack of information from a direct source. Palestinian parliamentary members were not exempt from this reign of arrests campaigns as 14 of them were also detained.

Due to the intensity of the torture being carried out and interrogation of the prisoners, seven detainees were reported to have died in occupation prisons after October 7th. The treatment of the prisoners that led to many of the physical sufferings and casualties are in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The violations against journalists and aimed targeting is nothing new to the occupation due to the nature of their work to document and expose the violations of human rights on Palestinians; “In 2021 alone, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor documented 16 complaints by Palestinian journalists in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. All of them said that the Israeli authorities prevented them from traveling or restricted their right to freedom of movement. However, data collected by Euro-Med Monitor indicate that the number of Palestinian journalists who are banned from traveling as a punishment for their work is estimated

² M. K.,(2023, October 23). *Israeli academic institutions persecute Palestinian students for social media posts amid offensive on Gaza*. <https://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/138577>

at dozens.”³ OHCHR is mandated to promote and protect the effective enjoyment of all human rights. This includes the right to freedom of expression, including media freedom, and other rights of journalists and media workers. Journalists are protected by Article 79 Chapter III of the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949.⁴

It is important to know that there is no accurate information on the exact number of detainees from Gaza, as there is a lack of reliable sources from the scene of the action due to inability to communicate with the prisoners and refusal by the occupation to release this information. In addition, since the start of the war, Human Rights organizations have not been able to be fully functional and operating in Gaza, thus leading to a lack of documentation of the violations and arrests of the civilians. Generally, no data has been able to be collected by any type of organization, specifically on the specificity of those who have been taken into detention. The Israeli authorities have also not disclosed any information or data even to Israeli human rights organizations.

The Israeli occupation authorities mentioned data related to the martyrdom of detainees from Gaza in the Sdeh Teman military camp in Be'er Al Sabe'. There is no further information revolving around these detainees or the locations they are being taken to other than what is reported in the article published by journalist Haggai Shizaf in the Hebrew Newspaper "Haaretz" on Monday, December 18, 2023. It is reported that “Hundreds of prisoners arrested from Gaza are being held for weeks in a camp near the city of Be'er Al Sabe', 'Sdeh Taman,' under suspicion of having ties to terrorism. Despite some prisoners reportedly passing away, the army claims to conduct examinations into the causes of their deaths.” According to the report, the prisoners in the camp span all age groups, including children and the elderly. Furthermore, restrictions and conditions of the camp imposed on them limit their freedom of movement. Another report by Haaretz published on January 2nd 2024, reveals the first image of the Gazan detainees held in Sde Teman military camp; the prisoners sleep almost unclothed and exposed to the harsh winter cold, they are constantly blindfolded and subjected to torture at almost every hour of the day. Since the ground operation, the army has arrested Gazan women, including minors, detaining them in the

³ Monitor, E.-M. H. R. (n.d.). *Punishing Journalists: Israel's restrictions on freedom of movement and travel against Palestinian journalists*. Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor. Retrieved December 24, 2023, from <https://euromedmonitor.org/en/article/4760/Punishing-Journalists:-Israel%27s-restrictions-on-freedom-of-movement-and-travel-against-Palestinian-journalists>

⁴(N.d.). Retrieved December 24, 2023, from <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/api-1977/article-79>

'Anatot' military camp near Jerusalem. The camp comprises three sections, each accommodating 200 prisoners. Furthermore, it was confirmed that those who died are not only the 7 martyrs previously announced, and there is no specific number for the martyrs from Gaza.

It should be noted that the data related to arrest cases include those still detained by the occupation and those released later. As of this day, the total number of prisoners in occupation prisons exceeded 8800 including more than 3300 administrative detainees and 661 categorized as "unlawful combatants" among Gaza detainees.

Unveiling Oppression: Israeli Occupation tactics in the Arrest of Palestinians

Following the beginning of the Israeli occupation forces military operation against Palestinians in various regions, there has been a significant increase in violations of International Human Rights Law (IHRL) and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) by the occupying authorities.

Since October 7th, the Israeli occupation forces have sharply escalated their practice of mass arresting Palestinians, including children and women. This increase spans across the Palestinian territories, including the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the 1948 occupied territories. The use of arbitrary detention, along with collective punishment through widespread arrest campaigns and extended detentions, has seen a troubling rise.

Through changes to military orders and the already pre-existing notion of the unlawful and unjust military court procedures of the Israeli government, the Israeli occupation forces are undermining and have been undermining the rights of Palestinians to fair trial guarantees and protection from torture and inhumane treatment. This has led to systematic violations against Palestinian detainees, with instances of torture and mistreatment becoming more common.

Arbitrary arrest operations have become more frequent since October 7th, with an increase in the use of force during late-night raids characterized by forceful entries, often involving the explosive breaking of household doors. Additionally, the military uses force against household members during these operations, as documented by Addameer, revealing excessive use of force, including physical assaults causing injuries to the arrested Palestinians. Arbitrary detention is a tactic used by governments in attempts to intimidate and suppress resistance and is in violation of Article 9

of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that states; “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.”⁵

Human rights organizations within the occupied Palestinian territories have recorded numerous cases of arrests targeting students and activists for their social media posts. Additionally, in Gaza, there have been dozens of arrests, though specific details and numbers regarding these detentions remain unclear. These actions, extensively and clearly documented, represent severe violations of international treaties, notably the Fourth Geneva Convention, which explicitly prohibits arbitrary arrests, the use of violence against civilians, and the ill-treatment of detainees.

Excessive use of force during the arrest operations

Since October 7th, arrests have increased, accompanied by a surge in violent tactics during the arrest operations conducted by the Israeli occupation forces. Addameer has documented hundreds of arrest cases characterized by the common factor of the excessive force used by the Israeli occupation forces. This involves the explosive breaking of household doors, shouting at the residents, intentional vandalism, and destruction of property inside the homes and physical assault to the detainees in front of their families. Furthermore, the occupying forces have used dogs in arrest operations, recording instances where these dogs intentionally attacked residents or were deliberately set loose by soldiers to harm detainees. There are documented cases where force was used to the point of causing serious injuries to prisoners during their arrests.

In an interview conducted with the mother of the detainee Bilal Dawood, who was arrested on October 16, 2023, from Dheisheh Refugee Camp in Bethlehem, this mother recounts that during the arrest operation, their house door was blown up while they were sleeping, resulting in shattered windows. Deliberate destruction of the home's furniture followed. They attacked her son in front of her, striking him with the butt of a rifle on his head, causing bleeding. The scene was horrifying, as they dragged the detainee, causing the ground to be covered in blood, and when the mother began to scream, an Israeli soldier forcefully sealed her mouth, leading to the loosening of her dentures inside her mouth and causing severe pain.

⁵ Nations, U. (n.d.). *Universal declaration of human rights*. United Nations. Retrieved December 27, 2023, from <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

The actions taken by the Israeli army blatantly violate the second paragraph of Article 2 of the Convention Against Torture, which states: "No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability, or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification for torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment."

Fatal Consequences: Deaths Resulting from Forceful Arrests

On December 5, 2023, the Israeli occupation forces initiated the arrest operation of the prisoner (Abdullah Mansara) in Qalandia refugee camp - Jerusalem. As the family heard the voice of the forces, the brother of the detainee (Mohammed Mansara) moved to open the door. However, the door exploded due to a bomb attached by the Israeli forces, prepared to detonate it. This resulted in the immediate death of Mohammed (as his body exploded) and the injury of their mother. The Israeli forces entered the house, preventing the family from approaching the son whose death was caused by the exploding door. Afterward, the occupation forces proceeded with the arrest operation as if nothing had happened and detained Abdullah.

In the context of these arbitrary and violent arrest operations, the declared state of war provides the Israeli army with the authorization to pursue and engage in various forms of violence, even resulting in fatalities. This underscores that the proclaimed state of emergency has granted the Israeli army unchecked power to mistreat and oppress Palestinians, without regard for compliance with international or humanitarian laws and regulations in the handling of detainees or during arrest operations. Thus, acting against customary international humanitarian law and the concept of proportionality that is mentioned in both the Geneva Conventions and Hague Conventions. Article 23 of Hague IV prohibits acts of violence intended to cause unnecessary suffering and emphasizes the principle of proportionality. According to Article 51(5)(b) of Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949; "an attack is disproportionate, and thus indiscriminate, if it "may be expected to cause incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, damage to civilian objects, or a combination thereof, which would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage."

Incitement by Israeli extremists Fuels Arrests of Palestinian Detainees

The establishment of a Telegram group by extremist Israelis, identified as "צ׳יידִי הנאצִים 2023" in Hebrew and "Nazi Hunters 2023" in English, constitutes a troubling breach of privacy and human rights. This group engages in reprehensible practices of doxing⁶, including sharing pictures, personal information, and the residential locations of Palestinians, a majority of whom are activists, journalists, or individuals expressing their views on Palestine through social media. These acts of cyberattack and targeting of Palestinian civilians through the use of the internet and technology violate the protocols of the Budapest Convention also known as the Convention on Cybercrime.⁷

As a result of these actions, numerous Palestinians have been detained shortly after their information was posted by the Israelis. An example is the case of S.J., as on October 24th, her photograph, along with details such as her name, residence, workplace as a journalist, Facebook profile link, and a false statement branding her as the wife of a terrorist Palestinian and a "Nazi" activist was shared on the telegram group. Shockingly, this led to S.J.'s arrest on November 5th, on charges of incitement.

The case of A.T. further highlights the egregious nature of the actions undertaken by the extremist Israeli group on Telegram. On October 30th, the group called for the arrest of "Nazi A.T." baselessly labeling her as a "terrorist activist who calls for terrorist attacks and the murder of Jews." Subsequently, on November 6th, A.T. was arrested from her house. The alarming sequence of events continued as the group, after A.T.'s arrest, doxing her house location coordinates with a photograph of the residence on the same platform along with the statement "The (T) Nazi family lives in Nabi Saleh village, It's time to bomb the Nazi houses from the air!!" not only constitutes a severe breach of privacy but also escalates the rhetoric to a dangerous level, inciting violence and threatening the safety of individuals and their properties.

These targeted actions not only threaten the privacy and safety of individuals but also directly violate their basic right to freedom of speech and expression. Such acts not only break the rights

⁶ Doxing refers to the intentional public release by a third party of personal data without consent, often with the intent to humiliate, intimidate, harass, or punish the individual concerned.

⁷ Israel joins and becomes party to the Budapest Convention in 2016

of individuals like S.J. and A.T. but also raise serious concerns about the potential negative circumstances of this targeted harassment.

Inside Israeli Prisons: A Close Look at the Living Conditions of Detained Palestinians

Isolation Intensified: Converting Individual Cells into Distinct Prisons

This occupation not only isolates prisoners from the outside world but also creates internal isolation among Palestinian prisoners. Each cell became a separate prison due to overcrowding and challenging conditions. Previously, all prisoners had a 1 to 3-hour time period known as yard time, where they could have a walk and meet other prisoners at the same section of the prison, but since October 7, they have been deprived of this opportunity. Instead, prisoners are taken out individually for only 10 minutes, and in some prisons since October 7th, there are prisons who did not all have this yard time, for over 90 days. Many of the acts committed by the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian prisoners go against the OHCHR Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners adopted in 1990 by the General Assembly, these principles state that; “All prisoners shall be treated with the respect due to their inherent dignity and value as human beings. There shall be no discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.”⁸

During lawyer visits, prisoners expressed that they no longer meet fellow prisoners and are unaware of their well-being. Furthermore, prisoners were restricted from leaving their cells within the section, which effectively transformed these rooms into isolation cells. As a form of collective punishment, all electrical appliances and tools were confiscated, along with pillows, blankets, and prisoners' clothes; violation of Article 90 which states “When taken into custody, internees shall be given all facilities to provide themselves with the necessary clothing, footwear and change of underwear, and later on, to procure further supplies if required.”⁹ According to Yazan Mansour, a

⁸ Basic principles for the treatment of prisoners | OHCHR. (n.d.). <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/basic-principles-treatment-prisoners>

⁹ Treaties, States Parties and Commentaries, Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Geneva, 12 August 1949., Article 90 - Clothing, <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gciv-1949/article-90?activeTab=undefined>

prisoner at Ofer Prison, prisoners have been wearing the same clothes for almost fifty days, which is inadequate for the extreme cold weather in December.

In these same visits to prisoners, instances were noted where windows were removed by the Israel Prison Service (Shabas), which exposed some rooms to air and rain. Given the insufficient supply of winter clothes and blankets in the rooms, these spaces become uncomfortably cold; violation of Article 85 which states “The Detaining Power is bound to take all necessary and possible measures to ensure that protected persons shall, from the outset of their internment, be accommodated in buildings or quarters which afford every possible safeguard as regards hygiene and health, and provide efficient protection against the rigours of the climate and the effects of the war.”¹⁰ This is particularly concerning as many sick prisoners require medical attention and basic living necessities like warm clothing and blankets to endure the winter weather.

Starvation Policy: Exposing the Inhumanity Faced by Palestinian Detainees

Since October 7, the prisons have transformed into arenas of intensified cruelty and brutality. No longer merely oppressive, they now serve as instruments for torturing Palestinian prisoners and exacting revenge on them through various means. The Israel Prison Service (Shabas) initiated a starvation policy, reducing the regular three daily meals for each prisoner to only two – meals that are not only meager in quantity but also of poor quality. Based on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners ‘Food’: (1) Every prisoner shall be provided by the administration at the usual hours with food of nutritional value adequate for health and strength, of wholesome quality and well prepared and served. (2) Drinking water shall be available to every prisoner whenever he needs it.¹¹

Through the multiple lawyer visits to Israeli occupation prisons, Addameer received documented information on the grim reality faced by prisoners: a mere two meals a day, consisting of a small carton of yogurt, a loaf of bread, and a handful of tomatoes for breakfast, and a minimal plate of rice with one sausage for the second meal since October 7th. Disturbingly, meals are delivered in significantly fewer numbers than the actual count of prisoners in many prisons. For instance, in

¹⁰ Treaties, States Parties and Commentaries, Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Geneva, 12 August 1949., Article 85 - Accommodation, hygiene, <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gciv-1949/article-85>

¹¹ Special rapporteur on the right to Food | Ohchr. (n.d.-b). <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-food>

numerous rooms where there are eight prisoners, only four meals were provided for breakfast and lunch, compelling inmates to share these already inadequate portions.

In a visit to the prisoner J.K., who's weight was 78 kg before the 7th of October, and now it's 55 kg, he said that meals were not only few and of poor quality but were also reported as being dirty. Some meals were contaminated with dirt and hair, and on multiple occasions, prisoners received spoiled food, including eggs and other meals.

Water refrigerators inside the prisons were halted since October 7, forcing prisoners to drink tap water, which they reported as not entirely clean and possessing a yellowish color. Instances of fungi appearing on a prisoner in Ofer Prison's Section 18 Room 6, suggest a potential deterioration in prisoners' medical health due to the poor quality of food and water.

Prisoners recounted that the rare instances when they were provided with meat or chicken instead of sausages with rice, the quality was substandard, making it inedible due to insufficient cooking. Additionally, as all tools, kitchen utensils, and personal belongings were confiscated by the occupation, prisoners were left unable to even attempt to eat the undercooked food they were served.

Fierce and Successive Attacks on Prisoners Inside Their Cells

Since October 7, relentless and brutal attacks on prisoners within their cells have persisted, marked by daily severe beatings. The specialized repression unit 'Metsada' initiated a campaign of assaults and raids into the rooms, subjecting prisoners to oppression and causing numerous injuries, irrespective of age or health condition.

Visible signs of beatings, with some detainees sporting swollen eyes and others enduring fractures in their hands or fingers were documented and noted during various lawyer visits.

During a visit documented by a lawyer, a prisoner¹² recounted an incident on November 15, 2023, when the “Nahshoun” unit¹³ stormed the prison, approximately 70 prisoners were forcibly taken

¹² Bilal Arman-24 years. Ofer Prison

¹³ “In Hebrew, the term “Nahshon” means strength, firmness and sternness. The Nahshon unit was established in 1973 under the name “Security and Instructions Unit.” Its duties include escorting “criminal and terrorist prisoners.” Having a membership of 800 combatants, the unit is attached to the IPS and acts according to the instructions and directions of the IPS, army, police and public security. Nahshon unit is among the largest and strongest Israeli military units. As declared, it was created specifically to ensure control of prisons by subduing the so-called “riots”

to buses in a brutal and overcrowded manner, lacking ventilation. This resulted in prisoners feeling suffocated. Subsequently, they were instructed to lie on the ground with closed eyes in an open area, where each prisoner was then subjected to an interrogation with the General Security Service (Shabak) officer, during which they were beaten, tied with iron chains to their backs, and Hebrew songs were played, this prisoner described a 25-minute interrogation during which he endured constant threats and physical abuse to his chest, neck, and face.

Challenging living conditions and retaliatory actions against prisoners has been very evident. Many detainees reported that, periodically since October 7th at 9 p.m., garbage is burned between sections inside the prison, generating a strong unpleasant odor and dense smoke. This deliberate act causes discomfort and suffocation for the prisoners, while the soldiers within the prison wear masks. Prisoners from various sections confirmed that Israel Prison Service entered rooms under the pretext of training soldiers to extinguish fires, resulting in prisoners being sprayed with water, leaving them wet along with their sleeping areas and mattresses.

The prisoner Mahmoud Al-Qatanani at Al-Naqab Prison documents that since October 7, a special force known as "Keter" has been forcefully entering rooms almost daily. This unit is notorious for entering rooms armed with weapons and iron rods, accompanied by muzzled dogs. Despite being muzzled, these dogs have long claws that attack and harm prisoners. The prisoners have been brutally beaten with iron rods for extended periods, resulting in numerous detainees sustaining fractures in various parts of their bodies. Exposing the prisoners to tactics of torture violate Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In addition, to article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights stating that no one shall be subjected torture.

inside prisons. Members of these special units have a distinct uniform with a tag reading "Prison Security." They include military personnel with strong bodies and deep experience and competencies, who have served in different military units in the Israeli occupying forces. They also possess technical fighting skills, including the use of different types of arms and equipment, and physical and fighting abilities required for direct confrontations. Unit members receive special training on how to oppress any "rebellion" by prisoners and detainees." *Aggressions by Special Units of the Israeli Prison Service against Prisoners and Detainees during Transfers and Raids* (Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association 2014).

Deliberate Medical Neglect

One of the policies consistently followed by the occupation within prisons is the deliberate policy of medical neglect towards detainees. This policy has been a recurring practice over the years, but since October 7, with the escalation of assaults on prisoners, including beatings and successive intrusions into their rooms by special forces, injuries and suffering inside the prisons have intensified along with the growing neglect.

Medical neglect involves preventing sick prisoners from visiting clinics, consulting with doctors, or receiving their prescribed medications. This neglect extends to those with psychological disorders. During a visit to the 40-year-old prisoner M.S., he affirmed suffering from the Bihjat disease and high blood pressure. Despite his continuous requests for medication, he has not been provided with the necessary treatment. Additionally, cancer patient and prisoner Asif al-Rifai stated that while he received chemotherapy, the dosage was inappropriate for his body, causing him to lose consciousness. Furthermore, there is a scarcity of food for patients, exacerbating their already deteriorating health conditions.” Neglect of medical needs and health violates article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that states; “The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.”

An affidavit by the prisoner Emad Al-Din Monthir Mohammed Abu Wardeh aged 35 with a heart condition experienced all the violations that are listed above during his imprisonment. His experience goes like this; *“I have a work permit for inside Israel, and I used to work in the construction sector in the city of Haifa. I would stay in a workers' accommodation in the city of Nazareth, and I would visit my family in Jabalia every few months. On the date of October 9, 2023, at 1:00 AM, in the accommodation where I live in Nazareth, myself and a group of 7 workers from Dar Rayhan and Azam... the accommodation was invaded by a group dressed in military attire, olive-green in color. They were masked and armed, numbering approximately 15 individuals. After they forced the door open, they attacked us. We told them that we were workers and we had permits, but they threw us to the ground. They started hitting us with rifles, batons, and their fists, and they stomped on our heads with their feet. The focus of the beating was on my chest, and afterwards, I felt that I had fractures in my chest because it became difficult for me to breathe. The beating was concentrated on the head and chest, along with spitting and using very offensive*

language towards us. They stayed in the accommodation for about an hour, conducting searches and causing destruction in the house. They smashed and broke things in the house, and they were constantly hitting us.

After that, they blindfolded us, and I, along with others, had a scarf placed over my entire head. It was difficult for me to breathe normally because my entire head was covered. I also have heart problems, and I asked them to remove the scarf. They refused, and one of them put his weapon to my head and threatened to kill me. They arrested me with zip ties and without shoes. I remained in this state for 20 days without clothes or shoes. Afterward, we were transferred to the police station in Nazareth, where they put us in a room and threw us on the floor. The assault on us continued after they tied us with plastic restraints from behind. They used all the tools they had to beat us. Of course, I was in and out of consciousness, and I couldn't recognize anyone or their faces or clothing. One of them started jumping forcefully on my back and hit me with a baton on my chest and with a shotgun on my head, along with banging and spitting. They also used something like a stick to beat us on our backs. One of them rubbed my face on the ground with the baton. Our hands were tied behind our backs, and we were lying face down.

We remained in this continuous state of assault until around 7-8 in the morning, when they finally took us to an interrogating policewoman. She asked about working in Israel without a permit, and we confirmed that we had permits. This was what she inquired about. After that, we were taken to a cell in the same police station in Nazareth, and we stayed there for three days. On the third day, we were presented before a judge via video call. There was a state-appointed lawyer with us whose name I do not know. The judge decided to release us, but at the police station, they informed us that they would not release us until the end of the war.

This center was just a room without drinking water. There was no change of clothes, no soap, and no bathing facilities. The cell's dimensions were 3×2 meters, and there were 14 of us in it. We slept on the floor/tiles. They would give us a small sandwich in the morning and another one at night, very small and not filling. There was only one bathroom in the cell, without curtains or mats. For three days, we slept on the floor without any covering. I remained barefoot and in handcuffs, and they did not give me a change of clothes. We did not tell the investigator and the judge that we had been assaulted. All of us needed medical treatment, and I needed it the most because I felt that my chest fractures were moving. We were never presented to any doctor or given any

treatment. The other guys also, one named Tareg Al-Aaloul, had been severely beaten on his face, and his eyes were swollen. They did not treat him either, and they rejected our request for treatment. After the third day, they transferred us with our hands tied behind our backs, our legs bound, and our eyes blindfolded. They gathered us from more than one police station because there were many workers in other police stations. They transported us in a prisoner transport bus, and of course, during the transport, there was beating, assault, and humiliation of me and all the workers.

During the transport, we were blindfolded and unconscious the entire way. Then they took us to a prison with courtyards. In the middle of each courtyard, there was a large tent with an area of about 150 square meters inside, and the courtyard was approximately 500 square meters. They placed about 230-250 people in the tent I was in. Later on, we learned that this prison was Ofer Prison. Each courtyard was surrounded by a large iron fence, approximately 5 meters tall. Between the courtyards and the fence, there was a metal mesh, and there were guards for surveillance between the fence and the mesh. We did not know what was in the other tents because they were separated from each other, but sometimes we could hear prisoners in the other tents. The tent and courtyards were made of sandy ground with a layer of gravel. They gave us blankets and mattresses, but not enough for everyone. Of course, there were no pillows. The tent could not accommodate everyone, so some slept outside in the outer courtyard. It was very cold, and there were prisoners without mattresses or blankets. It rained on us more than once, so we entered the tent and stood on our feet because there was no space to sleep inside. The tents did not have anything, so we would cover ourselves with the same blanket in groups of four. In the last five days before our release, and due to our request and the severe cold, they gave us sleeping bags, jackets, extra blankets, and they gave me shoes.

They would enter and exit prisoners on a daily basis. The tents were not clean. We received a small sandwich in the morning or at around 2 PM, and another one in the evening. They were very small sandwiches and not filling. In the last five days before we were released, they started providing us with meals only: a sandwich for breakfast and a meal for lunch or dinner. The food was bad and not filling at all. Also, in the last five days, they gave us a bar of soap and a bucket. The showers were available in the courtyard, but the water was very cold, and there was no hot water at all. They did not give us change of clothes, only jackets, so I did not shower throughout the period. In

some cases where individuals suffered from chronic illnesses, they would take them to the clinic, whether they had diabetes or heart conditions. After much delay and numerous requests, they would take them, but most of them were subjected to beatings when they went out. I did not request it out of fear of being beaten. I have heart problems and use an inhaler, but I refused to ask because they would blindfold and tie up those who went, and they would assault them. This happened in front of our eyes sometimes. Occasionally, I would take painkillers from the guys who went to the clinic just to ease the pain. In Ofer, we drank water from the bathroom. The electricity was on day and night, with bright and large floodlights. There were about 8 guards who monitored us throughout the day. We did not go to any court after arriving at Ofer. The officers would say, "You are the enemy, and we are in a state of war, there is no release." We did not know anything about Majed Zaqqout, the martyr, and we did not meet him. I heard about a worker from Dar Al-Ataar through the guys, and they said he was martyred due to torture. On Friday, November 3, 2023, at 12:00 AM, we were awakened, and they asked us to arrange the tents. They brought about 20 regular buses. Before leaving, we organized all the belongings: blankets and mattresses. Every two of us were subjected to a search, with blindfolding and handcuffing from behind, which was very painful. They put us on the buses, and we did not know where we were going from 1:00 AM until 7:00 AM. Throughout this time, I was in pain and kept telling them, "I'm in pain," but every time they shouted at me to be quiet, I stayed silent, fearing more beatings.

We arrived at the Karm Abu Salem crossing at 7:00 AM. A masked soldier came out and said, "You can walk 1 kilometer to reach the Gaza Strip." We were happy and said, "Of course." However, we ended up walking about 3 kilometers. The soldiers at the crossing told us that those who live in the central and southern regions can go, but those in the north cannot because it's a war zone. My family is in the north, and I am currently with someone I know in the southern region. Only on Friday, the first day, did I find out about my family and what happened to them. Thank God they are all fine, but the shelling is close to them. Until today, I am in one place and they are in another. Of course, the occupation stole everything I had, including money, ID, belongings, and the phone, from the beginning of the arrest and the raid, and they did not give us anything. I wrote my name on my hands so they would know who I was in case I became a martyr. I have an uncle named Mohamed Abu Samra who was arrested, and until today, nothing is known about him. Approximately, more than 2000 workers were released, but there are young people we lost, and they were not with us upon release."

Forced Isolation and Disappearance: Ongoing Crimes Against Humanity

The occupation is going through many lengths in order to hide their signs of torture and violation of HR on the Palestinian prisoners; both those taken before and after October 7th. They are committing violations of international law on many levels and further violations by preventing the prisoners from the right to counsel and prohibiting visitations by their family members. Many family members and lawyers have absolutely no information on the medical state of their loved ones or even where they are being held.

After the war, all legal procedures regarding the prisoners and prison system have changed. The Israeli authorities are making it extremely difficult for lawyers to meet with their clients in the prisons by implementing extensions and restrictions. This is done in order to isolate the detainees from the outside world. Usually families are allowed to visit their family members twice a month, however, no visitations have been allowed. Multiple lawyers have been facing many difficulties entering the prisons and meeting with the detainees. For example, one lawyer took an appointment 5 times at Ramon prison only to be left waiting for hours every time. The Israeli occupation announced each time that there was an “emergency” and made him leave. Another instance with a different lawyer, had tried 4 times at Nafha prison and was given the same excuse and told to leave after waiting for multiple hours. Majedo prison overall and in general, is the most affected in terms of limitations and restrictions put on all the lawyers coming from different organizations trying to meet with the prisoners. The restrictions and limitations on visitations are not only inflicted upon family members and lawyers as human rights organizations have also been unsuccessful and unable to visit the prisoners. A statement made by the International Committee of the Red Cross stated that “The ICRC has not been able to visit any Palestinian detainees held in Israeli places of detention since 7 October.”¹⁴

As noted by multiple lawyers from different human rights organizations, they documented the increase in frequent transferring of the prisoners. This is one of the many reasons as to why lawyers have been unable to meet with the detained as they would show up to the prison center they were told the prisoner was at only to find out once they reached that the prisoner was

¹⁴ *Debunking harmful narratives about our work in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory* (Middle East/Israel). (2023). <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/debunking-harmful-narratives-about-our-work-israel-and-palestinian-occupied-territories>

transferred to a different prison center. This is a tactic frequently being used by the Israeli occupation to hide the evidences of torture on the prisoners.

Public Assassination of Palestinian Prisoners

Since the 7th of October, the intensity of the violence committed on the arrested Palestinians has led to the death of 7 prisoners within the walls of the detention center. The most recent publicly announced death was Thaier Abu Asab, aged 38, having been killed at Al Naqab prison on November 19th, 2023. Next, Abdul Rahman Mar'ii, a 33-year-old father of four, was reported to have been killed at Megiddo Prison, and his death occurred on November 14, 2023. Then, on October 23, 2023, Omar Daraghmeh, aged 58, was reported to have been killed in Megiddo. Arafat Hamdan, 25 years old, died on October 24, 2023, just two days after being arrested in Megiddo. Majed Zaqool, a 32-year-old from Gaza, lost his life at Ofar Prison on November 6, 2023. The most recent martyr Abdul Rahman Al-Bahsh, 23 years old, killed on January 1, 2024 in Megiddo. The identity of the seventh martyr remains unknown; the only available information indicates that he is from Gaza.

With the martyrdom of the prisoner Abdul Rahman Al-Bahsh from Nablus, the number of martyrs of the prisoner movement rose to 244 since 1967, with 18 martyred prisoners whose bodies are still held by the occupation. Withholding Palestinian bodies is an action that goes against International and Humanitarian law as well as the religious and cultural beliefs of Palestinians, yet there is no accountability put on Israel. This common tactic practiced by Israel prevents Palestinians families from holding a proper burial for their deceased family member, thus, it is another form of collective punishment that violates the United Nations Convention against Torture.

The Israeli security forces use force and threaten the prisoners with being beaten in order to conceal the human rights violations that go on within the overcrowded cells. It was recorded in a statement from a prisoner who witnessed one of the murders of the six prisoners. Mahmoud Qatanani, 19 years old, held in Al Naqab prison, stands as a witness to the assassination of fellow prisoner Thaier Abu Asab. In Qatanani's testimony, he states *"On either the 18th or 19th of November 2023, around 6 o'clock in the evening, while we were 10 prisoners in Room 10 (Sector 27), the guards stormed the room and assaulted all of us. Then, the Ketir¹⁵ special unit entered,*

¹⁵ Israeli special forces inside the Naqab prison.

numbering approximately 20 individuals, including guards and unit members. The Ketir unit was armed and used iron rods to beat and suppress the prisoners. After about 5 minutes of beating and assaulting us, they left, leaving all of us covered in blood, lying on the ground. After their withdrawal, Tha'er Abu Asab (who was killed inside prison) was lying on the ground, bleeding, motionless, and without any signs of a pulse in his body, despite our calls to the guards, they disregarded us. Only a nurse arrived after 10 minutes and said, "If he dies, we'll take him." Approximately two hours later, as estimated during the guard's room check at 8 o'clock in the evening, Tha'er was moved by units and guards. Moments later, we were informed that he had passed away. The mentioned nurse was named Ala'a Ashqar, of average height with a slightly overweight build. A day after Tha'er's martyrdom, all the young men in the room, including myself, were individually interrogated by the intelligence. Initially, the officer asked me, "Did you see the guard who beat him?" I replied, "No, because they were wearing masks." Then, they asked me, along with everyone else in the room, to adopt a narrative stating that the prisoner Tha'er Abu Asab died due to an issue among us inside the room, implying that we were responsible for his death. All of us refused, and I stated that this was impossible and would not happen. On the date of 30/11/2023, around 8:00 in the morning, a guard came to the room, called my name, and informed me that I would be transferred without specifying the destination. He then tied my hands in front of me, took me out of the section, and handed me over to the Ketir unit. The Ketir unit tightened the handcuffs severely, and one of them twisted my hand, causing me pain. When I informed them about the pain, one of the members of the Ketir unit hit me twice on my face in a spot of the room "where there were no cameras." Then they escorted me to the waiting room, where there were three other detainees, and none of us knew where we were being transferred. Afterward, they individually took us into an inspection room without a camera, but it had no door; it was wide open. The inspection was done while we were naked, where I was ordered to remove all my clothes. They repeatedly ordered me to stand and sit and open my legs, while one of them hit sensitive areas with a handheld inspection device. Additionally, during the naked inspection, the inspector held a stick with a mirror at its end, and when he demanded the "gesture" from me, he placed it beneath me, all done to humiliate me. After that, they handed us over to the Nahshon unit and escorted us to the (Bosta) (transformation vehicle). They put me and three other young men in a very cramped small room at the (Bosta) and turned on the air conditioning, causing us to freeze from the cold. We stayed there for about 4 hours, and the air conditioning was on.

Throughout the journey, they intentionally made it narrower for us by opening the door's vent and spraying perfume, along with verbally abusing us. When we arrived at Ofer prison, before being taken out of the (Bosta), members of the Nahshon unit entered the (Bosta) and started hitting us on the head and using very offensive language. The Nahshon unit stayed with us until they confirmed our names, then handed us over to the guards at Ofer. There, they took our fingerprints again, and I was taken to an officer who introduced himself as an officer from the Gaza region. As soon as I entered, he said to me, "You're going to Gaza," indicating that I would be deported to Gaza. He threatened me, saying, "You'll be gone; I promise you'll be gone if you do anything." At the end of the meeting, he asked me to sign a paper written in three languages: Hebrew, Arabic, and English. I refused to sign, but he signed on my behalf with his handwriting. They kept me and 30 other young men with me in a very cold waiting room with a wet floor, keeping us there until they handed us over to Red Cross staff late at night, releasing us at around 12:00 midnight."

Another documented case involves the martyr Abed El Rahman Mar'ii, with supporting evidence from an initial and non-concluded forensic report that substantiates the assertion that the prisoners were killed due to the brutality of the beatings. The physician stated in the report "I have attended today the post-mortem examination of the late Mr El Rahman Mar'ii, who died in Megido prison on November 13, 2023. In the document from the Israeli court that was presented to me by PHRI before the examination, it was noted that there were old and new marks of bruises on the deceased's body as well as signs of illness (jaundice), all of which can contribute to death. In an additional police report that was presented to me in the Forensic Institute on the day of the post-mortem examination, it was written that "forceful restraint" was used on Mr. El Rahman Mari six days before his death. The post-mortem examination was a thorough and complete procedure, done according to the accepted rules. The body was photographed before and during the operation. Bruises were seen over the left chest, with broken ribs and chest bone underneath. External bruises were also seen on the back, buttocks, left arm and thigh, and right side of the head and neck, with no fractures underneath. There were no injuries to internal organs- the lungs, spleen, liver, and brain were found intact, and there was no internal bleeding. Unfortunately, no specific cause of death was found in the macroscopic examination, but further laboratory tests will be performed, which may eventually change this conclusion. As no signs of background disease were found, and based on his history as a healthy young person, one may assume that the violence that he suffered, manifested by the multiple bruises and multiple severe rib fractures, contributed to his death. A

cardiac arrhythmia (irregular pulse) or even a fresh myocardial infarction (a heart attack) can result from such injuries without leaving any physical evidence.”

The Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs Commission and the Palestinian Prisoner’s Society (PPS) reported that the Israeli occupation court decided to open an immediate investigation into the case of the martyrdom of the 4 prisoners; Abed El Rahman Mar’ii¹⁶, Thaier Abu Asab, Abdul Rahman Al-Bahsh¹⁷, Omar Daraghme. However, based on the historical data and precedents from prior years and cases handled by various organizations, it could be observed that 99 out of 100 initiated cases investigated by the Israeli court are ultimately closed citing insufficient evidence. Unfortunately, this trend indicates a lack of accountability, as there are no repercussions or punitive measures imposed on the alleged perpetrators; “Years of experience have shown that Palestinian victims stand a slim chance of seeing justice done and that the chance that Israelis be held to account for their actions is similarly slim.”¹⁸ In this context, the Commission and the Club emphasized that seeking an investigation into the circumstances of their martyrdom does not mean that they expect any justice from the occupation courts and we are still waiting on the rulings of the court.

The first court session pertaining to the investigations into the deaths of the detainees was held on the 15th of January. During this session, it was stated that the evidence and indications revolving around the beatings of the prisoner Abed El Rahman Mar’ii conclusively indicate that he was executed through brutal and savage beatings by the police of the prison administration on November 7, 2023. The Prisoners’ Affairs Authority revealed that since November 7, and after the initial examination, despite the prison clinic's knowledge that the beating he endured caused lung damage, until his martyrdom on the thirteenth, he was not reexamined medically, and he did not receive treatments and medications.

¹⁶ *Israeli Court to Open Investigation into Death of Palestinian Detainee ...*, 11 Dec. 2023, <https://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/140017>

¹⁷ *Israeli Court to Open Investigation to Look into Circumstances Behind ...*, 2 Jan. 2024, <https://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/140442>

¹⁸ “No Accountability.” *B’TSELEM*, 11 Nov. 2017, www.btselem.org/accountability.

Gender Based Violence and Harassment of Palestinian Detainees

Strip Search

The Israeli Occupation is very well aware of the stigma around Palestinian men and women and the importance to their body's integrity and honor. This is especially important in Arab societies. This is worth mentioning due to the types of threats targeted especially at women detainees and prisoners. Many victim testimonies coming from women include aspects of sexual harassment, threatening of rape, and forceful strip searching of women inside the prisons and even often in front of their own children during house invasions. These are all methods of coercion and carried out to make the women feel powerless and give the occupation the sense of control of the women and their body. It is abuse of power and authority and playing on the victims' fear. Strip searches breach the principle of Article 10(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which states; "All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person."¹⁹

Victim statements from both men and women as documented include disturbing cases of sexual harassment while being detained by the Israeli forces. O.J., a male prisoner from Jerusalem in prison Ofar, recalled during an interview details of the strip search he was subjected to. He relayed that during the strip search, the occupation officers caressed his private parts repeatedly with the excuse of a thorough search. They would make him sit and stand multiple times while being nude. In addition, while he was nude and undergoing the search, the room he was kept in had windows with no glass protection, thus, allowing the cold wind to enter the room.

Another victim statement by a female detainee, H.H. from Jerusalem, states that the Israeli occupation forces broke down her house door at 2 am and entered her room and surrounded her bed while she was asleep. She yelled out and asked to allow her to cover herself and her hair with the hijab and abaya; the forces denied this request. "H.H.", her daughter, and her newborn 2-week-old granddaughter were alone at the house and fully surrounded by all male Israeli forces without a single female soldier being present. They demanded from H.H.'s daughter to strip the baby naked in order to search the baby for H.H.'s phone. They also demanded that H.H.'s daughter strip naked in order for them to search her too. Her daughter immediately refused and demanded they bring in

¹⁹ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights | Ohchr. (n.d.-b). <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>

female soldiers if they wanted that done. The soldiers refused and threatened her with tasing her. During all these atrocious actions, H.H., the mother, was being cursed at and spat at on her face repeatedly. One of the soldiers got face to face with her and spat out one big spot thus covering her entire face and glasses with saliva. She recalls that the scent was very bad and asked to wash her face to which they refused. The soldiers continued to harass H.H. and rip out pages of the Holy Quran. They also began going through H.H.'s personal belongings such as her undergarments and passing them around while laughing. Next, the soldier whispered in her ear threats of sexual harassment in Arabic. They beat her on every part of her body especially her face while both her hands and feet were tied. She was then transferred to the interrogation center where she was then taken to an interrogation room and threatened by a soldier with rape from "the front and the back."

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) recognizes forms of sexual violence, such as rape, as distinct war crimes and crimes against humanity; Article 7(1) of the ICC lists "Rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity." These acts of forcing men and women to strip naked and inappropriately touch them under the excuse of security searching them is done with intent to embarrass and sexually harass Palestinian men and women.

Children Stripped of their Innocence:

The violence and barbaric acts of the Israeli occupation has no age limit and does not spare anyone, even the children. The necessity to guarantee children's overall growth, well-being, and dignity, as well as their vulnerability, is the root of international law's responsibility to protect children. Due to their age and dependence, children are more vulnerable to discrimination, exploitation, and abuse. International legal frameworks that emphasize the need of giving children extra protection and care to keep them safe include the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Article 6(1)(2) of the CRC states; "(1) States Parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life. (2) States Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child." These safety precautions are based on the idea that providing children with a secure and caring environment is not only morally required, but also essential to the stability and development of communities in the future. The international community seeks to provide a foundation where children can grow and thrive free from violence, exploitation, and neglect by establishing legal norms and standards for the protection of children.

The dedication to creating a world where children's rights are prioritized and they have the chance to realize their full potential and make valuable contributions to society is reflected in the protection of children under international law.

W.M., 17 years old, recounts a harrowing experience where *“On 30/10/2023, the Israeli forces entered and hung the Israeli flag in the section. When I left for the courtyard at 10:00, I asked one of the young men in the section to get it and give it to me, and I took it and burned it in the courtyard. Apparently, they saw me on the courtyard camera, and we were 12 young men. After that, about 100 soldiers from all units present in the prison stormed the courtyard, armed with batons, gas, and four dogs with muzzles, and one without a muzzle held by a soldier. Initially, they released the muzzled dogs on us. One of the dogs attacked me and scratched my body with its claws. Then the units attacked us and began hitting us with batons on the head and body. We tried to protect each other and shield the younger ones among us, but the number of soldiers above us was overwhelming. They hit me with a baton on my head from below (between the head and neck). After that, I didn't feel anything and fell unconscious; they were on top of me and continued to beat me. Some of the young men were bleeding from their noses, some had broken teeth, and most had open wounds on their heads. Everyone was bleeding, and the blood on the ground was indescribable due to the beatings. Then they tied us from behind and lined us up in the courtyard, pulling us out one by one like a queue. They left me as the last one because I had burned the flag and placed a flag in my hand, which I threw on the ground. They attacked me again, beat me, then tied the flag to my hand, raised my hand, and made me walk while holding my hand up. They made us walk on the bridge to the second floor, about 10 meters, with all units on the sides, hitting every young man passing by. At the door, there were three very tall and bulky soldiers, I believe from the Duvduban special unit. When I reached them, they threw me on the ground, put the protective shield over me, and started trampling on it over me. This beating process lasted for about an hour. They took us to "Al-Amtanah," which we refer to as "the epic." When we entered, it was all blood, and the floor was barely visible due to being soaked in blood. We stayed there for about two hours during which the units took turns beating us inside "Al-Amtanah," and of course, we were still tied up. After these two hours, a unit entered and grabbed us by the handcuffs, pulling us from behind, so we were walking backward, and they took us to a room about a meter and a little more in size, which we call "the coffin" because it resembled a grave. There were 12 of us piled on top of each*

other, sleeping on top of each other, and we remained in there for approximately two and a half days without food or water. This room only had an opening the size of a palm, sometimes the guards would open it and spray gas inside, leaving the effects of the gas for about two hours. We would scream and yell from the gas, as there was no other outlet. One of the young men had a watch in his pocket, and we would check the time occasionally. After that, they moved us to a room measuring 3 meters by 3 meters, and we stayed there until 7/11. There was nothing in it except very thin mattresses and blankets. There was a vent in the door, and they would operate fans through it towards us, making us feel very cold. The food was the same as in the sections but slightly less "Of course, the young men whose heads were injured were not treated; none of them were taken to the clinic, and they did not provide any sterilization for the wounds or even painkillers. Even I remained dizzy for a while after some of the beatings. After 7/11, they returned us to the section, and of course, they put us in the cell with our heads downwards towards the ground, almost reaching the floor. When we arrived at the rooms, the situation was miserable, and there was nothing in them. They removed the chairs, lockers, slippers, leaving only the mattresses and thin blankets. The rooms became overcrowded with detainees, to the extent that they removed the bulbs, leaving only one dim light in each room with a mesh cover. This situation has remained the same until now. As soon as we entered the rooms, one of the young men said to me, "We thought you were dead." I asked them what had happened in the section, and he told me that they attacked the section on 30/10, took everything away leaving the section without any organization. There was a young man with us who suffered from diabetes. I don't know if they provided him with his medications because he was in another room. Whenever someone fell ill, and we screamed at them to bring medicine and said that he might die, the wardens would come and say, "Let him die; that's what we want.""

J.K., 18 years old and held at Naqab prison, endured a distressing incident wherein he was subjected to a strip search and photographed naked. Throughout this degrading process, the soldiers overseeing the search were audibly amused. J.K., feeling terrified, felt compelled to comply with the intrusive photos as the soldiers wielded metal batons and menacingly threatened physical harm. Regrettably, the threats materialized as they later beat him. The assault included strikes and kicks to his private parts, and whenever J.K. attempted to shield his genitals or close his legs, the soldiers forcibly opened his legs, accompanied by repeated aggressive commands.

This ordeal highlights the severe and dehumanizing treatment faced by individuals like J.K. in detention.

Exploring the Varied Forms of Collective Punishment Against Palestinians

Administrative Detention as a Punishment Against the Palestinian Prisoners and their Family

Administrative detention is a procedure under which detainees are held without charge or trial. No charges are filed, and there is no intention of bringing the detainee to trial. In accordance with the detention order, a detainee is given a specific term of detention. On or before the expiry of the term, the detention order is frequently renewed. This process can be continued indefinitely. For decades, Israeli authorities have employed arbitrary administrative detention as a policy of suppression and control over Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories. Administrative detention has been commonly used by repressive regimes to circumvent the legal process and to hinder access by political dissidents to the protection that they should be entitled to under the law. The number of administrative detainees by the end of 2023 is the highest since the 1987 uprising. The occupation resorts to arresting hundreds of Palestinians under the pretext of administrative detention without presenting charges or indictments, citing what they term as a "secret file." This deprives detainees of their right to defend themselves and denies them the minimum guarantees of fair trials. Examining Israel's use of administrative detention reveals a clear violation of both international humanitarian law and international human rights law. To use such detention, there must be a public emergency that threatens the life of the nation, and detention can only be ordered on an individual, case-by-case basis without discrimination of any kind (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9). The Israeli authorities persistently and systematically utilize administrative detention often employing it as the first and last option to suppress and control Palestinians. Thus, regardless of what happened on October 7th, the use of arbitrary detention was always implemented no matter the reason. Recently, and since the beginning of this year, there has been an intensified use of administrative detention, with a total of 5,500 orders issued, including new and renewed orders. This marks the highest number in decades compared to the brief periods of previous arrests, not witnessed since the first Palestinian uprising. Before October 7, the number of administrative detainees was around 1,320. However, with the onset of

the Israeli aggression on October 7, the number of administrative detainees has surged to approximately 3290, including about 32 children, and more than 10 women. With the escalation of Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people in all areas, administrative detention has targeted various age groups and demographics. The broad campaigns by the occupation have affected journalists, released prisoners, activists, the elderly, children, and women. Out of over 6220 detainees since October 7, the majority have been placed under administrative detention. Notably, the occupation renewed administrative detention orders for previously detained individuals who had completed their detention during the ongoing aggression. Historically, during invasions of Gaza and other incursions, the occupation extensively employs administrative detention as a means to detain a large number of Palestinians in prisons, preventing them from engaging in any form of resistance. Looking back, during the 2002 Al-Aqsa Intifada, the number of administrative detainees reached around 2,500 within just two months, reflecting the regular use of mass arrests by Israeli authorities during uprisings or aggressions. Similarly, during the 2014 ground invasion in Gaza, Israeli forces carried out widespread arrest campaigns in the West Bank, detaining over 1,500 individuals, with around 500 subjected to arbitrary administrative detention. This underscores the occupation's use of administrative detention as a policy to silence the voices of Palestinians. In addition to that fact, they use this tactic to increase the number of prisoners in order to negotiate a better deal in the exchange of prisoners.

Legal Maneuvering: Israel's Exploitation of Emergency Laws and Amendments in the Persecution of Palestinians

Israel has been known to take loopholes to avoid abiding by international humanitarian laws and even their own laws when it comes to persecuting Palestinians. This is due to the fact that Israel has been in a constant “state of emergency” since its establishment in 1948. However, since Israel’s declaration of “state of emergency” after October 7, 2023, there has been a series of changes in many of the legal amendments related to Palestinian Prisoners. These legal and judicial amendments, coupled with military orders, represent blatant violations of both international humanitarian law and international human rights law, which establish the legal framework applicable in the occupied Palestinian territories. Nevertheless, the civil laws enforced by the occupying authority disregard international standards and specific treaties designed to safeguard

the dignity and fundamental rights of detainees. These laws and military orders constitute integral components of the colonial and apartheid system implemented by the occupying state. They serve as pivotal instruments employed in extensive suppression operations against the Palestinian people across various locations. The judicial system, across its diverse levels and branches, assumes a prominent role in legitimizing and justifying discriminatory practices against Palestinians, whether they are citizens of the state (Palestinians of 1948) or individuals under occupation (in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip since 1967). The government's proclamation of a special state of emergency on October 8, 2023, constituted the legal foundation for all subsequent modifications and actions.

As documented throughout the report above, since October 7, 2023, there has been a legal push to expand the powers of arrests, prolong the duration of interrogations, restrict access to lawyers, and impose harsher penalties.

Since 2005, the occupying authorities have been dealing with detainees from the Gaza Strip under the "Unlawful Combatant Law, 2002" and other laws that permit the trial of Palestinians before the civil courts of the occupying state. The "Unlawful Combatant Law" is similar to administrative detention in the sense that it allows for the arrest of individuals based on undisclosed evidence and without clear charges, with an indefinite duration. On October 26, 2023, the government issued "Emergency Orders" to deal with "Unlawful combatants," allowing an officer of lower rank than the IOF Chief of Staff to issue arrest warrants, facilitating the process of issuing arrest orders.

Additionally, the deadline for issuing an arrest order has been extended several times, and judicial review can take place after 75 days from the arrest, rather than the previous 14 days.²⁰ This implies, of course, that a person may be held without charge or trial for up to 75 days before a judge or magistrate decides whether or not the arrest was lawful. In addition, the individual may be prevented from seeing their attorney for a period of 30 days, and it is possible that this prohibition might be extended for a further 180 days.²¹ This policy is regarded as a type of legally sanctioned enforced disappearance of captives.

²⁰ On the 18th December 2023, the Knesset issued the law of "Unlawful combatant" (amendment no. 4 temporary regulations/ iron sword) 2023. Article 2(3)(4).

²¹ Ibid. 23; Article 2 (4)(5)(c).

The amendments also affected the procedures for detainees from Gaza, who were interrogated under the "Criminal Procedures Law (Enforcement Powers - Arrests), 1996," and the "Counterterrorism Law, 2016." These laws defined the investigation period before filing charges for 35 days, with the judge having the authority to extend the detention for an additional 20 days.²² However, on November 7, 2023, new amendments were issued, allowing the detention of the suspect for 45 days, renewable for an additional 45 days²³, with the government having previously amended the "Arrests Law, 1996" to prevent the detainee from meeting his lawyer for a period of up to 90 days. Which was amended another time to be 180 days.²⁴

Upon announcing the "special state of emergency," the occupied areas' military commander promptly modified the military orders to enable the functioning of military courts. This involved giving the occupying troops the legal means to conduct massive campaigns of arrests and changing the terms and places of incarceration in order to hold more people, even in cases where their treatment was inhumane and violated their basic rights. The first amendment came through "Military Order No. 2141," announcing sessions for extending detention and judicial review for administrative detention orders through video conferencing (Zoom). All proceedings, including filing charges, were conducted through this method. This order was later modified to include sessions for filing charges and opening trials via video conferencing, amended through "Order No. 2151" on October 24, 2023.²⁵

Minister of Security, Yoav Gallant, declared the "Sdeh Teman" (Yemen Field) military camp as a detention facility for those considered illegal, starting from October 8, 2023, for a duration of 10 weeks. The camp, located near Be'er Al Sabe', has not been allowed to be visited by the International Committee of the Red Cross or lawyers, making it unclear how many prisoners are held there, under what conditions, and whether they are combatants, civilians, or workers present in the Palestinian territories on October 7, 2023. Hundreds of civilians and over 4,000 workers were detained illegally without being presented to any court, following which more than

²²in accordance with Article 47 of the "Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2016."

²³ Security Regulations (iron sword) (Extension of detention of a suspected person on security offenses)2023. Article 2(1)(a)(a,b).

²⁴ On the 16th of Jan, 2024. Law to amend and extend the security regulation (iron sword)(the lawyer meeting of a detainee suspected of security offense) Article 2(c) (1)(2)(3)(d).

²⁵ "Order No. 2141," regarding holding sessions via video conferencing involving detainees and those held in a state of emergency (temporary instructions)(Judea and Samaria), 2023.

3,000 of them were deported to Gaza after three weeks. It is unknown how many “unlawful combatants” from Gaza have been imprisoned as of yet, and visiting them has not been permitted.

The measures, especially those related to sentencing, aim to target activists and journalists who dare to express their opinions. This includes students and any individual in the Palestinian community. By imposing intimidation and control, the occupying authority has modified penalties for offenses related to incitement and supporting an "antagonistic organization." The amendment specifically stipulates that the prison term should not be less than half of the actual duration, and this modification remains in effect until the beginning of the next year.²⁶

To complete the system of oppression and control on Palestinian prisoners, amendments were made to the laws of the Prison Authority in the occupying state, in order to legitimize the ability to accommodate thousands of new detainees and hold them in harsh and humiliating conditions that undermine their dignity. On October 18, 2023, the "Prison Authority Orders Amendment Law"²⁷ was passed, giving the "National Security Minister," who is well-known for his animosity against Palestinian inmates, the power to proclaim a state of detention emergency. This state permits the incarceration of inmates without providing adequate sleeping quarters, resulting in overcrowding in detention facilities that do not adhere to the proper space requirements that the Israeli Supreme Court had previously mandated.

The "Emergency Instructions"²⁸ were introduced to replace the detention period with the aim of extending the issuance of an administrative detention order from 72 hours to 144 hours for all. If the detainee is in custody for the purpose of filing an indictment or investigation and the judge decides to release him, then the military prosecution can request his detention for 144 hours to examine the possibility of issuing an administrative detention order. If such order is issued, this amendment mandates bringing the detainee to the judicial review session within 12 days, as opposed to the prior 8-day period.

Without a robust accountability mechanism for the prolonged history of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the occupying state against Palestinian prisoners and

²⁶ “Order Regarding the Intensification of Penalties for Incitement Violations and Support for an Antagonistic Organization” (Iron Swords) (Temporary Instructions), (Judea and Samaria), Number 2153, issued on October 27, 2023.

²⁷ "Amendment Law for 'Prison Service Orders' (Number 64 - Temporary Instructions - Iron Swords) - State of Emergency Detention, 2023."

²⁸ According to the "Order Regarding the Extension of Administrative Detention Periods" (Iron Swords) Temporary Instructions (Judea and Samaria) Number 2148, issued on October 20, 2023.

detainees, it will persist in employing legal measures as instruments of repression, control, and torture. This approach ignores international norms and agreements aimed at safeguarding the dignity and essential rights of detainees. Holding those accountable, through legal prosecution or imposing sanctions on the state, and dismantling the apartheid system, is crucial to putting an end to these reprehensible actions.