

## Arrests and Prisons: A Continuation of Genocidal Acts 2024

### Introduction



Over the past year, Israeli forces have engaged in a series of systematic crimes and human rights abuses, which intensified dramatically and unprecedentedly after October 7 and persisted throughout 2024. These actions are part of a long-standing history of atrocities and crimes against the Palestinian people. The genocidal campaign launched by the occupying state in the Gaza Strip has aimed to annihilate its population, obliterate all aspects of life, and make the area uninhabitable. In pursuit of this objective, the Israeli forces have perpetrated numerous crimes against civilians, including extrajudicial killings and assaults on individuals, infrastructure, schools, and hospitals, all while enjoying international impunity. Furthermore, arrests have been marred by severe violations, such as field interrogations, torture, and detention under harsh conditions, stripping prisoners of their fundamental rights and subjecting them to cruel and degrading treatment in central prisons and army detention camps.

The crime of genocide has profoundly affected all Palestinians nationwide, as the occupying forces have ramped up their violations across multiple regions of the West Bank and the 1948 occupied territory. Military operations have surged, particularly in areas like Nour Shams Camp in Tulkarm and Jenin Camp, where the number of citizens arrested during single raids has exceeded 70. The level of violence and repression has escalated dramatically, with an alarming rise in the number of martyrs due to indiscriminate gunfire and bombings targeting civilians, leading to tragic losses. The situation has worsened with the increased arrest of the wounded.

This year, arrests have taken on a more aggressive form. Despite the heightened tensions in late 2023, the occupying state has not only maintained its approach but has intensified it, indiscriminately targeting all segments of society. Journalists, students, teachers, and community leaders have been particularly affected, with the state employing harsh repressive measures, especially in Jerusalem and the 1948 occupied territory. House arrests have been imposed on artists, journalists, and lawyers simply for voicing their opinions or participating in peaceful protests against the genocide in Gaza. This oppressive policy has also extended to children across various cities, with Jerusalem being especially impacted.

For years, the Israeli occupation forces have relentlessly pursued a systematic approach of collective punishment against Palestinians. This includes the abhorrent practice of hostage-taking, which specifically targets vulnerable groups such as women, especially pregnant women and mothers, children, and the elderly. The use of human shields has emerged as a tactic employed by the Israeli army and its special forces to attack civilians. Furthermore, the occupying state continues to implement one of the most egregious forms of collective punishment against Palestinian prisoners and their families: the demolition of homes, which is unjustly justified on the grounds of security. This act serves as an additional punitive measure alongside the detention of prisoners, effectively inflicting a double

punishment on both the prisoners and their families. In 2024 alone, numerous homes belonging to prisoners were affected by this policy.

Throughout this year, the Israeli occupation forces arrested around 8,800 Palestinians, including 266 women, with many of these arrests occurring in the occupied territory after October 7. The number of children arrested reached approximately 700. Following October 7, the total arrests in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, soared to 14,300,<sup>1</sup> comprising 1,055 children and 450 women, including those detained from the 1948 occupied territory.<sup>2</sup> January 2024 marked a peak in arrests within the West Bank, with 1,236 individuals detained, including the highest recorded numbers of women and children at 32 and 73 arrests, respectively.



As of December 2024, the total number of prisoners held in Israeli prisons stood at 10,300, which included 89 female prisoners in Damon Prison. Unfortunately, precise information regarding the remaining female detainees from the Gaza Strip held in military camps remains unavailable. The count of administrative detainees reached 3,428, with approximately 100 being children, while those classified by the Israeli authorities as unlawful combatants totaled 1,772. This figure reflects only those prisoners acknowledged by the Israel Prison Service (IPS), and it is important to note that it does not encompass all detainees from the Gaza Strip who are held in facilities associated with the Israeli military administration.

Furthermore, this count excludes all arrests made by the Israeli forces against Gaza residents following October 7. These arrests involved resistance fighters whom the occupying state alleges were involved in the events of that day, as well as civilians detained from designated 'safe passages,' military checkpoints, and shelters. Additionally, workers from the 1948 occupied territory, who were present with work or medical treatment permits, were also detained.

Initially, all prisoners from the Gaza Strip were unlawfully transferred to military camps. The Israeli army has prominently utilized camps such as Sde Teiman near Ber El Sbe', Anatot near Jerusalem, and Ofer in Ramallah since the onset of the genocide. Subsequently, detainees from Gaza were moved to another facility, which the Israeli authorities have since renamed 'Naftali.' Since the beginning of the genocide, a significant number of citizens have been reported missing, with some lost under rubble, executed in the field within Gaza, and buried in mass graves, while others have been arrested.

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<sup>1</sup> This figure excludes the thousands of arrests taking place in Gaza.

<sup>2</sup> A collaborative report from prisoners' rights organizations titled 'The Deadliest Year in the History of the National Prisoners' Movement.' 31 December 2024. <https://www.ppsmo.ps/home/studies/16832?culture=ar-SA>



The occupying state has consistently refused to provide accurate information regarding the number of detainees, their detention conditions, or their identities. Official organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), have been barred from visiting these detainees. This enforced disappearance has persisted for over six months, commencing on October 7. It is noteworthy that lawyers were only able to conduct their first visits to Gaza detainees in April and May, despite the ongoing prohibition on the ICRC from visiting detainees up to the time of this report.

As the situation evolved and the brutality of the occupying forces intensified outside the prisons, a similar transformation unfolded within their walls. Inmates faced dire conditions marked by starvation, overcrowding, excessive force, solitary confinement, and the denial of family visits. While these inhumane practices are not new, they escalated dramatically after October 7, as the IPS sought to break the prisoners' spirits by stripping them of their fundamental rights.

The physical state of the Gaza detainees bears testament to the torture they endured across various prisons and detention camps, where they were subjected to excruciating positions—forced to kneel or squat for hours, often handcuffed and blindfolded for up to 16 hours a day. Daily life for these prisoners became a nightmare, characterized by brutal beatings and oppression, particularly as the genocide unfolded. Special units routinely broke into prisoner sections, inflicting violence that resulted in numerous injuries among the inmates.

Throughout this year, torture, ill-treatment, and humiliation dominated the environment. Tragically, 54 detainees lost their lives from the start to the end of the year, with many succumbing to torture, assaults from repression units, or medical negligence. This figure, sourced from human rights organizations, only accounts for those whose identities have been revealed, indicating that the true toll is likely much higher, as the Israeli authorities continue to conceal vital information.

Throughout the year, medical violations have surged, particularly in central prisons and detention facilities, where the IPS and military camp administrations have systematically denied prisoners essential medical care for their illnesses and injuries. Since the onset of the war, all inmates have been barred from accessing prison clinics or outside hospitals, with hospital visits permitted only in life-threatening situations. Many prisoners have been stripped of vital medications that were either supplied by their families or the prison system itself. This lack of medical attention, combined with unsanitary living conditions, has led to a significant outbreak of infectious skin diseases across all prisons and detention centers.





Despite the alarming rise in these health issues, the IPS and military camp authorities have failed to implement necessary measures to curb the spread of these diseases, such as providing ointments or isolating infected prisoners from the healthy ones. Even with over half of the prison population suffering from these ailments, the Israeli authorities have continued to withhold adequate treatment, particularly in certain facilities that have outright refused to provide care.

Moreover, amidst these dire conditions, members of the Israeli Knesset have devoted their efforts to passing legislation that not only targets prisoners but also extends to their families and anyone who voices support for the resistance. Since the beginning of the year, the Knesset has approved more than 30 laws, some of which threaten to expel prisoners and their families from the occupied territory if the prisoner is involved in resistance activities, while others impose actual imprisonment on children as young as 14. Additional laws have obstructed the operations of UNRWA, with other laws that were extended concerning the state of emergency declared in Israel after October 7. These laws restrict prisoners' access to legal counsel, permit overcrowding in detention facilities, and allow trial sessions to be conducted via videoconferencing. Such regulations have a detrimental and direct impact on prisoners held in Israeli prisons and detention camps.

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association publishes this annual report to document the violations faced by Palestinian prisoners from the moment of their arrest, through their transfer and interrogation, and during their time in Israeli detention. This report aims to shed light on the conditions within Israeli prisons, the type of abuses endured by prisoners, and the extent to which the Israeli policies contravene international laws and agreements.

Employing an analytical and descriptive approach, this report is grounded in the findings of Addameer's Monitoring and Documentation Department, which has conducted field research and gathered testimonies from released prisoners and their families, as well as from lawyers who have visited various Israeli prisons and detention camps. This report is part of Addameer's ongoing commitment to advocate for the release of all prisoners. Until this objective is realized, Addameer will persist in its efforts, collaborating with both international and local human rights organizations to ensure that all prisoners are afforded their rights as outlined in international humanitarian and human rights law.

This report serves as a vital instrument for documenting the ongoing violations against the prisoners' movement and continuously monitoring prison conditions. It plays a crucial role in Addameer's mission to reveal and challenge the oppressive practices of the Israeli occupation, including the mistreatment of prisoners and the discriminatory laws enacted by the Knesset that affect both prisoners and the broader rights of the Palestinian people.

## Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Central Prisons



The situation for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli central prisons has deteriorated significantly since October 7, marked by a troubling increase in serious violations of international law, driven by directives from the Israeli political leadership. Minister Ben-Gvir, who oversees the Israeli Prison Service (IPS), has openly declared his intention to worsen the conditions for what he labels 'terrorists' and to minimize their rights.<sup>3</sup> His statements, particularly after October 7, have underscored the harsh realities within Israeli prisons, where oppressive policies have become uniform across facilities, reflecting a systematic approach to collective punishment that constitutes war crimes and crimes against humanity as defined by the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The IPS has enforced total isolation on Palestinian prisoners, denying them family visits and legal consultations with their attorneys for over six months. Initially, lawyer visits were permitted only in early April and May for prisoners from the Gaza Strip. Although West Bank prisoners also faced a temporary ban on lawyer visits at the onset of the war, their restrictions were not as prolonged as those affecting Gaza prisoners. Currently, family visits remain entirely prohibited for all inmates.

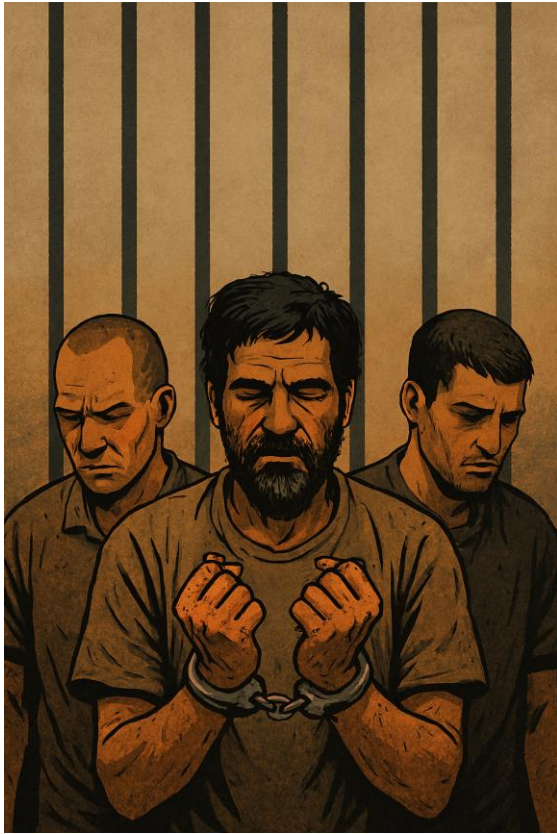
Furthermore, the ICRC, the recognized international organization responsible for prisoner visitations and welfare, has been barred from visiting these individuals. According to Haaretz, Israeli authorities informed the High Court of Justice that they are seeking alternatives to Red Cross visits for Palestinian prisoners, yet no viable substitute has been proposed; instead, the notion of allowing foreign delegations to visit has been suggested.<sup>4</sup> In certain facilities, such as Nafha and Rimon prisons, inmates have been denied outdoor time for over seven months.

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<sup>3</sup> Check out National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's tweet at this link:

[https://x.com/itamarbengvir/status/1808031178277925263?t=t75NHCPblupOpl\\_AQGUeiA&s=09](https://x.com/itamarbengvir/status/1808031178277925263?t=t75NHCPblupOpl_AQGUeiA&s=09)

<sup>4</sup> Al Jazeera, "Israel is set to create a substitute for Red Cross visits for Palestinian prisoners." 21 June 2024. <https://t.ly/0XAyb>



Moreover, the IPS has implemented a systematic starvation policy, beginning with a deliberate reduction in food quality and quantity. The meals provided have become minimal and monotonous, with some prisons offering only two meals a day, despite the IPS's regulations mandating three. The IPS has evaded these rules, severely limiting food supplies. Many prisoners have reported that the food is often spoiled or inadequately cooked. Documentation from Addameer, based on testimonies from released prisoners, reveals that many suffered from gastrointestinal issues, which were directly linked to the inadequate quality and quantity of food provided by the IPS.

This is a clear breach of Article 10 of the Third Geneva Convention, which mandates that occupying powers must ensure that prisoners receive nutritious and sufficient food. Additionally, it contravenes Article 89 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which requires that detainees be given adequate amounts of high-quality meals to maintain their health and prevent illness. It is important to highlight that the Fourth Geneva Convention pertains to the rights of protected civilians during wartime, which encompasses the majority of prisoners who are civilians.

Furthermore, the sanctions have also affected access to water, as prisoners were barred from buying mineral water from the prison canteen, which was shut down on October 7. Water access was restricted in prisoners' cells, limiting their ability to fill a designated bottle freely. They were only permitted to fill very small amounts for everyone in the room. A former prisoner from Naqab Prison, Kh. B., recounted, 'Water was only available for one hour a day in the toilet. When we needed to drink, we had to fill a bottle from the pit toilet, not from the taps. Eventually, they started providing running water for the bathroom and taps, but only for one hour a day.'<sup>5</sup>

Despite enduring severe conditions for months, prisoners faced a relentless battle against skin diseases like scabies and rashes, which ravaged their bodies. The majority suffered from scabies, yet treatment was alarmingly absent. Eventually, some prison administrations began to offer sporadic and minimal treatment, such as a small bottle of lotion for about 18 prisoners, which was grossly inadequate to address the outbreak.

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<sup>5</sup> Interview conducted by Addameer with released prisoner Kh. B. on 22 April 2024.



The IPS consistently denied requests for prisoners to access clinics or be transferred to the Ramleh Prison Clinic or civilian hospitals, only allowing transfers for those with chronic illnesses that endangered their lives. Notably, prisoners from the Gaza Strip in Israeli central prisons experienced similar dire conditions and skin ailments. One prisoner, A. R., shared his ordeal with scabies, stating, 'I have endured scabies and boils for nine months. The boils fluctuate, but the itching and pimples persist. Just two days ago, I received a pill and ointment for the scabies, yet nothing has improved. The itching remains unbearable, and at times, I can only manage an hour of sleep.'<sup>6</sup>

For decades, physical assaults and humiliations have been rampant in Israeli prisons, yet the authorities have consistently sought to hide their oppressive actions against prisoners and detainees. However, following the events of October 7, the true nature of the IPS's policies and the behavior of its staff became undeniable. Systematic violence and oppression against prisoners were revealed through the accounts of those who were released, as well as through video footage released by the occupying state itself, showcasing several raids on prisoners' cells across various facilities. This evidence confirmed the brutal tactics employed by the Israeli occupation, both physically and psychologically, against Palestinian prisoners.

Released prisoner A. Sh. recounted, 'After the war, oppression and beatings became commonplace. There were times we faced beatings every week, sometimes three times in one week, while other times we might go a month without being touched. But no one should ever endure such violence. We lived in constant fear, anticipating a beating whenever a guard moved or something unusual occurred.'<sup>7</sup> A. Sh. further described, 'We were always assaulted while handcuffed from behind. In solitary confinement, around five guards would enter and attack me and another prisoner, using their hands, feet, and sticks, targeting our stomachs, backs, legs, and faces. I was struck in the face multiple times, resulting in an injury above my eyes. Each beating left visible marks on our bodies.'<sup>8</sup>



The involvement of prison units and external forces, such as the Keter and Yamaz units, was significant in the brutal treatment of inmates, justified by the false claim of 'maintaining order.' This led to serious injuries among prisoners, including fractures and severe trauma to the head, neck, and back, necessitating extensive medical care. Unfortunately, due to a deliberate policy of medical neglect, most prisoners were denied any form of treatment or follow-up care after these assaults. This oppression has also resulted in an alarming number of fatalities among prisoners, with 54 reported deaths from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, many of whom died as a result of beatings and torture, which qualifies as premeditated murder under Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. It is

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<sup>6</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. R. in Naqab Prison on 8 January 2025.

<sup>7</sup> Interview conducted by Addameer with released prisoner A. Sh. on 18 February 2025.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

important to note that this figure does not represent the true number of deceased prisoners, but rather those officially acknowledged by Israeli authorities.

Additionally, prisoners faced another form of punishment through the deprivation of light. Initially, lights were only on for one hour during the day, but later they remained on throughout the night and into the early morning. There were instances of complete power outages, particularly in Naqab Prison. However, during Ramadan, lights were kept on from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. In contrast, some prison administrations imposed punishment by keeping bright lights on continuously. A prisoner from Gilboa Prison, Y. H., remarked, 'The lights are on 24 hours a day in the room. They sometimes turn them off during the day, but the lights are bright at night.'<sup>9</sup>

The headcount process was an agonizing ordeal for the inmates, who were compelled to kneel at the back of the room with their heads bowed and hands placed on their heads. During the morning and evening counts, they faced the wall, while in the afternoon, they were made to look towards the door for inspection. Kh. B. recounted, 'After the counting officer completes the count, he instructs the unit to enter the room for suppression. Every hour, 4-5 rooms are chosen for suppression by the Keter and jailers, accompanied by dogs. The beatings are consistently aimed at the head and ribs.'<sup>10</sup>

Concerning the brutality in Gilboa Prison, prisoner Y. H. stated, 'Certain units enter the section to assault the inmates in their rooms and use gas. On 22 September 2024, external inspection units invaded eight rooms, deploying stun grenades both in the section and inside the rooms. They restrained the prisoners and assaulted them with shoes and sticks.'<sup>11</sup> Additionally, inmates reported that during the headcounts, the guards began to raid their rooms, armed with weapons and gear.

Prisoner M. M. recounted the alarming reality of their situation, stating, 'We recognized the imminent danger when armed personnel began entering our cells. The presence of firearms was strictly prohibited, a rule that even held during the tumultuous 1990s. During headcounts, we are forced to stand at the back of the room. An incident occurred in Rimon Prison at the start of 2024, involving a young man who struggled with speech. While he was unlocking the door, the young man accidentally spilled water on the guard. When questioned, he couldn't respond due to his speech difficulties. Consequently, the guards retaliated by assaulting everyone present, resulting in one young man suffering a dislocated shoulder from the violence.'<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner Y. H. in Gilboa Prison on 14 January 2024.

<sup>10</sup> Interview conducted by Addameer with released prisoner Kh. B. on 22 April 2024.

<sup>11</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner Y. H. in Gilboa Prison on 6 October 2024.

<sup>12</sup> Interview conducted by Addameer with released prisoner M. M. on 16 February 2025.





The harsh winter has exacerbated the plight of prisoners, many of whom have been imprisoned since summer without adequate winter attire. Since October 7, the IPS has barred families from delivering clothing or medicine, leaving inmates with only flimsy garments. Although prison administrations provide blankets, they are insufficient against the biting cold. In some facilities, the administration has failed to insulate the windows, allowing the chill to permeate the cells. Prisoner H. R. described the frigid nights in Naqab Prison, stating, 'The cold is unbearable, and dew forms on the walls, dripping on us.'<sup>13</sup> Similarly, prisoner M. A. from Megiddo Prison lamented, 'We have no additional clothing, just what we wear. Each inmate is given a single thin blanket. The winter has been harsh, and due to overcrowding, some prisoners have had to sleep on the floor.'<sup>14</sup>

### **Nafha Prison: A Site of Atrocities Committed Against Inmate A. H.**

On 21 October 2023, at around 3:00 a.m., A. H. was arrested following a violent raid by Israeli occupation forces at his residence, where a comprehensive search was conducted. Following the raid, about 10 individuals from the same locality were detained at A. H.'s home, where they were bound with plastic handcuffs behind their backs. Subsequently, A. H. and the other detainees were taken to the

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<sup>13</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner H. R. in Naqab Prison on 8 January 2025.

<sup>14</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. A. in Megiddo Prison on 4 March 2024.

Etzion Detention and Interrogation Center, where he remained for several days before being moved to Ofer Prison and later to Nafha Prison, where he endured the majority of his detention.

A. H. recounted his experience during the transfer to Nafha Prison and the harsh conditions he faced, stating,

*"In late November 2023, we were moved to Nafha Prison. Over 50 prisoners were involved in the transfer, and we were subjected to inhumane treatment by the Nashon unit. We were shackled with excessively tight metal cuffs, forced to bow our heads, and physically assaulted. After several hours, we finally reached Nafha Prison. Upon arrival, we were sorted into sections without any medical attention. I was placed directly into Section 12, where the floor was inundated with sewage, and the living conditions were deplorable.*

*Upon our arrival, all our clothing was taken from us, leaving us with only the garments we wore and a very thin blanket provided by the prison administration. The detention section was infested with bugs and insects, and the air was foul due to the lack of sunlight. Throughout our time in detention, we remained in the same clothes, washing them and waiting for them to dry while donning prison uniforms in the interim. During winter, our clothing was inadequate, and it wasn't until January 2024 that we received two to three jackets per cell, which housed around 14 prisoners, leading to frequent exchanges among us.*

*The living conditions in Nafha Prison were harsh, with ongoing oppression that even affected our transfers to court. Although our trials occurred via video conference within the prison, the journey to the court was brutal; we were forced to bow our heads sharply, and the shackles were painfully tightened. The guards subjected us to beatings, shoving, and verbal insults. Court days stretched from dawn until dusk, and upon our return to the sections, we were denied water, food, and bathroom access.*

*We were completely deprived of yard time, a restriction that lasted until Ramadan concluded. During this period, we were confined to our rooms, as the showers in Section 12 were located within them. After Ramadan, we were permitted limited yard time, but this was frequently denied under the guise of punishment. Over my ten-month detention, I only managed to go outside for yard time ten times. Following my transfer to Nafha Prison, we experienced daily power outages, which persisted until mid-Ramadan when the lights were only turned on for two hours each night.*

*On Eid al-Fitr 2024, a significant event unfolded in Nafha Prison. The administration announced room transfers, moving prisoners from four rooms in Section 12 to other sections. This process was executed brutally, with us being tightly restrained, beaten, and forced to walk with our heads bowed, all while being insulted and cursed. Some rooms were stormed, and prisoners were violently attacked, with some even bleeding from the severity of the beatings. Fortunately, my room mainly housed elderly prisoners, so we avoided physical violence, but we still faced harsh treatment, including severe head bending and verbal abuse. The unit that conducted the storming was one of the prison's enforcement teams, and they transferred nearly all sections. In the adjacent Section 13, which housed prisoners from Gaza, the assaults were particularly brutal, and we could hear their cries echoing throughout.*

*The living conditions in Nafha were deplorable. The food provided was extremely inadequate, with no drinks, salt, or sugar available during our entire detention. Each meal consisted of just 6-7 spoonfuls of often undercooked rice, accompanied by a watery soup that barely contained any substance. We received a meager 50-gram can of labneh and an egg daily, which constituted our entire ration. Meals were frequently delayed; during Ramadan, we often received food only after the evening prayer, despite fasting all day. This led to significant weight loss among the prisoners. I recall during the Jewish Passover in late April 2024, instead of bread, we were given karakish<sup>15</sup>, with only 4-5 pieces allotted per person throughout the day, leaving many feeling faint and weak.*

*One of the most challenging aspects was the frequent searches. Twice a week, we would hear knocking on the windows. We would be taken from our room to another one across the hall or the bathrooms, with each search accompanied by beatings, insults, and degradation. Upon entering the rooms, our belongings were tossed around, leaving everything in disarray on the floor. Occasionally,*

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<sup>15</sup> Karakish is a term used to refer to the Jewish Passover matzah, an unleavened flatbread.

*they would remove the mattresses for a day or even a week, confiscating them from morning until evening, forcing us to endure the cold and harsh conditions while sitting or sleeping on metal beds. Raids were not solely conducted by prison units; external units like Metzada also participated. These searches occurred roughly every two weeks, often targeting specific sections with a show of force. Accompanied by the prison director, section officer, intelligence officer, and small drones equipped with cameras, they would storm into rooms, dragging prisoners out while filming the entire ordeal. The focus was primarily on certain organizational figures detained prior to the war, who were subjected to brutal treatment during their transfer to other sections or cells, often in a savage manner.*

*Regarding medical care, negligence was rampant. Initially, there was no treatment provided, and requests for clinic visits were ignored. Many suffered in severe pain, receiving only basic pain relief (Acamol) after persistent pleas. The so-called nurses, who were actually jailers, frequently disregarded our treatment requests. Eventually, some care was offered to prisoners with chronic illnesses.*

*I recall a young man who was held in a room adjacent to mine. He confided in me about his severe illness and overwhelming fatigue. After a lengthy discussion with the nurse, he was finally taken to the clinic the following day, but his condition was already critical. He was placed in a cell because no Israeli civilian hospital would accept him, citing the ongoing state of war. He spent several days in those cells until an agreement was reached between the prison authorities and the Shin Bet to release him, likely to avoid accountability for his potential death in custody. Although he had been detained before the war, the symptoms of cancer emerged during his imprisonment, and he was never taken for medical care. He endured excruciating stomach pain without any treatment, and tragically, he passed away at the Istishari Hospital shortly after his release. The dire conditions in the prison section, coupled with a lack of medical care and hygiene facilities, led to an outbreak of scabies among the inmates, yet no treatment was ever provided to them."<sup>16</sup>*

## **Silencing Voices of Truth**



In the face of oppressive policies targeting Palestinians, the systematic harassment of journalists, educators, students, and activists is part of a broader effort to suppress dissent and limit freedom of expression. The Israeli occupation has increasingly turned to administrative detention, where individuals are imprisoned without trial or specific charges, relying on 'secret files' that deny detainees the opportunity to defend themselves. Following October 7, the occupying forces intensified their accusations against Palestinians for incitement, despite these charges being a longstanding issue for those voicing their opinions, whether through written or visual means.<sup>17</sup> What has shifted since October

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<sup>16</sup> Interview conducted by Addameer with released prisoner A. H. on 2 October 2024.

<sup>17</sup> For a deeper understanding of arrests related to incitement, refer to Addameer's insightful paper titled "Arrests Based on Incitement on Social Media and the Policies of the Israeli Authorities ... Facebook as an Example." 7 January 2019. <https://t.ly/nC-a1>



7 is the broader application of incitement charges across various societal groups, particularly those engaged in media work.

Since October 7, around 145 journalists<sup>18</sup> have been detained, with military prosecutors charging many with incitement. Several academics have also faced arrest. The scope of these charges has expanded beyond journalists, students, and academics to include the families of martyrs who share their sorrow or loss on social media.

This form of targeting not only infringes upon fundamental human rights but also directly endangers personal freedoms such as freedom of expression, participation in unions, media independence, education, and community engagement. The occupying state has now outlawed all these rights, relentlessly persecuting Palestinians who strive to live their lives, even in the most basic ways. The Israeli occupation aims to suppress anyone who dares to expose the injustices faced by the Palestinian people.

### **Arrest of Academics – The Case of Lecturer Nadera Shalhoub**



Given the alarming rise in criminal activities perpetrated by the occupying state in Palestinian territories, particularly the ongoing genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip since October 7, we are witnessing a disturbing surge in various offenses against Palestinians in the West Bank. Among the most egregious of these offenses is the total suppression of freedom of opinion and expression throughout historic Palestine, exemplified by the targeted arrest campaigns conducted by occupation forces against academics, journalists, influencers, students, and other members of the Palestinian community.

The assault on academics, students, and influencers extends beyond mere arrests in the West Bank and the 1948 occupied territory; it has intensified in the Gaza Strip with targeted killings and detentions. Israeli airstrikes have devastated numerous schools in Gaza, resulting in the tragic loss of many students and educators. Human rights organizations monitoring prisoner issues have reported a disturbing pattern of violence and intimidation against faculty and students by occupying forces, including extortion attempts against several academics. Furthermore, these individuals have been stripped of all educational materials—books, newspapers, magazines, and even writing tools—effectively barring them from any form of educational or cultural engagement, whether alone or in groups, within their prison cells.

In April, the Right to Education Campaign released alarming statistics revealing that over 140 students from Birzeit University are currently detained, with more than 70 of them in administrative detention. Since the onset of the genocidal war on Gaza, the occupation forces have detained over 70 students,

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<sup>18</sup> This figure encompasses journalists from both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

including four female students, along with four members of the academic and administrative staff. However, these figures only scratch the surface, as they do not account for the numerous other students and academics from various Palestinian universities, such as the Polytechnic University, Hebron University, and Khadouri University, who are also in detention.

In light of the targeting of Palestinian scholars throughout the occupied territories, we examine the situation of Nadera Shalhoub, a lecturer from Haifa and a professor in criminology and social work at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. On 18 April 2024, Israeli police arrested Shalhoub at her residence in the Old City of Jerusalem. She was taken to the Mevaseret Zion Center for interrogation, where her detention was extended until the next day, when she was scheduled to appear before the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court.

This arrest is part of a broader campaign by the occupying forces aimed at stifling dissenting voices that challenge the injustices of the occupation, as well as a continuation of the persecution faced by those who speak out, labeled as 'incitement.' Yet, Shalhoub's ordeal didn't end with her arrest; she had already been targeted by a significant incitement campaign orchestrated by Israeli authorities, which prompted the Hebrew University to temporarily suspend her employment in March—a decision they later reversed, acknowledging her stance on the ongoing atrocities committed against our people in Gaza.

After the hearing at the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court on 19 April 2024, Israeli police sought to prolong Shalhoub's detention while they investigate allegations of 'incitement to violence and racism.' They claimed that Shalhoub had made statements deemed 'anti-Zionist and anti-state' during a podcast episode prior to her arrest. Given her significant local and international following, the police argued that her remarks could incite violence and potentially justify security threats against Israelis.

The unfounded, malicious accusations from the Israeli police highlight the capricious nature of the Incitement Law. This law lacks precise definitions for what constitutes incitement, granting Israeli law enforcement the latitude to interpret any spoken or written statement as incitement. These agencies take advantage of the law's ambiguity to manipulate it in a manner that benefits the Israeli perspective, seeking to impose numerous charges against Palestinians, all while egregiously infringing upon the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, reducing them to their bare minimum.

Shalhoub's defense team contested the legitimacy of the police procedures used during Shalhoub's arrest at her home, which occurred without a proper summons as required by law. Furthermore, her detention was prolonged without any legal justification or substantial evidence to back the allegations against her. This led Judge Dov Pollak to determine that the extension of her detention lacked legal grounds, subsequently ordering the police to release her under specific conditions: a self-guarantee and third-party guarantees, each amounting to ten thousand shekels, along with a promise to participate in future investigations.

In the continuous efforts of the Israeli police to weaken the Palestinian community in the occupied territory, they challenged the Magistrate's Court ruling by taking the case to the District Court. During the hearing held on the same day, the police failed to provide any new evidence to back their allegations against Shalhoub. Consequently, Appeals Judge Avraham Rubin found no reason to reverse the Magistrate's Court's ruling, leading him to affirm the decision and grant Shalhoub's release.<sup>19</sup>

Despite the Jerusalem District Court's decision to uphold Professor Shalhoub's release, the police persisted in their pursuit of her. The Attorney General permitted an investigation into her academic statements and opinions, which were integral to her scholarly work. However, the police investigation strayed from the three topics outlined by the Public Prosecution, veering into political territory. They questioned Shalhoub on her views regarding East Jerusalem as occupied territory, the concept of 'settler colonialism,' and her stance on whether Israel was committing genocide in Gaza.<sup>20</sup> This overreach rendered the investigation unlawful, as it exceeded the parameters set by the State Attorney General.

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<sup>19</sup> Adalah. "The Jerusalem Central Court has dismissed the police's appeal, affirming the Magistrate's Court ruling that allows Dr. Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian to be released." 19 April 2024. <https://www.adalah.org/ar/content/view/11107>

<sup>20</sup> Adalah. "Shalhoub-Kevorkian's defense team to state attorney: Her ongoing investigation is unlawful and she will not be answering any political questions or questions related to her academic work." 1 May 2024. <https://www.adalah.org/ar/content/view/11110>

Despite all the actions taken by the occupying state against lecturer Shalhoub, they failed to substantiate any allegations against her. The only measures involved were summons for questioning, highlighting the oppressive tactics employed by the occupying state against academics, students, and journalists who dare to expose the atrocities of the occupation.

## **Children Behind Bars**

### **The Harsh Truth about Juvenile Detention in Israeli Prisons**



Palestinian minors held in Israeli prisons face severe and systematic abuses that blatantly contravene international humanitarian and human rights laws. Rather than recognizing their unique status as children, as mandated by the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Israeli authorities treat them as adults, imposing the same harsh conditions that adult prisoners endure. This approach disregards their rights as protected minors under Article 37 of the CRC, which forbids torture and cruel or degrading treatment, and Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the transfer of children from occupied territories to prisons within the occupying state.

Beginning on October 7, the Israel Prison Service (IPS) initiated an alarming campaign of oppression against prisoners, including minors. This campaign involved a calculated starvation strategy, drastically cutting the food rations to the bare minimum. The meals provided were frequently spoiled or inadequately cooked, resulting in severe health issues and considerable weight loss among child detainees. Such actions are in direct violation of Article 24 of the CRC, which mandates that states ensure an adequate standard of living for the physical, mental, and psychological development of children.

The deprivation extended beyond mere hunger; child prisoners were stripped of their ability to buy food and mineral water from the canteen, worsening their health issues. Many had no choice but to consume unpurified water from taps in their cells, resulting in a surge of intestinal diseases and skin infections among them.

Due to the extensive mass arrests conducted by occupying forces against Palestinian children throughout the year, prisons are experiencing an unprecedented level of overcrowding. Many children are forced to sleep on the floor because there aren't enough beds available. In prisons like Ofer and Megiddo, they are provided with only very thin mattresses in frigid conditions. The IPS has issued minimal blankets to each inmate. One prisoner, Z. D., expressed, 'We are currently enduring the cold



at night, and the blankets are insufficient. We urgently request more blankets for the juvenile section, as we are freezing.'<sup>21</sup>

This constitutes a blatant breach of Article 16 of the Convention against Torture (CAT), which explicitly forbids cruel and degrading treatment. Their winter clothing was confiscated, and the IPS barred families from providing heavy garments or blankets, forcing the children to endure the harsh cold without any means of protection.

The minors were also denied outdoor time for several months at the start of 2024. When they were finally permitted outside, their time was restricted to an hour or less each day, and they were not allowed to engage in any physical activity during this period. Furthermore, guards would unjustly revoke outdoor privileges for the slightest infractions; for instance, if there was noise in a children's room, all occupants could lose their outdoor time for five to seven days. Throughout this year, the children also faced a lack of educational opportunities in prison, despite some of them having been engaged in learning fundamental subjects like mathematics and languages prior to October 7.

Despite the critical importance of personal hygiene, the IPS limited bathing opportunities to designated yard times only. The juveniles were permitted to bathe on specific days, and their bathing duration was restricted to just a few minutes. During these brief moments, the children were able to change and wash their underwear.

Before October 7, an adult prisoner was responsible for looking after the juveniles, communicating their needs to the prison administration, monitoring their daily activities, and providing necessary assistance. However, following October 7, the prison administration barred adult prisoners from helping the juveniles or representing them in discussions with the administration.

Throughout 2024, child prisoners endured severe medical neglect by the IPS. They were systematically denied access to prison clinics, leading to prolonged interruptions in their medications and treatments. The only pain relief offered was acetaminophen, regardless of the specific ailments or injuries the young inmates faced. One prisoner, A. M., shared, 'I have an inflamed main artery in my left leg, and I experience excruciating pain, especially at night. In prison, they don't provide me with any medication, not even painkillers. Occasionally, they brought me Acamol.'<sup>22</sup>

Furthermore, child prisoners faced a troubling outbreak of scabies and other skin conditions in their detention areas. They were deprived of proper medical care and follow-up. Many developed ulcers due to relentless itching and the proliferation of rashes on their skin. M. T. recounted, 'In Megiddo, I caught scabies, but they refused to treat me. After being moved to Damon Prison, I was examined, and since my symptoms were deemed mild, they provided no treatment or quarantine. However, my condition deteriorated after two weeks, leading to my quarantine with another inmate. They gave me an ointment, but once I finished it, they failed to supply more. The itching and rashes persist all over my body, and I can't sleep at night due to the intensity of the itching.'<sup>23</sup>

Reports from child prisoners reveal harrowing experiences of physical, psychological, and sexual abuse, including degrading insults, humiliation, and invasive strip searches, often accompanied by brutal beatings. One prisoner, M. T., recounted, 'Upon our arrival at Damon, a special unit awaited us. We were forced to kneel, around 30 of us, in a cramped waiting area. They strip-searched us, beat us, yelled at us, and tightened our shackles. To be allowed to leave our cell, we had to kneel and howl before we could exit.'<sup>24</sup>

Such violations are not confined to central prisons; they also occur in interrogation and detention centers like Al-Mascobiya and Al-Jalameh, where children endure various forms of physical and psychological torture, including beatings, solitary confinement, and threats.<sup>25</sup> A. G. described his ordeal at Al-Mascobiya: 'Upon my arrival, they strip-searched me and placed me in a cell with other inmates. Every half hour, guards would enter and beat us with their fists. Our hands were bound, and the assaults involved punches to our heads and ribs.'<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Lawyer's visit to child prisoner Z. D. in Ofer Prison on 18 September 2024.

<sup>22</sup> Lawyer's visit to child prisoner A. M. in Ofer Prison on 18 September 2024.

<sup>23</sup> Lawyer's visit to child prisoner M. T. in Damon Prison on 9 December 2024.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> For further insights into the detention conditions at Al-Mascobiya Detention and Interrogation Center, please refer to Appendix 1.

<sup>26</sup> Lawyer's visit to child prisoner A. G. in Damon Prison on 9 December 2024.

These actions represent a grave breach of Article 2 of the CAT, which unequivocally forbids torture under all circumstances. Numerous detained minors have also recounted experiences of degrading strip searches and both verbal and physical abuse at the hands of Israeli interrogators and prison staff, in blatant contravention of Article 16 of the CAT and Article 37 of the CRC, which safeguard children from any treatment that undermines their human dignity.

### **Administrative Detention: A Fresh Perspective**



Administrative detention refers to the confinement of individuals without formal charges or a trial, relying on undisclosed information and the assumption that they might engage in unlawful acts in the future. This practice, akin to unlawful preventive detention, allows for indefinite extensions of detention orders, each lasting no longer than six months. Such detentions are authorized by the military commander in the region, specifically in parts of the West Bank (excluding East Jerusalem), under the provisions of the 'Emergency Powers Law.'<sup>27</sup>

The situation surrounding the detention of children, particularly those subjected to administrative detention, highlights severe violations of the fundamental rights of Palestinian children, as enshrined in both domestic and international law. This policy inflicts profound distress on families whose minors are taken away by the occupying forces. Administrative detention represents a systematic and ongoing violation against Palestinians, particularly the youth. While the occupying authority justifies this practice as a necessary security measure, claiming it is only employed after all other options have been considered to address the 'potential threat posed by the detainee'<sup>28</sup>, the actual circumstances tell a vastly different story.

Since October 7, there has been a staggering increase in the number of Palestinian children thrown in administrative detention, which has now quadrupled. Data from the Israel Prison Service reveals that

<sup>27</sup> B'Tselem. "Administrative Detention." [https://www.btselem.org/arabic/administrative\\_detention](https://www.btselem.org/arabic/administrative_detention)

<sup>28</sup> Mahmoud Shtayyeh. "An analytical study on administrative detention in accordance with international law provisions." *Al-Istiqlal University Journal for Research*, Volume 5, Issue 2. 1 December 2020. <https://journal.pass.ps/index.php/aurj/article/view/56/7>

as of September 30, 85 Palestinian children were held in administrative detention, making up 35% of all Palestinian minors in Israeli prisons.<sup>29</sup> In 2024 alone, Addameer reported around 123 cases of Palestinian children in administrative detention, marking the highest figure ever documented. Prior to October 7, only 23 children were detained, highlighting a dramatic rise in numbers.

Moreover, the age of these detainees has shifted; while previously, those detained were between 16 and 18 years old, the occupation forces have now begun targeting younger children aged 14 and 15. By the end of 2024, it is projected that the number of children in administrative detention will reach between 94 and 100, the highest on record. These children endure the same brutal conditions as adults, facing detention, torture, unfair trials, and inhumane treatment that violate their basic rights. This situation severely affects their future, disrupts their development in a nurturing family setting, and obstructs their normal lives and educational advancement. Such actions are in direct violation of international law and the CRC.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) firmly prohibits the unlawful and arbitrary detention of children, emphasizing that such measures should only be taken as a last resort and for the shortest period of time. It categorically forbids States Parties from inflicting torture or any form of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment on children. Furthermore, it mandates that children who are deprived of their liberty must be treated with dignity and respect. They are entitled to immediate access to legal assistance and the right to contest the legality of their detention in a court or before an impartial authority, ensuring a swift resolution to their case.<sup>30</sup>

Therefore, the administrative detention of children is a grave breach of international law, which clearly states that detaining children should be an absolute last option. In stark contrast to the arbitrary practices of occupying powers, children can be held without charges or trials, often based on undisclosed evidence that denies them the opportunity to challenge their detention, thus infringing upon their right to a fair trial.

Administrative detention orders can last up to six months and can be renewed indefinitely, which contravenes international law that mandates the shortest possible detention for children. This practice leads to prolonged and sometimes indefinite detention, exposing the children to violence and inhumane treatment. The occupying forces exploit this form of detention as a tool for collective punishment against the Palestinian population, particularly targeting children.

Furthermore, the occupying state has reinstated its practice of re-arresting individuals released in prisoner exchange agreements. Recently, several children who were part of a November 2023 exchange deal between Hamas and the occupying state have been re-arrested. This agreement involved Hamas releasing 50 Israelis in exchange for 240 prisoners, including 71 children and 169 women. The re-arrests lack any new charges and have resulted in some being placed back into administrative detention, which blatantly violates the terms of the release agreement and signals a troubling return to the policy of detaining those freed in exchange deals.

### **A 14-Year-Old Boy in Administrative Detention**

On 21 August 2024, A. M. was detained at his family home in Abwein village, near Ramallah, during the early morning hours. A significant number of occupation forces forcefully entered the home, breaking down the doors. They quickly inquired about A. M. and then isolated him in a room, locking the door behind them. Three soldiers began to physically assault him, delivering kicks to various parts of his body and restraining him with tightly secured plastic handcuffs behind his back. In the isolated room, he underwent a field interrogation lasting about thirty minutes, during which he faced further assaults from the soldiers.

Afterward, he was blindfolded and transported to a military vehicle, where he was forced to lie face down on the metal floor, enduring kicks and stomps. Upon arrival at what is believed to be Ofer army camp, he remained in the military vehicle for approximately six hours, during which he was subjected to random beatings by the soldiers. Eventually, he was taken from the vehicle into one of the camp's rooms, where he was held for around three hours alongside another young man, both of whom were

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<sup>29</sup> DCIP. "Number of Palestinian children in administrative detention quadrupled since last year." 16 October 2024.

<https://www.dci-palestine.org/number-of-palestinian-children-in-administrative-detention-quadrupled-since-last-year>

<sup>30</sup> See Article 37 of the CRC.



also beaten and blindfolded. Throughout this ordeal, A. M. was denied food, water, and access to a bathroom, despite his numerous pleas.

Upon arriving at Ofer Prison, he underwent a strip search and was moved to the juvenile section (Section 13), specifically detained in Room 7. The following day, he was transported by *bosta* [prisoner transfer vehicle] to a police interrogation center situated approximately 15 to 20 minutes from the prison. He faced interrogation for around thirty minutes before being returned to his section. The day after this interrogation, the military commander for the area issued a four-month administrative detention order against A. M.

In the last week of November, although the exact date is unclear, A. M. experienced an accident in his cell when the bathroom door slammed on his left index finger, inflicting significant pain. He reported this incident multiple times to the nurse, but the nurse only provided him with two painkillers (Acamol) without further assistance. After about ten days, as the pain intensified, he was moved to the Ramleh Prison Clinic. An X-ray revealed a broken finger, yet he received no treatment as they dismissed it as 'not serious.' His finger was merely wrapped in gauze.

Prisoner A. M. recounted the brutal treatment he endured during his transfer to the Ramleh Prison Clinic, stating: 'The journey to Ramleh was filled with agony. They removed me and another young man from our section and handed us over to the Nashon unit. From the moment we were received by them until we boarded the transport vehicle, we were subjected to beatings on our backs and legs, with our heads forced down close to the ground. They would frequently trip me as I walked, and when I fell, they would drag me back up.'<sup>31</sup> He added, 'Once in the transport vehicle, the beatings ceased, but upon our arrival at Ramleh, we were assaulted again on our backs and heads until we were handed over to the guards. Two days later, when we were returned to Ofer, we experienced the same brutal treatment again as we left with the Nashon unit.'<sup>32</sup>

### **A. M.'s Legal Status**

Following the issuance of an administrative detention order for A. M., a confirmation hearing took place on 5 September 2024, at the Ofer Military Court. The military prosecution urged the court to uphold the detention order, asserting that classified information suggested A. M. was engaged in security-related activities, popular terrorism, and actions against security forces. However, these serious allegations were not substantiated by any tangible evidence presented in court, which denied the child his right to a proper defense, thus compromising the fairness of the trial and violating essential fair trial rights.

The military judge argued that since October 7 of the previous year, there has been a widespread threat due to escalating terrorist activities in the West Bank. Consequently, a state that aims to protect itself must implement stringent measures to ensure the safety of its citizens. The judge concluded that no alternative to administrative detention was appropriate for A. M., leading to the approval of the detention order for the maximum duration.

The claims made by the military judge suggest that A. M.'s arrest was not due to any individual action he took, but rather a continuation of the collective punishment strategy enforced by the occupying forces against all Palestinians following October 7. Since that date, the occupying forces have initiated extensive arrest campaigns aimed at various sectors of Palestinian society indiscriminately. Currently, the count of administrative detainees has surpassed three thousand, marking the highest figure ever recorded.

### **From House Arrest to Full Imprisonment: A Stark Reminder of How the Law Can Weigh Heavily on Children, Exemplified by the Case of Child A. S.**

*"It is beyond my understanding how Israel can confine me at such a young age. I will deeply miss my mother, father, siblings, grandmother, family, friends, school, and the delicious meals my mother prepares."*

—A. S. prior to surrendering to the occupation forces<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Lawyer's visit to child prisoner A. M. in Ofer Prison on 14 October 2024.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>33</sup> Al Jazeera. "A Jerusalem child becomes the youngest victim of a recent Knesset decision, now imprisoned in an Israeli prison." 21 November 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/yva9ms3b>

On the night of 15 May 2023, A. S., a young boy from Jerusalem, was taken into custody along with his older brother and two cousins. They were accused by the Jerusalem District Court of throwing stones at settlers. Given that A. S. was only thirteen, the court placed him under house arrest pending a trial that extended over a year and a half.<sup>34</sup> The Israeli military prosecution sought a three-year prison sentence, but his defense lawyer contested this, arguing that the proposed punishment was excessively harsh. After 20 court sessions, the District Court ultimately sentenced A. S. to one year in prison upon attaining the age of 14<sup>35</sup>.

Following this sweeping decision from the occupation court, the family sought to appeal for a reduction based on the time already served under house arrest, but the High Court dismissed their petition. Consequently, they were ordered to surrender A. S. to a detention center in early December 2024, leading his father to comply on 1 December 2024, at Al-Mascobiya, west of Jerusalem.

The lengthy house arrest of a year and a half, which does not count towards the one-year prison sentence imposed on A. S., effectively serves as a dual punishment. The occupying court views house arrest as a conditional release until the trial concludes, while simultaneously enforcing the actual prison sentence. This approach is systematically applied to all prisoners under house arrest, particularly affecting children in Jerusalem. The conditional release policy, which confines Palestinian children to their homes, is an excessively harsh measure that severely disrupts their lives and hinders their educational development, as they are often barred from leaving their residences. Additionally, this policy strains family relationships, as parents must act as guarantors for the house arrest, leading to psychological stress that adversely affects the entire family.

The decision made by the Jerusalem District Court regarding the child A. S. is a blatant breach of international law, specifically the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 37(b) of the CRC clearly states that detention of children should only occur as a last resort and for the shortest period of time. Yet, the occupying authorities subjected A. S. to house arrest for a staggering year and a half, followed by a one-year prison sentence, indicative of a retaliatory and punitive mindset. Furthermore, this ruling undermines the procedural rights to a fair trial as outlined in Article 40 of the CRC, as the child endured numerous court hearings without adequate consideration for his privacy as a minor. This not only infringes upon his legal rights but also reveals a broader, systematic strategy aimed at oppressing and instilling fear in Palestinian children.

### **Skin Diseases: An Innovative Method for Torturing Prisoners**

Since the start of this year, scabies has rapidly and extensively affected inmates in Israeli central prisons, primarily due to a series of harmful policies implemented by the Israel Prison Service under Minister Ben-Gvir's leadership, which has significantly contributed to the outbreak of this disease. Scabies, a highly contagious and itchy skin condition, is caused by a tiny burrowing mite known as *Sarcoptes scabiei*. The intense itching occurs in the area where the mite burrows. The need to scratch may be stronger at night, and can spread quickly through close person-to-person contact and sharing clothing or bedding with a person who has scabies.<sup>36</sup>

Despite the severe restrictions placed on various aspects of life within central prisons, the IPS has also enforced stringent limitations on personal hygiene. These limitations began with a ban on showering, which varied by facility. For instance, some prisoners from the Gaza Strip were denied the opportunity to shower for over 60 days. In contrast, prisoners in the West Bank were permitted to shower only once a week for a few minutes. Even during these rare shower opportunities, the IPS often withheld soap and shampoo for extended periods. Months into the war, they began to provide shower gel, but only in minimal amounts. One prisoner, A. N., recounted, 'We receive just 5-7 small bags of shampoo for our entire room each week.'<sup>37</sup>

The abusive measures extended beyond showering; when prisoners were occasionally allowed to bathe, they were not permitted to change their clothes, forcing them to wear the same soiled garments

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<sup>34</sup> House arrest is a form of confinement where a person is restricted to their residence while the Israeli court reviews their case, which can take anywhere from a few days to several months, and in some instances, even over a year. Importantly, this time spent under house arrest does not contribute to the final sentence that may be imposed.

<sup>35</sup> Anadolu Agency. "Palestinian child Ayham: It is beyond my understanding how Israel can confine me at such a young age." 20 November 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/ybv5vcc>

<sup>36</sup> Mayo Clinic. "Scabies." 23 September 2022. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/scabies/symptoms-causes/syc-20377378>

<sup>37</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. N. in Gilboa Prison on 26 September 2024.

repeatedly. Prisoner M. A. shared, 'We only get to shower every 15 days, and the soap provided is just for bathing. The clothing we receive consists solely of used underwear.'<sup>38</sup> Another prisoner, H. A., noted, 'Two weeks ago, a fellow prisoner in our room had scabies, and they only provided us with two days' worth of treatment. After that, we were given old, tattered clothes, and since half the men in the room couldn't change, they ended up contracting scabies again.'<sup>39</sup>

One of the most appalling practices involved taking away all the towels from the prisoners, leaving them to dry off with their damp clothes or to share one or two towels from their personal belongings with the rest of the prisoners. In situations where no towels were available, they had no choice but to dry themselves with their clothes, which they would then wash and attempt to hang inside the room to dry for reuse. Unfortunately, the prison administration deemed this behavior as punishable. Any prisoner who dared to hang their wet clothes or towels on the beds or floor faced punishment, and often the entire room would suffer collective repercussions.

Prisoner M. F. recounted, 'The punishment for hanging a towel to dry was that all prisoners in the room were denied yard time or showers for an entire week.'<sup>40</sup> Additionally, prisoners were not allowed to take their mattresses outside for sunlight or to wash their blankets. These harsh conditions fostered a perfect breeding ground for skin diseases.

The inhumane, appalling conditions worsened, leading to a scabies outbreak that devastated the prisoners' health. This epidemic was exacerbated by the IPS's intentional neglect of medical care, coupled with overcrowding and a lack of sunlight for the prisoners. The IPS failed to implement any preventive strategies, such as isolating infected individuals from the healthy population, allowing the disease to spread unchecked among the prisoners.

Furthermore, the IPS not only ignored preventive measures but also denied necessary treatments, leaving prisoners without access to effective care. While scabies can be treated with specific lotions or medications,<sup>41</sup> the IPS consistently withheld these treatments for long periods. Even when some lotion was eventually provided, it was insufficient for a complete recovery. Alarmingly, over half of the prison population has been affected by this disease, with many not receiving any treatment at all.

Despite the prisoners' relentless efforts to seek medical treatment and access to the prison clinic for a doctor's examination, these medical violations persisted. We remember the words of prisoner Ali al-Saadi from Gilboa Prison, who recounted: 'When prisoners approached the administration about skin ailments, they replied: 'We come when you die.'<sup>42</sup>

As scabies has become rampant, other skin conditions such as fungal infections and boils have also proliferated within the prison walls. These ailments necessitate medical attention, yet the IPS continues to deny it. Prisoner Shadi Odeh from Naqab Prison shared his experience: 'Patients with scabies receive merely a spoonful of lotion in a plastic cup, and I was subjected to the same treatment, despite not having scabies.'<sup>43</sup>

Prisoner M. Sh. has raised alarming concerns about a scabies outbreak in Naqab Prison, stating: 'The situation escalated when sick prisoners were mixed with healthy ones, leading to widespread transmission of the disease. During my two-month detention in Section 8 of Rimon Prison, I contracted scabies. It started with flu-like symptoms and chills, followed by the emergence of red bumps in specific areas, accompanied by severe itching that eventually developed into boils. This condition is far more than just a rash; it progressed into a serious infection, leaving me unable to move after two months. I endured this suffering for about four months without any recovery.'<sup>44</sup>

The scabies outbreak among Palestinian prisoners is not just a fleeting health issue; it reflects a systematic approach to inflict maximum harm through medical negligence and intentional ill-treatment. The actions taken by the IPS, which undeniably contributed to the disease's spread, are clear violations of international law. The occupying authorities' failure to provide essential treatment and their intentional

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<sup>38</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. A. in Ofer Prison on 26 September 2024.

<sup>39</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner H. A. in Ofer Prison on 10 September 2024.

<sup>40</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. F. in Gilboa Prison on 2 September 2024.

<sup>41</sup> Mayo Clinic. "Scabies." 23 September 2022. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/scabies/symptoms-causes/syc-20377378>

<sup>42</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner Ali al-Saadi in Gilboa Prison on 5 June 2024.

<sup>43</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner Shadi Odeh in Naqab Prison on 19 June 2024.

<sup>44</sup> Interview conducted by Addameer with released prisoner M. Sh. on 9 November 2024.

delays in administering anti-parasitic medications and lotions amount to medical negligence, breaching Article 91 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which mandates that the occupying power must ensure timely health care and necessary treatment for prisoners.

Moreover, denying prisoners access to medical care is a breach of Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which affirms the right to health as an essential human right, even for those in detention. This approach exemplifies intentional medical neglect, employed by the occupying authorities as a means of oppression and abuse, thereby endangering the lives of prisoners continuously.

In light of the significant number of prisoner martyrs in 2024, scabies emerged as both a primary and secondary factor in the deaths of several prisoners reported by the Israeli authorities, whose autopsies were allowed. This highlights the link between scabies and various other illnesses, compounded by the refusal or delay in administering treatment, as seen in the case of martyr Mohammad Musa.<sup>45</sup>

### **Addressing the Overlooked Right to Treatment: A Call to Action from Human Rights Organizations Against the High Court's Involvement**

In light of the alarming rise in scabies cases and the ongoing, unheeded pleas from prisoners for medical care, Physicians for Human Rights, alongside various human rights groups, have taken action by submitting a petition to the Israeli High Court. They are advocating for essential medical treatment for ill prisoners, enhancements to living conditions, the segregation of those infected, and the necessary allocation of both human and financial resources to effectively address and manage this health crisis.

These organizations have highlighted the Israel Prison Service's willful neglect of the worsening health circumstances, asserting that the conditions within the prisons serve as an additional form of punishment for security detainees. Furthermore, the IPS has neglected to implement fundamental preventive measures to curb the spread of scabies, despite being repeatedly informed about the severity of the issue.

The Israeli authorities addressed the petition by asserting that the IPS acted promptly upon learning of a scabies outbreak among prisoners, and that medical teams were quickly deployed to treat those affected and implement measures to curb the disease's spread. Infected individuals were isolated and received proper medical care from specialized doctors. The Israeli authorities noted that the outbreak originated from Gaza prisoners who had the disease prior to their arrival in the prisons.

On 15 September 2024, a follow-up response was provided concerning the petition urging the IPS to undertake necessary preventive and therapeutic actions. It revealed that on 1 September 2024, specialized doctors conducted tests in Nafha and Rimon Prisons, identifying 1,600 scabies cases, including confirmed infections and those who had been in contact with the infected. The response also mentioned that as of 15 September 2024, 30 scabies cases had been reported in Naqab prison.

The conditions faced by prisoners in Israeli detention starkly contradict the state's assertions, as revealed through lawyers' visits to human rights organizations. These legal representatives gathered hundreds of accounts from prisoners who reported a lack of preventative measures, such as the isolation of sick individuals. Furthermore, they indicated that the medical care provided was insufficient given the high number of infections, and the disease's spread was escalating rather than declining.

The state's allegation that the disease originated from Gaza prisoners is also unfounded, as these prisoners are kept under strict isolation in military facilities, separate from those in the West Bank. Prisoners in central prisons are placed in designated sections, making it impossible for the infection to have been transmitted from Gaza prisoners. This is further supported by the fact that the disease is prevalent across all prison facilities, not confined to any specific location or group. The primary cause of the outbreak is the deplorable living conditions endured by all prisoners in Israeli detention centers.

### **The Situation for Female Prisoners at Damon Prison Post-October 7: Increasing Oppression and Worsening Humanitarian Conditions**

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<sup>45</sup> For further details, see Addameer's Prison Violence paper at <https://www.addameer.org/ar/media/5530>





Since the onset of the Israeli occupation, Palestinian women have faced systematic arrests and targeting, mirroring the experiences of all Palestinian communities. Specific facilities have been established for the detention of women, with Damon Prison currently being the sole institution housing a dedicated section for Palestinian women. Although Hasharon Prison exists, it functions merely as a temporary holding facility, where female detainees are kept for brief periods, ranging from hours to a few days, before being moved to Damon Prison.

This year, the occupation forces have significantly intensified their focus on Palestinian women, leading to an unprecedented rise in the number of female prisoners. By the end of 2024, 89 Palestinian women<sup>46</sup> were incarcerated in Damon Prison under extremely harsh conditions. As the occupation ramped up its arrest campaigns, it also increased its reliance on the arbitrary administrative detention policy, resulting in 21 women being held in such detention by year-end, with a total of 46 women subjected to this policy throughout 2024—the highest figure in years. In addition to that, the occupation authorities re-arrested six Palestinian women who had been released in the last exchange deal in November 2023, reflecting a continued strategy of targeting and persecuting both freed female and male prisoners.

As the genocide against the Gaza Strip escalated, the prison administration implemented drastic changes affecting female prisoners, disregarding their individual needs in areas such as health and daily living essentials like clothing and hygiene. Since the comprehensive assault initiated by the Israel Prison Service on October 7, female detainees have been subjected to the same targeting as their male counterparts, facing the oppressive policies of the IPS designed to further restrict their rights.

The Damon Prison administration enforced a starvation strategy, significantly reducing food supplies for female prisoners. One detainee, F. B., recounted, 'During my 90 days in detention, I can't recall a time when I felt satisfied after a meal.'<sup>47</sup> The meager rations included merely a small can of yogurt per prisoner, and occasionally, a tiny jar of jam shared among eight women. On rare occasions, each prisoner might receive two sausages or a small piece of turkey steak once a week. The inadequate diet imposed on these women throughout 2024 led to widespread issues such as constipation and irritable

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<sup>46</sup> It is important to highlight that this figure fluctuated significantly throughout the year as a result of the arrests made by the occupying forces. This total reflects the number of female prisoners up until the conclusion of December 2024.

<sup>47</sup> Interview conducted by Addameer with released prisoner F. B. on 6 June 2024.

bowel syndrome. Medical tests on several female prisoners indicated severe deficiencies in essential vitamins and minerals, with many experiencing significant weight loss.

Female prisoners are being denied access to mineral water and are instead forced to consume tap water laden with chlorine, leading to serious health issues such as stomach and urinary tract infections. Despite these alarming conditions, the prison administration refuses to provide mineral water or improve the food quality. One prisoner, B. A., reported that 'A month ago, I signed up at the clinic where they conducted a urine culture test that confirmed I have a urinary tract infection. Despite this, I was not prescribed any medication. There are concerns about the presence of bacteria, especially since several female inmates are experiencing similar symptoms, along with some dealing with constipation.'<sup>48</sup>

Furthermore, with the onset of war, the IPS has confiscated all personal belongings of the female prisoners, including essential items like clothing and hygiene products. In their efforts to tighten control over female prisoners, the IPS has also restricted their access to essential items from the canteen, such as sanitary pads. The administration's attempt to punish these women is evident in the inadequate supply of poor-quality sanitary pads, with only one box allocated for eight prisoners and two boxes for twelve, which is grossly insufficient to meet their daily needs.

At the onset of the war, female prisoners faced restrictions on showering, but after several months, they were granted the opportunity to shower during a one-hour break each day, a privilege that was reinstated after some time. The prison administration provided them with minuscule bags of shampoo for their bathing needs. Despite this allowance, the prison administration frequently denied them yard time for trivial infractions, such as speaking too loudly, and on days when they were denied their break, they were also prohibited from showering.

Furthermore, guards began conducting unexpected nighttime raids on the female prisoners' quarters, entering with male guards and preventing the women from covering themselves. Despite repeated pleas from the female prisoners to keep male guards out of their quarters or to allow them to wear their clothing, including hijabs, their requests were consistently ignored.

Prisoner Z. Kh. recounted, "Intense raids occur frequently. Just last week, our section was searched five times, sometimes by the guards and at other times by the Yamaz unit. They inspect each female prisoner in the bathroom of our room before escorting us outside. Once the searches conclude, we return to our quarters."<sup>49</sup> After these searches, the female prisoners often discovered that basic items like towels, plates, and spoons had gone missing. Anything found during these searches was confiscated.

One of the most severe hardships faced by the female prisoners throughout the year was the complete lack of communication with their families. They were entirely barred from family visits and prohibited from contacting the outside world, except for meetings with lawyers. Even during these legal visits, lawyers were restricted from sharing news from the families or delivering items from the female prisoners to their loved ones, as the occupation forces deemed this a transfer of information, leading to many lawyers being denied visitation rights.

### **Sexual Assaults in Israeli Prisons: A Further Tool of Torture Against Prisoners**

Since October 7, the occupation forces have initiated extensive arrest campaigns, resulting in the detention of numerous Palestinians across different ages and regions in Palestine. Concurrently, there has been a disturbing rise in sexual violence against both male and female detainees, including those from the Gaza Strip and those detained in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the 1948 occupied territory.

Lawyers visiting these prisoners and dedicated human rights organizations have been working relentlessly to monitor and document the abuses faced by these individuals. Reports have surfaced detailing egregious violations, including invasive strip searches often accompanied by brutal beatings, photographing, as well as instances of sexual and verbal harassment endured by many prisoners.

The rise in sexual crimes against prisoners has been alarming, with extensive documentation highlighting these abuses during the early phases of detention, especially during transfers to Israeli detention facilities or upon their initial arrival. Unfortunately, the issue does not end there. Prisoners

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<sup>48</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner B. A. in Damon Prison on 21 May 2024.

<sup>49</sup> Lawyer visit to prisoner Z. Kh. in Damon Prison on 19 May 2024.

also face sexual assaults during headcounts or when subjected to repression within the prison environment.

The Israeli occupation authorities have adopted strip searches as a deliberate tactic to humiliate Palestinian prisoners. They are coerced into complete nudity and face threats if they resist. These searches are often accompanied by severe violations, including physical beatings, threats of violence, and even being photographed in degrading positions. This represents a systematic form of sexual violence employed as a method of psychological and physical punishment. Moreover, these searches are not genuinely conducted for security purposes; instead, they serve as a means to instill fear and exert control over the prisoners.

Since October 7, numerous Palestinian men and boys have been captured in distressing and dehumanizing circumstances, enduring acts of a sexual nature, including forced public disrobing, whether entirely or partially. A report presented to the Human Rights Council has recorded over ten such incidents since October 2023, featuring around 20 images and videos. These individuals were seen either fully or partially unclothed, or clad only in their underwear, coerced into submissive stances such as being bound to a chair, kneeling on the ground, or lying blindfolded and handcuffed, with some enduring physical violence.

Furthermore, the report highlighted digital evidence of Palestinians being stripped of their clothing and, in certain instances, physically attacked by Israeli soldiers. Many of these violations took place during mass detentions executed by the occupying forces within the Gaza Strip.<sup>50</sup>

This is the troubling account of prisoner Sh., who was arrested at a flying checkpoint while heading to university and subsequently taken to Hasharon Prison, a temporary holding facility for women before their transfer to Damon Prison. Upon her arrival at Hasharon, she was escorted to an inspection room by three female soldiers. Despite being handcuffed, she was instructed to undress, but she resisted, prompting them to remove the handcuffs. After removing her outer garments, they demanded she also remove her underwear, which she refused due to her menstrual cycle. They forcibly stripped her of all her clothing, subjecting her to ridicule because of her condition. Even after a thorough search, which was conducted in light of her health situation, they were not satisfied and insisted she squat. Following this humiliating inspection filled with mockery and insults, her hands were painfully restrained again, causing them to turn blue, before she was finally placed in a cell.<sup>51</sup>

D. is yet another victim of sexual harassment at the hands of a prison guard. Arrested from her home on 17 September 2024, she was swiftly moved to an army camp in the West Bank. There, she was confined with another female inmate in a cramped room, where her plastic handcuffs were replaced with metal ones, secured behind her back. Shortly after, a soldier entered, positioned himself next to her, and inappropriately touched her chest. Despite her attempts to retreat, he persisted, leading her to scream in distress. The other inmate also cried out for the soldiers to back off. Following this traumatic incident, D. was placed in administrative detention. In court, she bravely filed a complaint regarding the sexual assault and provided her statement.<sup>52</sup> Unfortunately, no measures were taken, and she was left in the dark about any investigation into the assault during her three-month confinement. This situation starkly illustrates the culture of impunity upheld by the occupying authority.

### **The Atrocities of the Occupation Extend to Unborn Children in Their Mothers' Wombs**

Every segment of Palestinian society faces the threat of arrest, including pregnant women. This reality does not stop the occupying forces from detaining mothers and pregnant women in the middle of the night, separating them from their children, and denying them essential healthcare that every pregnant woman deserves.

In 2024, the occupying forces escalated their arrests of Palestinian women and girls, including those who were pregnant, accusing them of incitement on social media. The number of detained pregnant women in 2024 reached three, with two being released later that year after enduring months of unjust detention. It is crucial to highlight that all pregnant women who were arrested and later freed did so under highly unfair conditions, which included hefty fines, restrictions on their social media use, bans on discussing their experiences with any entity, particularly the media, and being subjected to house

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<sup>50</sup> Human Rights Council. More than a human can bear: "Israel's systematic use of sexual, reproductive and other forms of gender-based violence since 7 October 2023", 13 March 2025.

<sup>51</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner Sh. in Damon Prison on 24 April 2024.

<sup>52</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner D. in Damon Prison on 28 April 2024.

arrest with limitations on their movement without a companion. These harsh measures imposed on female detainees, even post-release, are a significant aspect of the ongoing oppression of Palestinian women during and after their incarceration.

### **Arrest and Detention of J. N.**

On 26 April 2024, at around 2:15 a.m., J. N., a mother of two and two months pregnant, was taken from her home in a West Bank refugee camp by over 20 Israeli soldiers. They demanded her and her husband's cell phones and ID cards. A female soldier handcuffed her in front and escorted her to a military vehicle, where she was made to sit on the metal floor despite her condition. After being held for several hours at Beit El, where she faced abuse from the soldiers, including being cursed at and forced to repeat the insults, she was moved to Ofer Prison.

Following a medical examination, a doctor recommended she be hospitalized, but instead, she was sent to the Binyamin Police Station for a three-hour interrogation regarding her social media posts from 2014 to 2017. Afterward, she was handcuffed behind her back, blindfolded, and taken to Shaare Zedek Hospital in the occupying state. Upon arrival, she encountered a doctor who only spoke Hebrew and English, leaving her unable to communicate her medical issues, which included allergies and varicose veins in her feet.

Upon her immediate transfer from the hospital to Hasharon Prison, she underwent a thorough search before being placed in a cell. The conditions were extremely harsh; she was denied food and water, even though they were aware of her pregnancy from the moment of her arrest. She spent five days in Hasharon, where the cell was equipped with four bunk beds and a bathroom. Although one bed had a thin mattress, she was forced to sleep on it only at night, as the guards confiscated it during the day, leaving her to sit on the cold metal mattress or the floor.



The prisoner described the cell's conditions as deplorable, stating, 'The cleanliness was very poor. The smell was unbearable, and leftover food would linger for days. The bathroom was filthy and reeked. With cameras in the room, I couldn't even relax or remove my headscarf.' Regarding healthcare, she



mentioned, 'I was taken to the clinic twice, but they only checked my blood pressure and provided iron supplements on just two occasions.'<sup>53</sup>

### **Medical Care for J. N. While Incarcerated**

J. N. endured a harrowing experience during her bi-weekly or monthly visits to the Damon Prison Clinic for her pregnancy check-ups. The moment she stepped out of her cell, her nightmare began. Shackled at both hands and feet, she was forcibly dragged by a female guard, making it nearly impossible for her to walk comfortably. The guards displayed extreme cruelty during these clinic visits, and the staff at the clinic treated her with blatant disrespect. This mistreatment continued during her transfers to court, where the female guards verbally abused her and kept her shackled.

Throughout her time in detention, J. N. was taken to the hospital about four times. On 19 August 2024, she was transported by *bosta* to Rambam Hospital for an examination. During this transfer, she was bound with heavy iron shackles. At the hospital, she was restrained to the bed with one hand and one leg still shackled. When the doctor informed her that she needed to undergo various tests, including a urine test, the prison guard refused to remove the shackles, insisting she take the sample while still bound. J. N. stood her ground and refused to comply under such conditions. After some pressure from the doctor, the guard reluctantly removed some shackles, but left one hand and one leg still restrained.

J. N. endured repeated instances of being shackled, not only during her hospital transfers but also while confined to the hospital bed, where her hands and feet were restrained.

Throughout her imprisonment, J. N. faced numerous health issues, many of which went untreated despite her urgent pleas for medical care, particularly during her pregnancy. She suffered from painful varicose veins in her right leg, and even after her family provided a medical report to the prison officials highlighting her need for treatment, no action was taken. Additionally, she experienced severe discomfort from hemorrhoids, constipation, and abdominal pain, largely attributed to the poor quality of food served by the prison. When her blood pressure fell dangerously low, she was unable to restore it due to a lack of necessary medication. Attempts to remedy her situation, such as requesting a small amount of salt for her meals, were met with refusal from the guards.

Experiencing intense abdominal pain, she alerted the guards and was transported to the hospital on 29 September 2024, while being eight months pregnant. Despite the potential onset of labor, they removed her from her cell after securing her hands in front of her and transporting her in a *bosta* instead of an ambulance. The soldiers drove recklessly and smoked cigarettes, disregarding her condition in the sealed *bosta*. Upon arrival at the hospital, the doctor advised that she needed to remain there due to a dangerous placental abruption. However, they denied her admission and returned her to prison later that afternoon.

J. N. was released the day after her last hospital visit, five months into her imprisonment. She faced restrictions on social media use and could only leave her home accompanied by her husband or mother. Any breach of these conditions would incur a fine of 5,000 shekels for each of them, in addition to an 8,000-shekel penalty imposed on her.

### **The Isolation of Female Prisoners: A Punitive Approach that Surpasses Humanitarian Norms**

The occupying state claims to impose solitary confinement on female prisoners for security reasons or as a form of punishment. This policy not only impacts female inmates but also children. Women are either kept in isolation within Damon Prison's designated Cell No. (1) or moved to external detention facilities like Neve Tarzia Prison, part of the Ramleh Prison Complex. Despite the state's assertions about the rationale behind isolating female prisoners, this practice is often applied arbitrarily, primarily as a means of retaliation, driven by directives from political authorities.

Khalida Jarrar, a notable human rights and feminist activist, experienced solitary confinement in 2024. Jarrar, who previously spent over five years in Israeli prisons, was arrested on December 26, 2023, and placed in administrative detention with three successive six-month orders. Notably, between August 12-13, 2024, she was unexpectedly moved from her cell in Damon Prison to solitary confinement in Neve Tarzia Prison, which houses female Israeli criminal offenders.

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<sup>53</sup> Interview conducted by Addameer with released prisoner J. N. on 9 October 2024.

In 2024, Khalida Jarrar endured the harsh realities of solitary confinement. A notable figure, Jarrar is a former prisoner and administrative detainee who has spent approximately five and a half years in Israeli prisons, navigating both administrative detention and legal proceedings. As a dedicated human rights and feminist activist, she also served as a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council. On 26 December 2023, the occupation forces arrested Jarrar and placed her in administrative detention, issuing three separate detention orders, each lasting six months. During her time in detention, particularly from 12-13 August 2024, she was abruptly removed from her cell in Damon Prison and transferred to solitary confinement at Neve Tarzia Prison, a facility designated for female Israeli criminal offenders.

Following an interview with Israeli intelligence officer Nora, Jarrar was informed that she was prohibited from meeting her lawyer, with no explanation given for her isolation. Eventually, she encountered an individual claiming to be the head of the Ramleh Prison Complex, which includes Neve Tarzia Prison. He stated that she would be kept in isolation for a month, after which her situation would be reassessed. Due to the official's lack of Arabic proficiency, a translator was present to convey that the same individual who authorized her arrest was responsible for her isolation, which could last up to six months.<sup>54</sup>

Jarrar described her cell in Neve Tarzia Prison as completely devoid of air, featuring only a raised area for a mattress, a shower, and a toilet. Although the toilet window had some holes, the guards had sealed them. She noted that the cell measured no more than 1.5 x 2 square meters.<sup>55</sup> The Israeli authorities employ solitary confinement as a method of punishment, subjecting prisoners to one of the most severe forms of isolation, effectively cutting them off from the outside world. As the duration of isolation extends, prisoners often lose track of time and their sense of place. Furthermore, the occupation not only isolates prisoners but also deprives them of essential needs such as food, water, air, and basic hygiene, exacerbating their suffering.

Prison guards have intentionally imposed severe detention conditions on Jarrar. Her cell features only a single sealed window in the toilet area, along with holes in the door that the guards have also blocked. This situation exemplifies yet another aspect of the oppressive Israeli occupation: the prisoners' fight for access to fresh air. Although Jarrar has repeatedly asked for the window to be opened, it was revealed to be sealed with plastic. The only time she can breathe freely is during the 45 minutes she is permitted outside in the yard. However, this outdoor time is not guaranteed daily, and she is sometimes denied this opportunity, perpetuating a cycle of punishment that reflects the arbitrary nature of her treatment.

Furthermore, the overall conditions are equally severe, as she receives far less than the essential personal hygiene items. They provide her with just two small bags of shampoo every few days, and no other hygiene products are available in her cell. At times, she has to use a towel to clean the floor, as she has to sleep on it due to the unbearable heat in her cell.<sup>56</sup>

In Jarrar's cell, the lights were kept on continuously, but on 7 October 2024, following the morning headcount, the guards unexpectedly cut off the electricity. Shortly after, three masked guards, with only their eyes visible, burst into the cell. They swiftly handcuffed Jarrar and positioned her against the wall, with one guard pressing her back firmly. As they conducted a thorough search of her cell, they tossed the mattress and its contents around. This incident was part of a broader series of extensive searches executed by the occupying forces in various Israeli prisons on that day.<sup>57</sup> The change in lighting policy further intensified her isolation, as by the end of October, the lights were switched off during the day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., only to be turned on at night.

Additionally, the guards have been delaying her food deliveries, which is particularly concerning given her need for regular meals due to her medications for blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol. She has reported that the food provided is not only late but also inadequate and unsuitable for her health needs. While the guards do supply her with medication, they are merely substitutes, and she is completely barred from visiting the clinic. Despite her repeated requests to the prison administration, she has been denied her glasses, toothpaste, a hairbrush, and any reading materials, except for the Quran, which she was allowed to read after nearly a month and a half of detention.

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<sup>54</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner Khalida Jarrar in Neve Tarzia Prison on 29 August 2024.

<sup>55</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner Khalida Jarrar in Neve Tarzia Prison on 19 August 2024.

<sup>56</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner Khalida Jarrar in Neve Tarzia Prison on 29 August 2024.

<sup>57</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner Khalida Jarrar in Neve Tarzia Prison on 14 October 2024.

The harsh conditions of detention were just one aspect of how the Israel Prison Service targeted Jarrar. Over 100 days had elapsed since her placement in solitary confinement, leaving her in the dark about the reasons for her isolation and without any court appearance. This situation breaches the Prison Service's regulations regarding the isolation of Palestinian prisoners. Rule No. 04.03.00, titled 'Placing Prisoners in Solitary Confinement,'<sup>58</sup> outlines specific circumstances under which isolation can be enforced.<sup>59</sup> Notably, Clause 8 of these regulations mandates a hearing for such cases. Clause 8(a) clearly states that after the initial 96 hours of isolation, the authorized body cannot extend a prisoner's isolation without first allowing the isolated individual to voice their objections in person, depending on the circumstances.<sup>60</sup>

Jarrar was not given a chance to contest the isolation order. The regulations outline a timeline for isolation periods, stating that if a prisoner's isolation exceeds 96 hours, a hearing must be conducted under specific circumstances. The prison director or their deputy is authorized to issue the isolation order.

Clause 23 details the requirements for notifying a prisoner about their isolation, its extension, or termination. It mandates that the notification be written and comprehensive, with a copy provided to the prisoner. The reasons for the isolation must be explained to the prisoner, unless disclosing this information could compromise other issues. Furthermore, Clause 26 establishes that a prisoner cannot be held in solitary confinement for more than 6 months, nor can they be subjected to dual isolation for over 12 months without a court's approval.

The current practices surrounding prisoner isolation reveal a troubling contradiction: the Prison Service is not only disregarding its own regulations but also flouting the international laws it professes to uphold. This situation underscores the reality that Israeli laws are often superficial, applied selectively to benefit the occupying state while undermining the rights of prisoners.

The detention policies and actions taken against Palestinian political activists are retaliatory measures against civilians and are explicitly forbidden by the Fourth Geneva Convention. These actions violate both international humanitarian law and human rights law, breaching legal obligations owed to these individuals. Administrative detention, in particular, serves as a key mechanism for the occupying power to entrench its apartheid system against Palestinians, aiming to suppress their existence and strip them of fundamental rights, including freedom of expression, the right to peaceful assembly, protection against arbitrary detention, the right to a fair trial, and freedom from torture or inhumane treatment.

Prolonged solitary confinement, which intentionally causes significant psychological distress, is a form of torture that is unequivocally banned by international law. This practice violates the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), which explicitly forbid indefinite or extended solitary confinement beyond fifteen consecutive days, categorizing it as torture and cruel treatment.

## **Re-arrest of the Prisoners from the Prisoner Exchange Deal**

In response to the horrific genocidal war initiated by Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people on October 7, which marks one of the most severe instances of systematic genocide, the Palestinian resistance successfully negotiated a prisoner exchange agreement. This agreement led to the release of several child and female prisoners who had endured years of imprisonment.<sup>61</sup>

However, the situation remains dire as 24 of the released prisoners were re-arrested, with 19 still in custody, and one child placed under house arrest.<sup>62</sup> Tragically, the occupation's aggression did not stop at re-arresting released prisoners; it also resulted in the martyrdom of three individuals: Tariq Daoud,

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<sup>58</sup> Commissioner's Order No. 04.03.00 Concerning the Placement of Prisoners in Isolation. <https://shorturl.at/opL7R>

<sup>59</sup> Prisoners may be isolated under several circumstances: to ensure state security, to protect the safety of the prison and its staff, to safeguard the health of the isolated prisoner or other inmates, to prevent significant disruptions to prison order and daily operations, or to avert specific criminal activities. It is important to recognize that there are distinct regulations governing the disciplinary isolation of prisoners.

<sup>60</sup> Clause 8(b) specifies that the details of the session, including the discussions between the prisoner and the prison director, must be documented in the session minutes. These minutes should be signed by both the prisoner and the authorized individual who facilitated the hearing. A copy of these minutes must be placed in the prisoner's file and the required digital records. If the session is scheduled on a holiday, it will instead take place on the preceding day.

<sup>61</sup> For further details on the prisoner exchange deal, see the 2023 Report on Violations of Prisoners' Rights at <https://www.addameer.org/ar/media/5413>

<sup>62</sup> See Appendix 1 for released prisoners who were re-arrested.

Wael Masheh, and Jibril Ghassan. Furthermore, the occupation continues to harass former prisoners by summoning them for additional trials. For instance, released prisoner Fadwa Hamada was called to appear at the Haifa Magistrate's Court on 11 December 2023, facing accusations of offenses against the prison administration and police during her time in captivity.

On 29 October 2024, Hamada was sentenced to two years in prison by the occupation court, with the execution of the sentence initially set for November 17. However, the defense lawyer successfully postponed this date to file an appeal,<sup>63</sup> which ultimately led to the conviction being overturned. Meanwhile, on 31 January 2023, the child Nofooth Hamad was called to court in Netanya concerning a case initiated against her by female prison guards at Hasharon Prison at the start of her detention, but this case was subsequently closed.

In a troubling pattern, the occupying state has re-arrested numerous released prisoners shortly after their release, indicting some while placing others in administrative detention—a practice viewed as retaliatory and lacking legal justification. This action violates international law, particularly Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which prohibits arbitrary arrest or detention. Typically, prisoner exchanges occur within established frameworks and under international supervision, making the re-arrest of released prisoners a blatant breach of these agreements and a stark indication of the occupying state's disregard for both legal and ethical standards.

### **The Dehumanizing Tactics Used to Undermine Prisoners' Dignity**

Since October 7, the Israeli occupation forces have increasingly shared images of both male and female prisoners, depicting them in handcuffs and blindfolds against a backdrop of the Israeli flag. This practice is a blatant infringement on the privacy of these individuals. By releasing such images, which show prisoners in a state of helplessness, bound and blindfolded, the intention is to emphasize their vulnerability, highlighting the loss of freedom and the dominance exerted over them. These visuals serve as a propaganda mechanism designed to instill fear and showcase the prisoners' subjugation. The manipulation of these images is a calculated tactic aimed at undermining the psychological and moral fortitude of the prisoners. Such actions are not only unethical but also contravene international humanitarian law, specifically the Geneva Convention, which mandates the safeguarding of prisoners' rights and dignity and forbids any actions that seek to demean or humiliate them. Furthermore, this behavior qualifies as a war crime under Article 8/2/b/21 of the Rome Statute.

On 29 October 2023, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) filed a petition with the Attorney General and the Police Commissioner, urging them to cease the practice of photographing Arab detainees in handcuffs against the backdrop of the Israeli flag and sharing these images on social media and in the press. The petition argued that such actions infringe upon the fundamental rights of prisoners, including their dignity, privacy, and the right to due process. It condemned this practice as an unwarranted attempt to demean detainees. Furthermore, the petition highlighted that legal protocols require law enforcement to avoid publicizing images of 'suspects whose guilt has not yet been established,' as they are presumed innocent. It contended that this police practice specifically targets the national identity of detainees, aiming to humiliate them.<sup>64</sup>

Despite the petition, there has been a clear disregard for the ban on releasing images of detainees. Numerous photos have surfaced showing detainees with their hands bound and blindfolded. Notably, on 3 September 2024, Minister of National Security Ben-Gvir shared a photo on Telegram depicting a woman in custody, blindfolded and handcuffed. Similarly, on 8 October 2024, he posted another image of a woman arrested for voicing her opinion online, seated in a police vehicle with her eyes covered.

In light of these actions, the ACRI reached out to the Attorney General and the Police Commissioner, stressing that the release of detainee photos is a grave infringement on their rights to due process, dignity, and privacy, violating the Privacy Protection Law. Furthermore, the Courts Law prohibits the disclosure of a suspect's identity before their interrogation, which is enforceable for 48 hours post-arrest. The letters also highlighted that compelling detainee to pose with the Israeli flag is a vindictive and degrading act that assaults their national identity.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>63</sup> Al Quds. "The Israeli authorities have once more halted the decision to move prisoner Fadwa Hamada to a real prison." 10 December 2024. <https://alquds.com/ar/posts/144702>

<sup>64</sup> ACRI. "ACRI opposes the practice of photographing detainees: Humiliation inflicted by law enforcement and a threat to the safety of those in custody." 29 October 2023.

<sup>65</sup> ACRI. "Publishing humiliating images of detainees by the police." <https://www.english.acri.org.il/post/publishing-humiliating-images-of-detainees-by-the-police>



Despite the appeals from human rights organizations, soldiers and police, including Ben-Gvir, persist in sharing images of detainees on social media, accompanied by provocative captions. This petition has not succeeded in stopping these degrading actions, which breach both local and international laws. Not only are detainee photos being shared, but there are also images of prisoners in humiliating conditions—half-naked, handcuffed, and blindfolded. Furthermore, video footage has emerged showing prisoners coerced into singing in Hebrew for the State of Israel or uttering curses against God or specific Palestinian figures. This is in addition to the disturbing videos that have circulated since the start of the year, depicting the brutal treatment of Palestinian prisoners by occupation forces, including beatings and the use of police dogs seen walking on the backs of prisoners lying helpless on the ground.

### **October 7: A Day for Retribution Against Prisoners**

On 7 October 2024, the Israel Prison Service and the Israeli army conducted extensive raids and oppressive actions in Palestinian prisoner sections. These operations involved the use of tear gas and stun grenades against prisoners, who faced strip searches and physical violence. This surge in aggression follows a year of worsening conditions for Palestinian prisoners since 7 October 2023. Under the leadership of extremist Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, violence against prisoners has reached alarming heights, coinciding with a significant reduction in their rights. The situation is further exacerbated by the army's use of camps as detention facilities since October 7.

In a display of its vengeful ideology, the occupying state launched raids on multiple prisons and detention facilities on the first anniversary of October 7, targeting places like Damon Prison, which houses Palestinian women, along with the juvenile sections of Ofer and Megiddo Prisons.

On October 7, during a raid, child prisoner A. M. from Ofer Prison recounted a harrowing experience: 'Members of the heavily armed Keter unit burst into our section, room 7, attacking us with brutal kicks and punches to our chests, stomachs, and backs. They proceeded to strip-search each of us in the bathroom. After that, we were dragged out headfirst to the yard and forced to lie face down next to a sewer drain, enduring this humiliating position for about thirty minutes. Once the search was over, we were taken back to our section, all while being filmed by accompanying cameras.'<sup>66</sup>

### **Appendix 1: Testimony from Child Prisoner A. Z. on the Conditions of Detention at Al-Mascobiya**

*"On Monday, 25 November 2024, at approximately 3:00 p.m., Israeli police raided a residential building in the At-Tur neighborhood, situated east of Jerusalem. They entered the premises and arrested a neighbor within his home. Subsequently, they approached my family's apartment door, where my older brother answered their knock. They inquired about my whereabouts, and I could hear everything unfold. My brother informed them that I was on the balcony. There were three of them, two of whom were officers. They forcibly took me to my room, assaulted me, and hurled insults at me. Afterward, they escorted me out of the apartment and down the building, where they placed me in a vehicle for interrogation.*

*Upon my arrival, one of the interrogators commanded me to kneel, and I complied. Immediately after kneeling, I was assaulted by two interrogators, one of whom struck me in the stomach, causing me to vomit. The brutal beating persisted for approximately ten minutes, after which another interrogator forcefully aimed a gun at my head and issued threats. This harrowing interrogation stretched from 6:00 p.m. until around 3:00 a.m.,<sup>67</sup> followed by another round of questioning that also involved physical violence. I spent about a week in Al-Mascobiya before being transferred to Shaar Tzedek Hospital. During the interrogation, I vomited four times. Upon my arrival at the hospital, the doctors conducted a blood test but did not provide a clear diagnosis. I felt an overwhelming fatigue in the hospital, and each time I attempted to rest, soldiers would hurl insults at me, declaring that I would not be permitted to sleep because I had informed the doctors about the beatings I endured.*

*During my detention, I shared a cramped cell with four other children, despite it being designed for only four. Each of us was given two thin blankets, with no pillows available, so we improvised by folding one blanket to serve as a pillow while using the other for warmth. Our attire consisted solely of prison uniforms, which we were not permitted to change. The atmosphere was filled with fear as*

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<sup>66</sup> Lawyer's visit to child prisoner A. M. in Ofer Prison on 14 October 2024.

<sup>67</sup> Despite being only 13 years old and hailing from Jerusalem, A. Z. was subjected to an overnight interrogation, a clear breach of Israeli civil law that explicitly forbids the questioning of minors during late-night hours.

*I witnessed two brutal incidents of violence and oppression. A group of over ten guards, clad in helmets and armed with equipment, would burst into the room, targeting anyone still asleep for a merciless beating. Consequently, the moment I heard the door creak open, I instinctively pressed myself against the wall.*

*The guards subjected us to humiliating searches, even in the bathroom, and thoroughly examined our clothing. On my final day behind bars, and again just three days post-arrest, I experienced the harshness of their repression. Some fellow inmates, like a child named Mohammad, whose last name escapes me, suffered severe health issues due to the relentless beatings we endured. He had been injured prior to his arrest, and the continued abuse exacerbated his condition, leaving him nearly immobile, especially when the weather turned cold.*

*Our meals were sparse, limited to a set portion of bread, labneh, and jam, with the rare addition of cold schnitzel on Saturdays. In a particularly humiliating moment before my transfer to Al-Mascobiya, I was subjected to a full-body search while completely naked in a waiting room. My pants became stuck during the search, resulting in a brutal beating while I was exposed. I endured punches, slaps, and kicks all over my body, and this violence erupted immediately after my initial interrogation had concluded.*

*After a week, I was released but placed under house arrest, which was extended with each court appearance, alongside a bail of 2,000 shekels that I had to pay upon my release. Furthermore, my mother and brother face a hefty fine of 10,000 shekels each if I attempt to leave the house. I am completely restricted from leaving, communicating with anyone, or even attending school."<sup>68</sup>*

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<sup>68</sup> Phone interview with released prisoner A. Z. on 15 December 2024.