

Torture as State Policy: Abuse of Palestinian Detainees in Israel and the Absence of Accountability Since October 7, 2023

Alternative report submitted to the UN Committee against Torture in the context of the 6th review of Israel during the 83rd Session (10-28 November 2025)

Submitted by: The Public Committee against Torture in Israel (PCATI), Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, HaMoked – Center for the Defence of the Individual, Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHRI) and Parents against Child Detention (PACD) - with the technical support of the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)



Editorial Note

Submitted on October 13, 2025, by the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI), Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, HaMoked – Center for the Defence of the Individual, Parents Against Child Detention (PACD), Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHRI)

Research and Writing: Efrat Shir, et al.

Editorial Supervision: Tal Steiner, Birte Brodtkorb

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Submitting Organisations

The Public Committee against Torture in Israel (PCATI) is a non-profit organization, founded in 1990 by human rights activists in response to violations of basic rights of detainees and prisoners, especially the widespread and systematic use of torture and ill-treatment during interrogations and detention. PCATI's mandate is to abolish the use of torture by Israeli authorities through increasing accountability for perpetrators of torture and ill-treatment and by instituting viable and sustainable safeguards protecting future victims from torture and ill-treatment. PCATI pursues its mandate through legal work, public awareness raising and advocating with decision makers and promoting the Istanbul Protocol as a forensic tool for the assessment of alleged torture. ([website](#))

Parents Against Child Detention (PACD) is an Israeli civil society organization dedicated to ending the imprisonment of Palestinian children by Israeli authorities. The organization works to raise public awareness, mobilize opposition to child detention, and ease the suffering of imprisoned children and their families. Bringing together parents, activists, therapists, writers, and artists, PACD combines documentation, advocacy, public campaigns, and cultural initiatives to highlight the human impact of detention and to promote a future of dignity and freedom for all children. ([website](#))

Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel is an independent human rights organization. Established almost 30 years ago, Adalah is the sole Palestinian NGO that brings strategic litigation before Israeli courts to protect the human rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians living under occupation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt). Adalah works on issues of land and planning, economic, social, and cultural and civil and political rights, and has long defended the rights of Palestinian prisoners and detainees and individuals subjected to police brutality, ill-treatment and torture. Adalah regularly submits reports on all of these issues to UN human rights bodies, including CAT, as well as other UN human rights experts. ([website](#))

HaMoked – Center for the Defence of the Individual is an Israeli human rights and legal aid center. In the thirty-seven years since the organization's founding, HaMoked has provided free legal and paralegal assistance to over 140,000 Palestinians from the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. Despite the difficult climate, a majority of HaMoked's cases are resolved successfully. Alongside the individual assistance, HaMoked conducts strategic litigation to change Israeli government and military policy to better respect human rights. HaMoked's assistance is given mainly in the fields of Detainee Rights, Freedom of Movement, Residency Rights and Access to Farmland. ([website](#))

Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHRI) is a Human Rights group that brings together medical professionals to protect and promote human rights, especially the issue of accessibility and equality in health services. PHRI works with various groups under the control of the State of Israel including Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, individuals lacking legal status in Israel, residents of Israel's social and geographic periphery, and people in Israeli incarceration facilities. PHRI is involved in the issue of medical treatment within prison walls through various means, including legal means, individual assistance, publishing position papers and experts' reports, and promoting policy changes regarding the healthcare system within Israeli prisons using various tools. ([website](#))

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Annex 1: Executive Summary of Alternative report submitted to the UNCAT in the context of the 6th review of Israel

Annex 2: HCJ litigation efforts in Israel re: Palestinian detainees since Oct. 7

Glossary

ACRI	Association for Civil Rights in Israel
CIDTP	Cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment
CTL	Counter-Terrorism Law
HCJ	High Court of Justice
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDF	Israel Defence Forces
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IIC	Inspector for Interrogee Complaints
IP	Istanbul Protocol
IPS	Israel Prison Service
ISA	Israel Security Agency (aka <i>Shin Bet</i> or <i>Shabak</i>)
LOI	List of Issues
MK	Member of Knesset
MPCID	Military Police Criminal Investigation Division
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
oPt	occupied Palestinian territories
PACD	Parents Against Child Detention
PCATI	Public Committee Against Torture in Israel
PHRI	Physicians for Human Rights Israel
UCL	Unlawful Combatants Law
UN	United Nations
UNCAT	United Nations Convention Against Torture
UNSR	United Nations Special Rapporteur
UNSRT	United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
WIU	National Prison Wardens Investigation Unit

Introduction

This joint NGO report is submitted to the United Nations Committee Against Torture (hereinafter: the Committee) ahead of its review of Israel's sixth periodic report in November 2025. It presents evidence gathered through fieldwork, legal engagement, and advocacy by five professional human rights NGOs based in Israel, along with the World Organization against Torture (OMCT), all committed to ending torture.

The report exposes the State of Israel's deliberate use of torture as institutionalized state violence and the dismantling of safeguards for Palestinian detainees and prisoners that previously existed, at least nominally, to prevent it.

Since ratifying the UN Convention against Torture in 1991, Israel has systematically failed to uphold its obligations and the Committee's recommendations, maintaining policies that violate the rights of those in its custody, particularly Palestinians in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). Since October 7, 2023, torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (CIDTP) have escalated sharply, reaching unprecedented levels and carried out with near-total impunity.

Torture has become a deliberate and widespread tool of state policy, employed across legal, administrative, and operational systems. It occurs throughout the detention process—from arrest to interrogation to imprisonment — targeting Palestinians under occupation and Palestinian citizens of Israel. Senior Israeli officials have sanctioned these abuses, while judicial, administrative, and medical mechanisms have failed to intervene. Palestinian detainees are frequently denied access to lawyers for lengthy periods of time, medical care, and family contact. Palestinian deaths in Israeli custody have surged, with dozens recorded over the past two years.

A catalyst for this escalation was the October 7, 2023, attack, when Hamas and other armed groups carried out large-scale assaults on Israeli communities and military targets. Civilians and soldiers were killed, and at least 242 individuals were taken hostage to Gaza. Evidence and testimonies indicate that acts of torture—including beatings, starvation, sexual assault, and rape—were committed during and after the attack, both against civilians and hostages.¹

Israel's response has been a prolonged, two-year military campaign in Gaza that has caused mass civilian casualties, extensive destruction, and the displacement of most of the population.

¹ Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, 2024, <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/report/mission-report-official-visit-of-the-office-of-the-srsg-svc-to-israel-and-the-occupied-west-bank-29-january-14-february-2024/20240304-Israel-oWB-CRSV-report.pdf>) and Human Rights Watch 2024, (<https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/07/17/october-7-crimes-against-humanity-war-crimes-hamas-led-groups>)

International bodies and human rights organizations have documented grave violations of international law, including indiscriminate attacks, collective punishment, and the use of starvation as a method of warfare. In parallel, Israeli forces have arrested thousands of Palestinians in mass detention operations in Gaza and the West Bank, where rhetoric of vengeance and dehumanization has permeated detention policies and facilitated systematic torture and abuse.

This report focuses on the crimes committed by Israeli military, intelligence, and prison authorities against Palestinians since October 2023. It documents how Palestinian detainees are subjected to layered forms of torture by multiple agencies, with cumulative and devastating effects.

Our findings are based on testimonies collected from detainees and health professionals, prison visits, and ongoing legal monitoring and litigation. Each contributing NGO stands fully behind the documentation, analysis, and conclusions presented in the report.

1. Legislation

This section refers to Issues 1 and 6 (administrative detention); 2, 4 and 5 (appropriate legislation); 6 (Unlawful Combatants Law); 43 (Counter Terrorism Law); and 36 (inadmissibility of evidence obtained by torture) in the 2019 list of issues presented to Israel prior to submission of its sixth periodic review to the Committee (hereinafter ‘the LOI’).²

1.1. Overview

Israel’s legal framework is in clear and systematic breach of the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT). Not only does Israel continue to refuse to incorporate provisions of the UNCAT into domestic law – despite its clear commitments to the United Nations Committee against Torture (the Committee) – but since its last review, it has enacted legislation that permits torture and ill treatment and removes essential safeguards. Several legal frameworks detailed below strip fundamental safeguards and apply almost exclusively to Palestinians, including the Unlawful Combatants Law (UCL), the Counter-Terrorism Law (CTL) and administrative detention. Since 2002, Israel has introduced a novel legal category, ‘unlawful combatants’, which is not recognized under international law and effectively strips away all protections against torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment (CIDTP). While previously used in limited cases, Israeli authorities are now applying this designation sweepingly to Palestinians from Gaza, including civilians. Israel has also significantly expanded its routine use of administrative detention: between 2,000 and

² Committee Against Torture, List of issues prior to submission of the sixth periodic report of Israel, CAT//C/ISR/QPR/6, 16 January 2019.

3,600 individuals have been held each month in administrative detention since October 2023, without charge or trial, subject to horrific conditions and torture.

1.2. Criminalization of torture

States are obligated to regulate the offence of torture as a crime in their domestic criminal law, in accordance with the elements of torture mentioned in Article 1 of UNCAT. In spite of this, Israeli law still contains no specific prohibition, definition or criminalization of torture. Israel has claimed that existing provisions within its penal code have the effect of criminalizing all acts of torture. In point of fact, the existing offenses fall far short of the standard set by the Committee in the following facets:

1. Most existing offenses carry a maximum penalty of three years, which is not proportionate to the gravity of the crime of torture.
2. Existing offenses are subject to the statute of limitation (most of them 5 or 10 years); this contradicts the absolute nature of the crime of torture as declared in international law.
3. Existing offenses do not explicitly criminalize acts that cause severe physical or mental suffering for specific purposes, such as punishment, intimidation, or discrimination.

The Ciechanover Implementation Taskforce stated in 2015 that the State is working on draft legislation criminalizing torture. In its submission to the Committee in December 2020, the State declared: "The inter-governmental team's work on the draft Bill on Torture is ongoing." Since that point – 4.5 years ago – no legislative advance has been made. On 9 August 2023, Minister of Justice, Yariv Levin, admitted that the State does not intend to criminalize torture: "The present government has not had cause to address this issue. Naturally it will address the essential questions pertinent to the issue when such a legislation is advanced."³ Israeli officials thus admit that there are no concrete plans to address the legal lacuna, contrary to its many previous commitments to the Committee. In July 2025, Member of Knesset (MK) Aida Touma-Sliman introduced a private bill against torture, which was not endorsed by the coalition; discussion was postponed for four months.

1.3. Administrative detention

Administrative detention – a practice allowing indefinite imprisonment without legal proceedings based on classified evidence that is not revealed to the detainee – has been systematically used to target Palestinians since the founding of the State of Israel. As of September 2025, Israel is holding 3,577 individuals in administrative detention without trial (30% of the total population of security prisoners)⁴ – a 30-year record,⁵ yet one that has

³ Minister of Justice response to a Direct Query 118 by MK Aida Touma-Sliman, 9 August 2023, internal reference No 2023-2821.

⁴ According to HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual ('HaMoked') [data](#).

⁵ The Jerusalem Post, [Israel breaks 30-year record for administratively detaining Palestinians](#), 2 September 2023.

become the norm since 7 October 2023 (hereinafter ‘October 7’). This number does not include detainees from Gaza held under the UCL, who are technically also administrative detainees (see below).

The State claims that the practice of administrative detention is subject to judicial review. In practice, it is but a semblance of a review: all decisions are based on secret evidence, preventing detainees from effectively challenging the orders. Judges have no tools at their disposal to examine the accuracy and reliability of the intelligence, as they have admitted in interviews.⁶

The judicial appeal mechanisms, including Israel’s High Court of Justice (HCJ), have consistently shown themselves unwilling to annul administrative detention orders. An analysis of all decisions issued by the Israeli Supreme Court in 2021 – 55 decisions altogether – found that in all of these cases the Court decided to uphold the orders,⁷ showing a systematic inability to protect the individual while accepting unreservedly the security establishment’s position.

Whereas Israel has previously claimed that administrative detention is an ‘exceptional’ and ‘preventative measure of last resort’, such claims do not reflect the reality. In March 2023, the number of administrative detainees surpassed 1,000 for the first time in 17 years. Since October 7 the use of administrative detention has increased dramatically: by April 2025, the number of Palestinian administrative detainees was 3,498; 147 minors were held under administrative detention at the end of June 2025.⁸ These detentions are often politically motivated, targeting civil, political and community leaders.

A notable example is Khalida Jarrar, Member of the Palestinian Parliament and rights advocate, who was held for over a year in administrative detention following her arrest in December 2023, six months of which were spent in solitary confinement.

Imprisonment without charge or trial is currently applicable solely to Palestinians as a state policy. Whereas administrative detention has always been overwhelmingly used against Palestinians, in the past it has occasionally been used against Jewish settlers – 18 in 2024, according to the Israeli media.⁹ In November 2024, Israel’s Ministry of Defence announced that administrative detention will no longer be used against Israeli Jewish settlers, claiming that “it is inappropriate for Israel to take such severe measures against settlers...”. Immediately, a petition by a Palestinian citizen of Israel challenging his administrative

⁶ Shiri Krebs, *Defactualisation of Justice*, in *Facts in Public Law Adjudication* (Joe Tomlinson and Anne Carter, eds., Hart Publishing, 2023), p. 289.

⁷ Ibid, p. 294.

⁸ According to Defense for Children International Palestine [data](#).

⁹ See, for example: [Ynet](#), 4 December 2024 (Hebrew).

detention based on the Minister's unlawful decision was rejected by the Supreme Court.¹⁰ The Minister's explicit decision and the Court's ruling underscore that administrative detention as a tool designed to target Palestinians.

1.4. Unlawful Combatants Law

The UCL, enacted in 2002 and upheld by the HCJ in 2008, purports to regulate the detention of alleged fighters from declared terrorist organisations who are foreign nationals. By creating a novel legal category which does not exist in international law Israel denies detainees their rights as Prisoners of War or civilians under (IHL). According to the law, military commanders may issue arrest warrants for such 'unlawful combatants' and remove them from the battlefield for security reasons – essentially interning them, but without meeting the minimum procedural requirements under IHL to ensure the legality of individual cases of internment.¹¹

This is a deeply abusive legal framework, in theory and in practice. By completely preventing communication with the outside world and concealing the whereabouts of detainees, it enables widespread enforced disappearances and facilitates CIDTP and torture, as it offers no safeguards for detainees and grants unchecked power to military personnel for extended periods. Since October 7, the UCL has been used extensively and indiscriminately, with thousands of Palestinians from Gaza arrested with no recourse and no safeguards. As of September 2025, Israel holds 2,662 people as 'unlawful combatants';¹² thousands of others have been held for months and released with no charges.

Since October 7, the UCL has been amended several times, dramatically extending the timeframes for judicial safeguards compared to those in the original law. Current timelines allow for 30 days detention without warrant, 45 days before judicial review, and 75 days incommunicado detention before allowing legal counsel, upheld by July 2025 Knesset decision through Amendment 5. An earlier amendment from December 2023 had permitted even longer periods. Detainees' families are not notified of their whereabouts, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has no access to their places of detention.¹³

¹⁰ See [analysis](#) by Adalah from 5 December 2024.

¹¹ Diakonia: International Humanitarian Law Center Jerusalem with the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI), [Unlawful Incarceration : An International Law Based Assessment of the Legality of the Military Detention Regime that Israel Applied to Palestinians](#), August 2024, p. 16.

¹² According to HaMoked [data](#).

¹³ For a detailed legal and empirical analysis of the UCL, see Diakonia and PCATI's [Unlawful Incarceration](#), August 2024.



Thousands of Palestinians from Gaza, including civilians, have been detained for months under this framework, crowded, starved and abused in ad-hoc military detention sites which violate minimal standards (see below).

One such example is an 82-year-old Gaza woman suffering from Alzheimer's disease who was arrested and held as an 'unlawful combatant'.¹⁴

According to Physicians for Human Rights Israel's (PHRI's) information, since October 7, 250 medical professionals have been detained under this law; as of June 2025, at least 100 were still held with no charges.

The manifold legal problems of this law, and its failure to comply with international legal standards, have also been detailed by the United Nations Special Rapporteur (UNSR) on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. He concludes his analysis: "Israel appears to have sacrificed detainee rights for greater administrative convenience and to reduce safeguards over arbitrary detention and the accountability of its military forces for violations of international law."¹⁵

1.5. Counter Terrorism Law

The 2016 CTL expands the powers of Israeli authorities, imposes harsher penalties for specified criminal offenses, outlines procedures for designating organisations as 'terrorist', and broadens the scope of 'terrorist' acts. The CTL strips away numerous minimal safeguards, including critical protections against torture and CIDTP, and is used almost

¹⁴ Haaretz, [Israel Held 82-year-old Gaza Woman With Alzheimer's for Two Months as an 'Unlawful Combatant'](#), 1 February 2024.

¹⁵ First published in [Opinio Juris](#), 8 April 2024. The official communication is available here: <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=29119>

exclusively to target Palestinians.¹⁶ The CTL authorizes Israeli authorities to delay bringing a detainee before a judge; to hold detention hearings, reviews, and appeals proceedings in the absence of the detainee; and to refrain from informing the detainee of decisions made in his/her case. It further permits the extension of suspects' detention for longer periods of time than in regular detention laws and provides disproportionately severe penalties for security offenses.¹⁷ Palestinians indicted under the CTL are classified as security detainees by the Israel Prison Service (IPS) and held in security wings under conditions that facilitate and result in the systematic use of torture.

Since October 7, hundreds of Palestinians have been arrested for speech-related offenses under the CTL, thereby entering the shadow-world of security offenses with limited legal protections. According to information received by Adalah via a freedom of information request, between 7 October 2023 and 26 April 2025, Israeli police arrested at least 645 individuals for speech-related offenses under the CTL, the overwhelming majority of whom were Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem and citizens of Israel. This campaign resulted in significant imprisonment: 626 of those arrested were detained for more than 24 hours, with over 200 Palestinians charged and subjected to prolonged imprisonment.

For example, Attorney Ahmad Khalifa, a Palestinian citizen of Israel, was arrested during a peaceful demonstration against the War on Gaza on 19 October 2023, beaten enroute, humiliated and beaten again at the police station, and held in pre-trial detention for 110 days. As the state indicted Khalifa under the CTL, based on slogans chanted at the demonstration, he was placed in the security wings of Israeli detention facilities under abusive conditions, including severe overcrowding, denial of family visits, and inadequate food.¹⁸ His case remains pending, and he could face imprisonment again.

¹⁶ A number of UN Mandates have lamented the "vague and overboard definitions" of CTL. They have also noted the risk of CTL being "misused for political and ideological aims." Various letters were sent: ISR 6/2022, ISR 15/2022, ISR 6/2023, ISR 9/2023 and ISR 12/2024. See also:

<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=29922>

¹⁷ Articles 46 and 50 of the CTL; Articles 47 and 48 of the CTL; Article 51(d) of the CTL; Section D of the CTL; Articles 7(f) 8, and 9 of the CTL; Section C of the CTL.

¹⁸ See [press release](#) by Adalah from 2 February 2024; and Khalifa's testimony in B'Tselem, [Welcome to Hell](#), August 2024, pp. 106-108.

1.6. Admissibility of tainted evidence

Evidence obtained through torture is often used in the Israeli criminal justice system to implicate and recriminate other detainees; this kind of evidence is not considered inadmissible in Israel. Notably, evidence obtained following torture continues to be widely admitted by military judges; to date, we are aware of only a single case where a torture-obtained confession was declared inadmissible by a military court.¹⁹ Additionally, while a confession obtained through torture is not considered to be given freely, in practice, a detainee will often be tortured by the Israel Security Agency (ISA) in interrogation, and then transferred to a separate room, where a confession is signed in front of policemen, supposedly of the detainee's own free will and volition. This practice – which negates the independence of police investigations, rendering them merely a vehicle for legitimizing ISA confessions obtained through torture – has led to a confession rate of 96.8%, as compared to a rate of 64.8% in police investigations that are not preceded by an ISA interrogation.²⁰

The pertinence of this issue was raised by the Committee in the LOI, and specifically in Issue 36 the cases *State of Israel v. Ben Uliel and others*, and *Abu Ghosh v. Attorney General*. Both cases hinged on a confession made under torture. In both cases, the HCJ accepted the confession as admissible, despite an admission by the State that ‘special measures’ which cause pain and suffering were employed during the interrogations. Ben-Uliel appealed to disqualify his confession, which was obtained less than 48 hours after having endured ‘special measures’. His appeal was rejected by the Supreme Court in September 2022. The HCJ thus declared that, according to its interpretation of Israeli law, confessions taken under torture are admissible.

¹⁹ Judea Military Court, Case No. 5382/09 *Military Prosecutor v. Ayman Hamida* (30 November 2011). A demand by PCATI to open a criminal investigation against the ISA interrogators in the case was twice denied.

²⁰ See Nery Ramati and Karin Torn Hibler, [The Cooperation between the Police and the Israeli Security Agency in Investigating Security Offenses](#), *Law, Society and Culture*, Volume 4 2021.

2. Torture in Custody

The following three sections of the report provide a detailed account of the conditions of Palestinians classified as security detainees in Israeli custody after October 7, based on multiple first-hand testimonies provided to the submitting organisations.

2.1. Israel Security Agency

This section refers to Issues 21 and 30 (interrogation); 22 (detention conditions under interrogation) in the 2019 LOI.

Overview

Over the past two years, extremely limited access to those detained under UCL has made reporting particularly difficult. NGOs have collected only a small number of testimonies regarding ISA interrogations since October 7. Those available speak of an unrestricted use of all torture techniques employed before October 7, as well as some additional practices. The very absence of reliable data is in itself a serious cause for concern.

The State admits openly that the ISA uses what are known as ‘special measures’ in some interrogations under the ‘necessity defence’. This defence is a loophole enshrined in the 1999 ruling of the Israeli HCJ, which clarified that no authorization to torture need be given in advance. Yet in the same ruling the court determined that ISA interrogators suspected of violating rules of interrogation because of necessity may be exempt from criminal conviction or even prosecution, if they interrogate suspects in an emergency. The prohibition on torture in Israel is therefore perceived officially as derogable, in stark contrast to the principles and rules of international law, including article 2 of the UNCAT.

According to a written response from Minister of Justice Yariv Levin to MK Aida Touma-Sliman from 9 August 2023, "the State considers that the special measures employed in a necessity interrogation do not amount to torture, and that *HCJ 5722/12 Abu Ghosh vs. AG* ruled that this position is reasonable and professional and the court has no say in the matter." The State has also claimed, notably in its response to the Committee on 30 December 2020, that "the number of ISA interrogations with respect to which the ‘necessity’ defence was raised is scant and represents a minute percentage of all ISA interrogations of persons that were suspects of terrorist activity." Both claims – that the means employed do not amount to torture, and that the numbers are scant – are factually incorrect. Such interrogations are used routinely, and since October 2023, even more frequently, and as they cause severe pain and suffering the practices amount to torture.

Methods

Necessity interrogations, sometimes euphemistically referred to as ‘military interrogations’, consist of gruelling torture, including methods explicitly prohibited by Israel’s 1999 ruling. These include shackling detainees in various stress positions, e.g., the so-called ‘banana’ and ‘frog’ positions, sometimes while shaking, slapping or beating them, or pulling limbs in unnatural directions. Sleep deprivation is particularly common, sometimes by multiple prolonged interrogations each lasting over 24 hours.

East Jerusalem Attorney Tarek Barghout was arrested in February 2019 by the police and the ISA. In response to complaints of torture, the ISA admitted that Barghout was interrogated 14 times for protracted periods, the shortest of which was 27 hours and 35 minutes and the longest 47 hours and 55 minutes, while shackled. This, allegedly after “all the relevant authorizations had been received... according to the procedures.” Both the complaint and the appeal were dismissed.²¹

Interrogation also includes accommodation in extremely cold temperatures, and detention in filthy, insect-infested cells, with constant artificial lighting. PCATI has documented cases of nude interrogation; denial of access to toilets; sexual intimidation; and threats to family members. These different methods are often used simultaneously or in cyclical repetition, over a period of several days or weeks. All of these techniques of torture are employed with the full consent and authority of the State, as a regular, accepted and authorized element of interrogations.

In addition to these well-documented practices, after October 7 we have seen the use of additional practices including hanging interrogees by their hands.

A.MQ., a 38-year-old nurse, testified: “In Petah Tikva [during my interrogation], I was suspended by my wrists from the ceiling, my legs forced backward, and left in that position for hours. They humiliated me and spat on me... During the interrogation in Ofer Prison, they extinguished cigarettes on my head and poured coffee over me. I was brutally beaten.”²²

Torture at the hands of ISA has caused both physical and mental injuries and symptoms during and long after the torture sessions. Among the physical injuries inflicted directly

²¹ See PCATI 2022 [Annual Report](#), p.8.

²² PHRI, [Unlawfully Detained, Torture and Starved: Gaza’s Medical Workers Testimonials](#), February 2025, p. 8.

during interrogations, PCATI documented evidence of loss of consciousness, broken teeth, hematomas, muscle tear, bloody stools, bloody urine, loss of ability to eat independently, and temporary loss of sensation in limbs due to tight shackling. Multiple detainees have reported not being able to walk after torture sessions, in which case they were carried to the shower, or taken there in wheelchairs.

Evaluations conducted in accordance with the *Istanbul Protocol* (IP) have documented long-term mental and physical harm resulting from torture. Harm to physical health includes long-term injuries to the legs and back, caused by techniques of tying detainees in contorted positions, and hair loss. Psychological symptoms observed by experts include depersonalisation, flashbacks, nightmares, anxiety, and depression.

Scope

Previously, the Committee urged the State to "take effective measures with a view to ensuring that interrogation methods contrary to UNCAT are not used under any circumstances".²³ In contrast, the situation appears to have worsened dramatically. The scale of the abuses is evident from the large number of detainees reporting the same specific forms of torture during their ISA interrogations. From 2001 to 2023, many dozens of complaints have been submitted regarding the use of torture in 'necessity interrogations', with allegations including beatings, sleep deprivation, use of stress positions and sexual abuse.

ISA interrogees have always been isolated from the outside world; since October 7, the little oversight there has been removed. ISA interrogees are now completely prohibited from meeting with the ICRC, and no up-to-date information is available regarding security interrogations; the few available testimonies paint a grim picture of a severe deterioration and an almost routine use of the practices of 'necessity interrogations'. We note that any attempt to assess the scope of torture must take into account that the number of complaints filed massively underrepresents the actual number of torture cases. Most Palestinians will not file complaints, both for fear of retaliation and because the exercise has been shown to be futile.

²³ Committee Against Torture, Concluding observations of the fifth periodic report of Israel, CAT/C/ISR/CO/5, 3 June 2016, para 31b.

2.2. The Israeli Military

This section refers to Issues 21 (conditions in places of detention); and 32 (violence by military) in the LOI.

Overview

Prior to October 7, violence perpetrated by soldiers against Palestinian detainees, both physical and verbal, was a frequent phenomenon in the oPt. The hundreds of complaints that have reached NGOs in recent years reflect a disturbing norm of intentionally painful shackling, beatings, kicking, assaults with batons and rifle butts, and curses and insults directed at detainees, their family members, and their religion, usually during the arrest of a person by the Israeli military forces. The scale and intensity of these abuses have escalated significantly since October 7.

Thousands of Palestinians from Gaza have been forcibly detained by the Israeli military, particularly after Israel's ground invasion began on 27 October 2023. These detentions were accompanied by brutal violence, including in civilian centres and family homes.

A., who testified to PCATI lawyers, described being beaten at his family home by soldiers during his detention in December 2023 and sustaining a severe head wound, which still bled profusely 24 hours later.

S., who was arrested in February 2024, described severe, daily beatings from the moment of his arrest, during transfer from one site to another, and in detention. These beatings occurred while detainees were shackled and included use of batons and kicking with military boots to the genitals.

Since October 7, over 4,000 Palestinians from Gaza have been detained by Israeli security forces; these include Palestinians from Gaza who held work permits and were legally in Israel on the morning of October 7. Thousands of Palestinians were and are being held by the Israeli military for long periods of time incommunicado, in unknown locations, without administrative proceedings or judicial review; without access to counsel; without provision of any information, let alone the location of detention to the ICRC, nor to any other entity; and without supplying detainees' families with reliable information, amounting to enforced disappearances. Since there is no public record of the detention of Palestinians from Gaza for up to 45 days after their detention by the military, there is grave fear that people who were arrested in Gaza and died while being held will disappear with no record. This fear is exacerbated by the structural failures of documentation and record keeping in the military: in several documented cases, families only learned of their detained relatives' death in

custody after a *Habeas Corpus* HCJ petition. (For more information, see below under *Habeas Corpus*.)

Simultaneously, arrest and severe ill treatment of Palestinian residents of the West Bank has increased drastically; as of September 2025, 400 minors were imprisoned,²⁴ compared to 150-200 per month before October 2023. Violent night arrest, accompanied by threats and physical violence, is the norm also when children are arrested. Children as young as 12 are arrested, shackled, and blindfolded;²⁵ for hours until taken to interrogations they are deprived of food and drink and access to the toilet. Their rights as minors and interrogees are routinely violated: families have no knowledge of where they are taken, and as a rule the children do not have legal counsel before interrogation.

Military detention facilities

Three main military detention facilities are currently in use: Ofer in the occupied West Bank, and Sde Teiman and Naftali in Israel; Anatot in the West Bank was in use until May 2025.

By late October 2023, Israel's Minister of Defence ordered the army base of Sde Teiman to function as a detention facility for Palestinians from Gaza arrested under the UCL. In April and May 2024, under pressure following revelations of the conditions at Sde Teiman, hundreds of detainees were transferred to Ofer military detention camp. Despite the State's announcement to the HCJ that it would gradually "phase out" Sde Teiman and hold detainees there for only limited time frames, the camp is still largely operational. In parallel, Ofer military camp became a primary facility for detaining Palestinians from Gaza, merely a relocation of the same abusive practices.

As the UNSR on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNSR) noted in May 2024, the allegations regarding military camps include "acts and conditions that, should they be established, would implicate the prohibition of torture and/or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment", while the data suggests that "there is an emerging pattern of violations, and that real or perceived lack of accountability and lack of transparency is having an effect of perpetuating an environment of impunity for abusive and humiliating treatment of Palestinians."²⁶

Living conditions

In Sde Teiman thousands of detainees were held in open-air corals, shackled and with their eyes covered for 24 hours a day, forced to kneel for most hours of the day and sleep on the ground at night, exposed to the elements and to vermin. Conditions in Ofer are similarly

²⁴ According to Addameer: Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association [data](#) as of 10 September 2025.

²⁵ See Defense for Children International Palestine: [Number of Palestinian Children \(12-17\) in Israeli Military Detention](#), accessed 9 September 2025.

²⁶ UN Press Release: ["UN expert calls for probe of allegations of torture and mistreatment against Palestinian detainees"](#), 23 May 2024.

dire: cells are severely overcrowded, and detainees reported they had to lie on the floor without a mattress. Basic hygiene is neglected, as detainees do not receive cleaning supplies to keep the toilet area sanitary, nor enough toilet paper.

Physical violence

Detainees in military detention camps reported being subjected to violence and humiliation by soldiers. In Ofer, among other things, detainees were forced to lie face down every time the guards walked in the passages. Dr. N.T., a 48-year-old surgeon from Gaza, was held in at least two military detention camps – Sde Teiman and Ofer. His testimony expresses systemic abuse across all locations: “At every stage, we endured beatings and severe violence: batons, dog attacks, and boiling water poured on us, causing severe burns.”²⁷ In addition the detention facility at Ofer includes interrogation rooms, staffed by ISA or soldiers from unit 504, where detainees were subjected to torture, and specifically to the so-called 'Disco Room', an interrogation room employing intense sensory manipulation techniques including painfully loud music.

According to K.N., a 60-year-old emergency coordinator and ambulance driver, “in my first month of detention, I was interrogated for four or five days. During these sessions, they beat me, poured water on me, and humiliated me. I was interrogated in the 'Disco Room' for a week, where the volume was always deafening. They beat me so badly during one session that my tooth filling fell out. They poured cold water on me, struck me on the head with a cell phone, and beat me half to death. They threatened to harm my family and parents.”²⁸

There are several separate and independent reports of detainees at Sde Teiman being raped with objects, and of soldiers allowing guard dogs to attack detainees. At least one detainee from Sde Teiman was hospitalized in July 2024, with internal tears, severe internal injuries and broken ribs, following a brutal attack by soldiers.

Starvation

Across military detention facilities, the diets provided to detainees are markedly inadequate for sustaining normal health, leaving many at risk of serious malnutrition and related health harms. In Ofer for instance, according to the official set menu, the diet provided to detainees falls short of the nutritional standards given to criminal prisoners, security prisoners, and even those previously held in Sde Teiman. It contains approximately 1,000 calories per day,

²⁷ PHRI, [Unlawfully Detained, Tortured and Starved: The Plight of Gaza's Medical Workers in Israeli Custody](#), February 2025, p. 13.

²⁸ Ibid, p. 45-46.

with barely 40 grams of protein. Nutrition experts have deemed this diet clearly unfit for human consumption – especially over periods of weeks or months – stating that it induces starvation and causes serious harm to detainees’ health.²⁹ Those with medical dietary needs receive no appropriate accommodations. Since this is a policy decision, as evidenced by the official set menu, there is a grave concern that this is a deliberate policy of malnourishment as a means of torture. All detainees interviewed by submitting organisations reported hunger while held in Ofer camp.

Shackling

Detainees in Ofer reported that their hands and feet were bound round the clock even when they were shut in their cells. They had to sleep, eat and use the bathroom while handcuffed (removed only for a few minutes’ shower once or twice a week), causing pains, nerve damage, and inability to function independently. Detainees in Sde Teiman reported being tightly shackled by hand and foot for long periods of time, leading to extreme pain, gangrene and in several cases to preventable amputations of limbs, according to testimonies of both detainees and medical staff.

A., who was detained in Gaza in December 2023, described to PCATI lawyers being forced to kneel on the bare floor from 5 AM to midnight every day, with his hands bound in front of him by plastic shackles. Anyone who fell asleep and keeled over was punished by being taken to the fence and bound there kneeling with his hands raised for hours; A. witnessed this punishment and was subjected to it himself.

Health and medical care

Organisations have documented dozens of cases of irreversible health sequelae, including limb amputations, resulting directly from the routine violence, substandard conditions, and abysmal health care in the camp.³⁰ The outbreak of scabies – a highly treatable skin disease – was allowed to become a veritable epidemic through the lack of basic hygienic conditions. Medical care is in general unavailable or flawed.

S., a previously healthy man in his early forties, testified to PCATI that during March 2024, an orderly in Sde Teiman documented a fulminant infection in his leg, the result of beatings. In spite of his high fever and inability to use his leg, the orderly did not take S. to a doctor for nine days. By the time S. was evacuated to a hospital, the leg had to be amputated.

²⁹ As detailed in the expert opinion submitted as part of HCJ 32288/25 *PHRI et al. v. Israel Defence Force et al.* submitted by PHRI, HaMoked, PCATI and The Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) in February 2025.

³⁰ HCJ 62967-06-25, *PHRI et al. v. Government of Israel*.

The medical facility in Sde Teiman

Until October 2024 Sde Teiman base included a field hospital for initial treatment of detainees. Sick or wounded detainees with a complex medical situation should have been transferred to civilian hospitals with the appropriate equipment and staff: this is required by both Israeli regulations and international law, including the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (hereinafter, 'the Mandela Rules'). In spite of this, following directives by Israel's Minister of Health in October 2023 and January 2024,³¹ several Israeli hospitals refused to hospitalize sick and wounded Palestinian detainees. Thus, the field facility in Sde Teiman treated cases far outside its professional capacities, providing grossly inadequate medical care.

According to the Ministry of Health guidelines for the operation of the facility, Sde Teiman was staffed by a senior physician and a staff of health professionals, serving as soldiers and not under the Medical Corps. In contravention of all ethical standards, they were instructed to act anonymously, without identifying themselves to the patients or signing their names on any medical document. This anonymity served to prevent the possibility of a complaint or an investigation regarding ethical and professional medical breaches. The facility's guidelines did not include the duty of recording in medical notes any suspicion of violence or torture, nor the duty to report such suspicions to relevant authorities, although detainees arrived seeking medical treatment with signs of severe violence on their bodies.³²

Physicians serving in Sde Teiman reported cases of limb amputations resulting from wounds caused by violence and shackling, lack of medications and inappropriate medical treatment. According to a letter sent by a physician in Sde Teiman, all patients were handcuffed by all four limbs and blindfolded at all times, including when receiving treatment. Since their movement was restricted, they were forced to use diapers.³³

Health professionals in Israel have demonstrated that not only can they not be relied upon as safeguards against the torture of Palestinians, but that they appear to be capable of active and passive medical complicity in torture.

³¹ The Times of Israel, [Health Minister issues directive barring treatment of Gazans in Israeli hospitals](#), 19 January 2024.

³² See: PHRI, [Medical Ethics and the Detention of Gaza Residents since the start of the 2023 War](#), April 2024.

³³ Haaretz, [Doctor at Israeli Field Hospital for Detained Gazans: 'We are all complicit in Breaking the Law'](#), 4 April 2024.

2.3. The Israel Prison Service

This section refers to Issues 21 (conditions in places of detention, including overcrowding); 22 (women, minors and disabled detainees); 23 (solitary confinement); 24 (healthcare in prisons) in the LOI.

Overview

The Committee, in 2016, criticized the use of torture and CIDTP by IPS personnel, underscoring the lack of accountability for these actions. Since October 7 there has been a sharp escalation, characterized by what can only be understood as a deliberate policy of inflicting systemic, quotidian violence and suffering on Palestinians classified as security detainees. Via ‘emergency’ orders and on-the-ground policies, Palestinians held in Israeli prisons were stripped of all basic rights and protections guaranteed under Israeli and international law, including the provisions of UNCAT.

Immediately following October 7 and the mass arrests by Israeli security forces, the number of IPS security detainees grew at once by 200%, leading to inhuman overcrowding in an already overpopulated prison system for both Palestinian and Israeli detainees.³⁴ 5,196 Palestinians classified as security detainees were incarcerated in IPS facilities at the end of September 2023. At the beginning of September 2025, there were 11,040 detainees, 2,662 of whom were held under the UCL.³⁵ As of September 2025, 49 Palestinian women and 400 Palestinian minors are detained for alleged security offences.³⁶ Since October 7 all Palestinians classified as security detainees are held under inhuman conditions amounting to torture, regardless of their age or the offense of which they have been accused or convicted. Palestinian minors are now held under the same conditions as adults and have been denied any contact with their families since the outbreak of war. In September 2024, an old prison wing named ‘Rakefet’ was reopened after 40 years of disuse, where, according to publications, Hamas and Hezbollah detainees are held in inhuman conditions below ground-level at all times.³⁷ Media reports indicate that detainees are confined to their cells for 23 hours daily without access to books, radio, or television, with only one hour permitted in an outdoor yard—a concrete enclosure approximately the size of two cells with a covered ceiling exposing only a small patch of sky. Detainees are subjected to frequent violent surprise searches³⁸, while posters depicting Gaza's destruction are displayed throughout the facility³⁹.

³⁴ See ruling in HCJ 1892/14 *ACRI et al. v. The Minister of Public Security*; see also the [2020 report of Israel's State Comptroller](#) on detention conditions in IPS detention facilities (Hebrew).

³⁵ According to HaMoked [data](#).

³⁶ According to Addameer: Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association [data](#), as of 10 September 2025.

³⁷ See, for example, [Ynet publication](#) from 8 January 2025 (Hebrew).

³⁸ [Israel HaYom](#), 17.4.2025.

³⁹ [Israel HaYom](#), 23.4.2025.

Multiple statements and dehumanizing rhetoric by ministers and officials attest that torture and inhuman condition across IPS facilities are perpetuated as a deliberate policy. The Minister of National Security Ben-Gvir, who has direct authority over the IPS, has consistently encouraged IPS personnel to subject Palestinians to humiliating and inhumane treatment.⁴⁰ The new IPS commissioner declared upon assuming office on 24 October 2024 that the primary focus of the IPS will be to redefine the treatment of those classified as security detainees and worsen their incarceration conditions, in accordance with Minister Ben-Gvir's policies.⁴¹

Inhuman prison conditions

Deliberate steps meant to restrict Palestinian security detainees' rights were implemented even prior to October 7, under Minister of National Security Ben Gvir. Since October 7, a deliberate deterioration of living conditions has been implemented across all IPS security wings and facilities, which remains in effect to this day. This deterioration was spearheaded by a 'lockdown' policy – a policy under which movement of detainees and their contact with the outside world was almost entirely curtailed. This policy includes locking detainees in their cells for 23 hours a day or more; some detainees testified they were locked in a cell for days at a time⁴² (for more on isolation from the outside world see *Safeguards*). Citing 'national security emergency needs', on 18 October 2023 a temporary order to the prison ordinance was introduced, allowing for detainees to be placed on mattresses on the floor alongside other measures that reduced their living space. This temporary order, which voids minimal standards, is currently in force until July 2026. Against the backdrop of mass arrests, the result has been inhuman crowding. In December 2023, an average of 10 detainees were held in each security wing cell;⁴³ at the end of December 2024, 3,200 individuals – more than a third of Palestinians classified as security detainees – were held without a bed.⁴⁴

Indeed, testimonies repeatedly detail a doubling of usual cell occupancy, with 12 detainees and more crammed together using a single dysfunctional toilet, making movement or minimal privacy impossible. In his testimony to PHRI in November 2024, A.R. described 30 prisoners sharing 11 beds in a cell in Ktzi'ot.

⁴⁰ National Security Minister's Twitter post concerning conditions of detainees is available [here](#), and posts glorifying humiliating treatment to Palestinians during arrest and detention are available [here](#) and [here](#).

⁴¹ See [Ynet publication](#) from 24 December 2024 (Hebrew).

⁴² See, for example, [testimony](#) of Thaer Halahleh and other testimonies in B'Tselem, [Welcome to Hell](#), pp. 28-29.

⁴³ According to data presented by the IPS to the Knesset's National Security Committee, 18 December 2023.

⁴⁴ Based on [The Public Defender's Office 2024 Annual Activity Report](#), p. 73 (Hebrew).

The IPS has also severely limited electricity and water supply to security wings, including taps and toilets in cells, and has greatly restricted the use of showers, claiming unsubstantiated security reasons. As a result, some detainees were unable to shower for days and weeks.⁴⁵⁴⁶ Coupled with the confiscation of all personal possessions – including alternative clothing and undergarments, towels, blankets, and all hygiene products – this has resulted in catastrophic, unsanitary living conditions.

These inhuman prison conditions gravely breach detainees' basic rights and are severely affecting their physical and mental wellbeing. One direct impact of these conditions are outbreaks of scabies and colitis, which have infected hundreds (see *Lack of medical treatment*).

This was succinctly described by M. M. in December 2024: "In my ward [in Ktzi'ot], 30 prisoners share a single cell. Our mattresses are taken away every morning. We only wear T-shirts, there are no coats. Each prisoner has only one blanket. We shower nearly every day, but there is no soap. I have been wearing the same clothes for five months; I washed them two weeks ago. There's no underwear, and the scabies is killing us."⁴⁷

In February 2024, the Israeli Public Defender's Office published a report summarizing the findings of several prison visits, finding that living conditions in IPS detention facilities are inhuman;⁴⁸ similar findings were underscored in its 2024 end-of-the-year report.⁴⁹ Additional reports by the Public Defender's Office detailing abusive living conditions in IPS security wings were censored by the State in June 2025, citing 'national security interests'.⁵⁰ In June 2024 even the head of the ISA warned that conditions in IPS facilities may be in breach of UNCAT.⁵¹

Food deprivation and starvation

Since October 7, purposeful food deprivation and policies of starvation have been widespread in IPS facilities, bringing Palestinians classified as security detainees to conditions of acute malnourishment.

⁴⁵ HCJ 7753/23 *ACRI et al. v. Minister of National Security et al.*, para 18, PHRI, [Unlawfully Detained, Tortured and Starved: Gaza's Medical Workers Testimonials](#), p.57.

⁴⁶ PHRI, [Unlawfully Detained, Tortured and Starved: Gaza's Medical Workers Testimonials](#), p.57.

⁴⁷ Ibid, p.60.

⁴⁸ [Detention Conditions in Israel Prison Service's Facilities: A special Report following the Emergency Detention Situation](#), The Public Defender's Office, February 2024 (Hebrew).

⁴⁹ [The Public Defender's Office 2024 Annual Activity Report](#), p. 73.

⁵⁰ See: Administrative Petition 13406-01-25 *ACRI v. Freedom of Information Commissioner at the Ministry of Justice* (Hebrew). For more information see also ACRI's website [here](#).

⁵¹ See the full letter [here](#) (Hebrew), accessed 9 September 2025.

Immediately following the October 7 attack, the IPS introduced a new diet applicable only to Palestinians classified as security detainees, and intentionally inferior in quantity and quality, while curtailing all access to food other than that directly provided by the IPS. Testimonies reveal that even this substandard diet is not adhered to: food provided is insufficient in quantity and in calories, often rotten or undercooked, and is given with complete disregard to the number of individuals locked in a cell or their medical needs. Since October 7, lawyers working with HaMoked have collected dozens of testimonies of single meals being split between 8-10 detainees in Nafha, Shata, Ofer and Ktzi'ot prisons.⁵²

In his court appearance on 16 April 2024, Muhammad Jabareen, a Palestinian citizen of Israel who lost 30 kg during his 8-month detention at Megiddo and Ramon prisons, detailed the meagreness and inedibility of the food provided, adding: “no detainee, myself included, went to sleep not hungry...”.⁵³

Indeed, having collected tens of dozens of testimonies from Palestinian security detainees since October 7, the submitting organisations can attest that the grievous lack of food and the devastating effects of daily hunger appeared in all.

Testimonies, limited IPS medical files, and medical examinations of released detainees all reveal extreme cases of weight loss. In May 2025, a PHRI medical expert found that I., a minor, suffered from life-threatening malnutrition and underweight conditions after he lost 20 kg during his 7-months detention in Megiddo prison, where a plate of rice would be shared between 10 minors. The autopsy of Walid Khalid Abdullah Ahmad, a minor, concluded that he suffered from prolonged and extreme undernutrition prior to his death in Megiddo prison in March 2025.⁵⁴

Systematic and intentional deprivation of food has been previously recognized by the Committee as a form of torture. In an independent letter sent to ACRI on 26 June 2024 as part of a HCJ petition, the Minister of National Security stated: “... it is indeed my policy to reduce the conditions of security prisoners to the minimum required by law, including in terms of food and caloric intake.”⁵⁵ The letter further states that the purpose of this policy is ‘deterrence’, suggesting that food deprivation is implemented for the stated purpose of collective punishment. On 7 September 2025, the HCJ ruled that the food rations provided to Palestinians classified as security detainees did not meet minimum legal standards.⁵⁶

⁵² HCJ 2858/24 *ACRI et al. v. Minister of National Security et al.*, para. 57.

⁵³ For more on this case see: Adalah “[Persecuted for Protesting against the War on Gaza: The Cases of Muhammad Jabareen and Ahmed Khalefa - Human Rights Defenders in Prolonged Detention and Indicted for Incitement in Israel](#)”, 2 June 2024.

⁵⁴ See: Haaretz, [Malnutrition, Illness and Death – The Routine for Palestinian Prisoners at Israel's Megiddo Prison](#), 6 June 2025.

⁵⁵ HCJ 2858/24 *ACRI et al. v. Minister of National Security et al.* See the letter [here](#) (Hebrew). For further information see: ACRI, “[End the Policy of Starving Security Prisoners](#)”, 30 June 2024.

⁵⁶ [HCJ 2858/24 ACRI et al. v. Minister of National Security et al.](#) (Hebrew).

Physical, psychological and sexual torture

Numerous cases of severe and repetitive physical violence by IPS personnel have been documented since October 7. These include acts of punching, kicking, ramming, hitting with batons, painful shackling and holding in stress positions, as well as attacks with dogs. These acts of violence occur within prison cells, in areas without cameras, and during the transfer of detainees both in and outside prison facilities, resulting in serious and visible injuries such as bruises and fractures of ribs, nose, and teeth.

Reports of severe physical abuse have come to light from various prisons and detention facilities, including against women, minors and disabled detainees. In the protocol of a hearing held on 13 November 2023 at Judea Military Court, female detainee A.'s attorney reported that she had sustained repeated abuse in HaSharon Prison; among other incidents, wardens had beaten A. in her cell, without cameras, while she was naked. Testimonies reveal the omnipresence of arbitrary violence and its normalization as a part of daily prison routine, often inflicted on a group of detainees at once. Of particular concern are the frequent roll calls and cell searches, which seem to have been turned into a ritual of violence and humiliation.

In his testimony to PCATI, Y.M. detailed how his head was pushed into the toilet while he was beaten and forced to curse his mother during a cell search in Ktzi'ot in May 2024.

Testimonies additionally detail widespread humiliation and degrading treatment.

In his testimony from November 2023, A. described to HaMoked how detainees in Gilboa prison were “forced to curse themselves and to crawl while carrying an Israeli flag on their back and were threatened with beatings if they failed to do so”.

Palestinians classified as security detainees also testified that they are cursed at, threatened and urinated on. These acts are breaches of the absolute prohibition of torture and CIDTP and have previously been a matter of grave concern for various UN bodies.

Sexual violence in detention settings is widely recognized as a breach of UNCAT. Testimonies taken since October 7 provide detailed accounts of sexual assault and harassment, sexual humiliation and on some occasions, rape with objects. Multiple Palestinians classified as security detainees, both male and female, reported incidents in which IPS personnel beat and humiliated detainees while naked, including on their genitalia, and threatened sexual violence and rape. Some testified that their humiliation was performed in front of others and recorded on camera by IPS personnel.

In a testimony collected by PCATI in December 2023, R. detailed how wardens in Ktzi'ot would “undertake searches while the prisoners were naked, using violence; around 12 prisoners were placed in a small toilet stall, creating severe congestion.... Wardens would conduct searches while the prisoners were naked, place naked prisoners against each other, and place the aluminium device used in the searches in their buttocks. In another instance, the wardens passed a card in a prisoner’s buttocks. All of this took place in sight of other prisoners and wardens, while the wardens took pleasure in beating the prisoner’s genitals.”⁵⁷

Lack of medical treatment

Available testimonies suggest that since October 7, the IPS, as the custodial body, is deliberately reneging on its responsibilities towards Palestinians classified as security detainees and is using denial of medical care as a form of torture.

The medical care afforded to Palestinians in IPS security wings has been substandard and influenced by political considerations even before October 7. (One extreme example has been the criminally negligent refusal to move hunger striker Khader Adnan from a prison clinic to hospital, resulting in his death in May 2023). IPS medical services are not overseen by Israel’s Ministry of Health or by any other professional body, and do not operate in accordance with the ethical and professional standards set in the Mandela rules, Israeli law, or even the IPS’ own guidelines.

With the institutionalization of IPS’ ‘state of emergency’ policy from October 2023, nearly all medical care provided to Palestinians held in security wings has dissipated, forfeiting the state’s legal obligation to provide medical care. Curtailment of medical care includes the reduction of intake examinations and denial of primary care in detention facilities; halting of all specialised care in hospitals and in prisons excluding a handful of chronically ill patients; and no lab exams. Testimonies reveal that appropriate, timely treatment is withheld as policy in IPS facilities – from minor cuts to life saving treatments. Security detainees additionally testify that medical check-ups concerning their undernutrition and weight loss do not take place, despite obvious harm to their health. We note that medical care is also withheld from minors and women; for example, numerous testimonies from Damon prison, where the majority of female Palestinian security detainees are held, reflect that no specialised care is provided despite numerous gynaecological issues.

⁵⁷ Adalah, PHRI, PCATI and HaMoked, [Systemic torture and inhumane treatment of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prison facilities since October 7, 2023: urgent appeal to the UNSRT](#), submitted 16 February 2024, pp. 7-8. For additional testimonies see, for example: UN Human Rights: Office of the High Commissioner, [Detention in the context of the escalation of hostilities in Gaza \(October 2023-June 2024\)](#), 31 July 2024, paras 42-44; [testimony](#) of A.H. and others in: B’Tselem, [Welcome to Hell](#), pp. 59-61.

A flagrant example of the withholding of medical care is the scabies infestation that has been raging for months-on-end as a direct result of extreme overcrowding, substandard hygiene and lack of medical treatment. It is estimated that thousands of detainees – more than a quarter of all Palestinians in IPS security wings – have been infected, including entire wards in Ktzi’ot, Megiddo, Ramon, Ofer, Nafha, Gilboa and Shata prisons. Despite being relatively easy to treat, as of September 2025 the IPS has done little to stop this painful skin disease from spreading. Whether by intention or indifference, scabies has become a form of cruel, collective punishment.

In May 2025, Zaher Shushtari was denied hospitalization despite suffering from multiple sclerosis and diabetes, which went untreated in Megiddo prison for over 9 months requiring him to use a wheelchair, and having lost 20 kg since his detention 7 months prior. Despite warnings from PHRI medical experts that delayed treatment could lead to paralysis and blindness, the IPS hospitalization centre refused to accept his transfer for more than three weeks, citing a scabies infection – a condition that had also been left untreated.

Solitary confinement

Despite previous recommendations by the Committee, Israel’s use of solitary confinement continues to violate the Mandela Rules. Solitary confinement, referred to as ‘isolation’ and ‘separation’ in the IPS orders,⁵⁸ is used against both criminal and security detainees, regularly exceeding 15 days – a practice widely understood to amount to torture. It is also a ubiquitous component in security interrogations, used to pressure interrogees. Despite abundant evidence of the irreversible damage that it inflicts on individuals, and in contradiction to the Israeli Medical Association’s guidelines, IPS physicians routinely partake in approving and prolonging solitary confinement.

In line with its policy of suppression since October 7, the IPS was deliberately withholding up-to-date information on the use of solitary confinement in its facilities, therefore the report does not include data of the recent use of this method.⁵⁹ According to the most recent data provided by the State following a court petition, solitary confinement was used 5,395 times between 2019 and August 2021; in the first 8 months of 2021 alone, 37 adults were held in solitary confinement for over a year.⁶⁰ Despite being strictly prohibited under

⁵⁸ Israeli Prisons Service Commission standing order no. 04.14.00 and no. 04.03.00.

⁵⁹ A Freedom of Information request was submitted to the IPS by PHRI in August 2024. Despite follow-up requests and an on-going court petition, no up-to-date data has been provided as of July 2025.

⁶⁰ Administrative petition 31242-09-22 *PHRI v. Israel Prison Service*.

international law, 229 minors were held in ‘punitive isolation’ between 2019 and August 2021, including 26 held in solitary confinement for over two months.⁶¹

Though isolation is not a medically appropriate treatment for scabies, since October 7 it has been used as a pretext for solitary confinement.

Raja Eghbariah, a 73-year-old Palestinian citizen of Israel, was held in administrative detention for four months starting April 2025 and subjected to abuse. Despite medical staff confirming he was not infected, from 28 April 2025 to 27 May 2025 he was held in complete isolation, citing scabies as a pretext, while requests by Adalah and the court for visits or inspections were denied. Following his release from isolation Eghbariah was placed with six detainees who had scabies – leaving no doubt his isolation was never related to health concerns.

⁶¹ Ibid.

3. Deaths in Custody and Withholding of Bodies

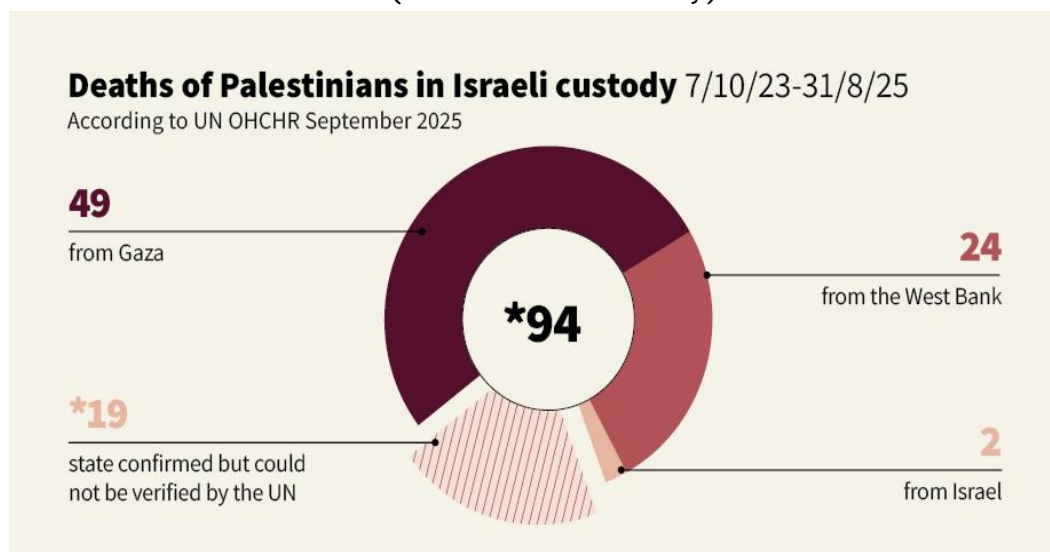
This section refers to Issues 28 (death in custody) and 40 (withholding of deceased Palestinians' bodies) in the LOI.

3.1. Overview

According to figures corroborated and validated by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) at least 75 Palestinians, including a 17-year-old child, have died in Israeli custody between 7 October 2023 and 31 August 2025⁶². Of the deceased, 49 are from Gaza, 24 from the West Bank and 2 Palestinian citizens of Israel. In addition, at least five more Palestinians — one of them a 16-year-old child — died while in custody shortly after being shot by Israeli security forces. Israeli authorities have also confirmed the **deaths of 19 other detainees**, but without providing sufficient details to verify their identities.⁶³

The evidence indicates that many of these deaths were directly linked to inhumane detention conditions, including deliberate food deprivation and medical neglect. At least 22 of those who died suffered from pre-existing health conditions that required treatment but were left unaddressed. In 12 documented cases, detainees lost their lives after being beaten or tortured by Israeli security forces.

Information regarding these deaths is deliberately obscured by the State, including from the decedents' families; the true number of deaths is in fact unconfirmed, and the identity of some Palestinians from Gaza who have died in Israeli custody may never be known. To date, the loss of Palestinian detainees' life is addressed with systemic indifference: to the best of our knowledge, as of September 2025 no soldier or IPS personnel has been indicted in relation to these dozens of deaths (also see *Accountability*).



⁶² UN OHCHR PR, 17.9.2025: At least 75 Palestinians have died in Israeli detention since 7 October 2023; <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-occupied-palestinian-territory-least-75-palestinians-have-died-israeli-detention-7-october-2023-enar>

⁶³ Ibid.

3.2. Deaths in military custody

According to data collected by PHRI, at least 52 Palestinian detainees have died in military, from October 7 to August 2025, all men from Gaza.⁶⁴ As of September 2025, the identity of almost half of the detainees who died in military custody remains unknown – the state’s obfuscation making even such basic information impossible to verify.

Disturbingly little information has been made available on the number, identity and circumstances of deaths in military custody since October 7. Following media publications, in March 2024 the military confirmed that a number of Gaza residents did indeed die in detention, and that their deaths are being investigated.⁶⁵ By the end of March 2024 only one body had been transferred for a post-mortem, despite the fact that at least 32 Palestinians have died in military custody during this 6-month period.⁶⁶ To date, the military is refusing to release further information.

The majority of deaths in military custody occurred in connection with the Sde Teiman facility; testimonies and media reports indicate that deaths have also occurred during transport and in a military transitory detention facility on the Gaza border. The submitting organizations are also aware of at least two workers from Gaza who died in military custody in November 2023 – one of whom was 46-year-old Rajaa Ismail Hassan Samur, who died at the Anatot military camp on an unknown date. In October 2024, the military announced it was investigating the death of a Lebanese detainee in its custody.⁶⁷

3.3. Death in IPS facilities

According to PHRI data, as of September 2025, at least 42 Palestinians have died in IPS-run facilities since October 7 – all men, including one minor. Deaths have occurred in IPS run Ktzi’ot (14), Megiddo (7), Ofer (5), Ramla (6) and Nafha and Ramon (3) prisons. At least two more death have occurred in Kishon and four more in Shikma prison – the last being a notorious ISA interrogation facility in which Dr. Iyad Rantisi, a senior physician from Gaza, died under interrogation in November 2023. The IPS claims that investigations into these deaths are on-going. Autopsies and numerous testimonies by fellow detainees suggest violence by IPS personnel is a likely cause of death in some of these cases. Severe signs of violence were documented in 5 of the 8 autopsies in which PHRI physicians were present prior to May 2025.

⁶⁴ According to a PHRI freedom of information request submitted to the Israeli army and the Ministry of Health on 25 December 2023, and which was only responded to by the state in July 2024.

⁶⁵ Haaretz, [27 Gaza Detainees Have Died in Custody at Israeli Military Facilities Since the Start of the War](#), 7 March 2024.

⁶⁶ PHRI Freedom of Information request from 25 December 2023.

⁶⁷ See: L’Orient Today, [Israeli media reports Lebanese man died in Israeli detention](#), 19 October, 2024.

Abdul Rahman Mirie died in Megiddo prison on 13 November 2023. His autopsy revealed broken ribs and sternum, and extensive signs of violence; his cellmates testified that he was severely attacked by IPS guards a week before his death and had not been seen since. Abdel Rahman Bahash died in Megiddo prison in January 2024; while the cause of his death remains inconclusive, an autopsy revealed multiple broken ribs, a spleen injury and bruises.

Autopsies and testimonies additionally reveal deaths directly linked to food deprivation and denial of medical care. While numbers are almost certainly higher, we can ascertain that seven of those who have died suffered from pre-existing medical conditions that went untreated in IPS facilities.

Muhammad Elsbar died in Ofer prison on 8 February 2024; he was denied the special diet he had required since childhood due to Hirschsprung's disease and was denied medical treatment over some weeks. A PHRI physician determined the cause of death as medical neglect.

Samih Aliwi's repeated appeals for medical care went unheeded for 5 months in Ktzi'ot prison. Only when he lost the ability to speak, suffered from hypokalaemia, and his weight plummeted to 40 kg was he finally transferred to IPS' central medical facility, where he died after 6 weeks on 6 November 2024.

On 22 March 2025 Walid Khalid Abdullah Ahmad, 17-years old, died in Megiddo prison; his autopsy revealed prolonged starvation, untreated colitis and scabs and signs of violence on his body.

This contempt for Palestinian lives is also reflected in IPS conduct following death. Information regarding these deaths is not made readily available by the IPS; information regarding some deaths has not been officially released to this day.

Such in the case of Dr. Adnan Al Bursh, a senior physician from Gaza, who died in Ofer prison in April 2024, Testimonies indicate that he was tortured.⁶⁸

In at least four cases, an autopsy was performed without the presence of an independent physician, despite the family's explicit request.⁶⁹

⁶⁸ UN Press Release, "[UN expert horrified by death of Gazan orthopedic surgeon in Israeli detention](#)", 16 May 2024.

⁶⁹ The known cases are the deaths of Khaled al-Shawish; Thaer Abu 'Asab; Musab Adili; Nasser Khalil Radaideh.

3.4. Withholding of bodies..

Israel has long had a policy of holding the bodies of those Palestinians killed by Israeli forces who were carrying out, or who are alleged to have carried out, attacks against Israeli soldiers or civilians. These include the bodies of Palestinians who died in Israeli detention facilities. The dead bodies are held as bargaining chips for possible future prisoner or hostage exchanges, a policy upheld by the HCJ in 2019.⁷⁰ According to the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center, at least 688 Palestinian corpses are being held by Israel as of June 2025, including those of minors;⁷¹ this gruesome figure does not include the bodies of Palestinians from Gaza held since October 7, whose number is unknown.

The withholding of bodies violates the ICCPR and UNCAT. In its previous session nine years ago, the Committee recommended that Israel “should take the measures necessary to return the bodies of the Palestinians that have not yet been returned to their relatives as soon as possible”.⁷²

The Committee’s recommendation has not only been disregarded, but Israel has since vastly expanded the scope of this practice, both in scale and by extending it to include Palestinian citizens of Israel. The body of Walid Daqqa, a Palestinian citizen of Israel who was imprisoned for decades and died of cancer while in custody in April 2024, has been held by the State since his death. In response to a HCJ petition, the Court accepted such practice as a first-of-its-kind ‘exception’ concerning an Israeli citizen.⁷³ In January 2025 the exception became the norm, when the HCJ upheld a sweeping new policy of withholding the bodies of Palestinian citizens of Israel without individual assessments, to be used as bargaining chips in political negotiations with Hamas.⁷⁴ In its decision on 5 December 2024 to approve the continued holding of the body of the deceased hunger striker Khader Adnan, the HCJ moreover expanded the withholding-of-bodies policy to include oPt Palestinians who have not been charged or convicted of any terror-related activity.⁷⁵

⁷⁰ HCJFH 10190/17 *Military Commander v. Alian et al.*

⁷¹ Including 432 bodies held since 2016, and at least 256 bodies buried prior to 2016 in the ‘Cemeteries of Numbers’.

⁷² Committee Against Torture, Concluding observations of the fifth periodic report of Israel, para. 43.

⁷³ [HCJ 3289/24](#) (Hebrew).

⁷⁴ See: Adalah, [“Israeli Supreme Court upholds sweeping policy of withholding bodies of Palestinian citizens as bargaining chips for negotiations”](#), 6 January 2025.

⁷⁵ HCJ 5789/23 *Randa Musa et al. v. Minister of Defence et al.*

4. Impunity and Lack of Safeguards

This section analyses the deliberate dismantling of accountability and safeguarding mechanisms, particularly since October 7, and the complicity of Israel's military and civil judicial system, most notably its HCJ, with policies of torture and CIDTP. This is not just a failure to provide justice: the impunity is also a root cause of the continued violence in detention. We note that just as torture is cumulative, so is the failure of the accountability and safeguarding mechanisms. Each facet of the system colludes with torture in particular aspects, and the result is a system with no protections and no recourse for victims.

4.1. Accountability

This section refers to Issues 28, 29, 31 and 32 (investigation of allegations) in the LOI.

The Israeli investigative system is fragmented across security sectors. Investigations of allegedly criminal actions can take years and are conducted separately for each branch of the security forces, using different approaches and protocols. This fragmentation creates a chaotic system, characterized by widely varying response times and professional standards. Complaints are often passed around from one mechanism to another for months and even years, each preliminary body claiming it has no jurisdiction over the case. Every such transfer takes several months, resulting in substantial harm to the victim's right to redress. This policy of fragmentation results in a purposefully ineffective system, discouraging complaints and denying accountability.

Prompt, professional and effective investigations of allegations are not only required by all signatories to UNCAT; they are also essential in preventing abuses. While directed at the past, an effective investigation system should create a different future. This is far from the reality in Israel. Below is an analysis of the investigation mechanisms in the ISA, Israeli military, and the IPS, and their shortcomings.

Accountability: ISA

Examinations of allegations of torture and CIDTP in the ISA are plagued by an egregious lack of effectiveness and a lack of promptness that renders them a barren exercise. Our report adds little to previous submissions to the Committee, given the lack of access to detainees; the only substantive change is in the numbers presented below.

The ISA is monitored by the Inspector for Interrogee Complaints (IIC; established independently in 2014). Between the years 2001-2022, over 1,450 complaints of torture and CIDTP were filed. Only three complaints have led to a criminal investigation, and no

indictments have been presented, including in a case with testimonies of rape. In addition, although some 40 appeals have been presented against the closing of files, 14 of which after 2020, not a single appeal has ever been accepted. The average time for a decision in appeals is two years. The average length for a preliminary examination conducted by the IIC, according to PCATI's data, is three years and four months, with some examinations lasting longer than eight years.⁷⁶ Such lengthy – and opaque – examinations violate requirements of promptness and undermine redress; this is not accidental. Unlike in the past, the unit reviewing allegations of torture and CIDTP in the ISA is equipped, industrious and skilled in drafting documents and explanations – but still produces no results and no real accountability.

Accountability: The Military

Thousands of Palestinians from Gaza, including women and children, have spent months in military custody in appalling conditions, losing life, limbs and health, with no oversight and no ability to contact their families or appeal to any authority; hundreds remain detained in military custody. There is complete impunity for these abuses.

The body entrusted with investigating complaints regarding soldiers is the Military Police Criminal Investigation Division (MPCID). According to data gathered by the NGO Yesh Din, between the years 2018-2022 investigations were opened only in a minority (30%) of the cases, and the number of indictments filed against implicated soldiers is 1.5% of complaints filed. The probability of an Israeli soldier facing prosecution for killing Palestinians is just 0.4% – one prosecution in 219 fatalities brought to the military's attention.⁷⁷ The MPCID fosters impunity through systematic delays and unprofessional investigations.

In May 2024, following mounting evidence and a public outcry against abuse in military detention, the IDF Chief of Staff appointed a special external advisory committee to review the conditions of detention, the treatment of detainees and the compliance with Israeli and international law. The committee concluded its work and submitted its final report on 22 July 2024 and later presented its recommendations to the military in a dedicated meeting. The recommendations are confidential, hence no scrutiny of their methodology, findings or recommendations is possible. The only source available is the military's press announcement of the recommendations' submission, seemingly deflecting the responsibility back to the IPS.⁷⁸

According to the IDF spokesperson,⁷⁹ as of August 2024 the MPCID has launched 58 criminal investigations regarding the treatment of detainees from Gaza in Israeli territory or on the

⁷⁶ See PCATI 2023 [Situation Report](#).

⁷⁷ Yesh Din, [Data Sheet: Law Enforcement Against Israeli Soldiers Suspected of Harming Palestinians and Their Property – Figures for 2018-2022](#), 4 February 2025.

⁷⁸ See, for example: <https://www.kan.org.il/content/kan-news/defense/778681/> (Hebrew).

⁷⁹ [Military Prosecutor's Office site](#), accessed 30 July 2025.

way to Israeli territory; 44 of them deal with cases of the death of detainees, most in Sde Teiman facility. The latter investigations were opened automatically, as all deaths trigger an investigation. Between October 2023 and the end of March 2024, the army transferred only one body for a post-mortem, though 32 detainees died in military custody during that period.⁸⁰ It is therefore unclear what evidence has been collected in the course of the other investigations. NGOs attempting to assist families have encountered a wall of obfuscations and silence.

As of November 2024, only 15 indictments had been filed by the military against soldiers for crimes committed in connection with the war. Most of those indictments deal with theft and trafficking of weapons, and not one addresses a death in custody.⁸¹

In July 2024, ten reserve soldiers were detained at Sde Teiman and later arrested, following suspicions of severe physical and sexual abuse of a detainee. Indictments were filed against five of them for offenses of serious assault and abuse under aggravating circumstances – but not for sexual assault – and their military unit was disbanded. On a different occasion, a reserve soldier was convicted in a plea bargain of abusing detainees under his supervision, together with other unidentified soldiers, and sentenced to 7 months imprisonment, a punishment widely regarded as grossly insufficient given the severity of the abuse.⁸² These are the only two incidents for which soldiers faced consequences for abusing detainees since October 7, although hundreds of similar accounts have been reported in Ofer and Anatot camps as well as in Sde Teiman.

Accountability: IPS

The mounting evidence of torture and CIDTP perpetrated by IPS personnel has been met with a blank response by the National Prison Wardens Investigation Unit (WIU, or YAHAS). Prior to October 7, of 150 complaints of violence filed against IPS personnel in the years 2019-2022, only 3-5% resulted in an indictment.⁸³ In nearly all closed cases, the stated reason for closure was 'no criminal offense has been identified'. This is true also for complaints filed by minors, who should have been afforded special protections.

K.R., who was 15 in 2018, was beaten by IPS personnel while still in the courthouse after a hearing, in which he complained to the judge of not receiving his diabetes medication. "As soon as the elevator closed... they hit and pushed and hurt me badly. I tried to protect myself and hide my

⁸⁰ According to a PHRI Freedom of Information request submitted to the Israeli army and the Ministry of Health on 25 December 2023.

⁸¹ According to a Freedom of Information request obtained and [published](#) by Haaretz, 25 November 2024. See also the [military's public data](#), updated to August 2024.

⁸² See: Haaretz, [In First Since Start of War, Israeli Soldier Convicted of Abusing Gazan Detainees](#), 6 February 2025.

⁸³ According to [analysis](#) conducted by the Knesset Research and Information Center in 2023 (Hebrew).

head between my hands. The blows were concentrated on my breast and head." K.R. filed a complaint through HaMoked in November 2018; four months later he was informed that the complaint was closed.

The violations described in this report have been carried out with complete impunity. No IPS personnel has been indicted for torture, sexual violence or death of Palestinians in IPS facilities since October 7; this includes 19 prison guards who were investigated following the violent death of Thaer Abu 'Asab on 19 November 2023 in Ktzi'ot prison.⁸⁴ The lack of accountability is unsurprising considering the endorsement of human rights violations as policy by the Ministry of National Security and IPS' senior echelons, who have publicly bragged about it time and again.

Impunity is additionally perpetuated by threatening and abusing detainees into silence. During a hearing held on 24 November 2023, a detainee's attorney reported violence by wardens, followed by threats to the prisoner not to complain since "they have eyes in the courts." The detainee was also warned to be careful since "another prisoner had died a week before and no one had asked about him".⁸⁵ Multiple other detainees have also testified to such silencing and intimidation tactics by prison guards, targeting detainees who dared to complain about abuse.

⁸⁴ The Jerusalem Post [reported](#) on Abu Asab's death and the investigation in December 2023.

⁸⁵ Adalah, PHRI, PCATI and HaMoked, [Urgent appeal to the UNSRT](#), submitted 16 February 2024, p. 8.

Findings from random sample of detainee visits

Between 7 October 2023, and 30 June 2025, PHRI conducted 349 visits to Palestinian detainees and prisoners. A randomized sample of every sixth visit (totalling 60 visits) was analysed to assess the scope and patterns of abuse.

Location of visits:



Key findings:

severe physical violence during their detention period:

76%

at least one incident of serious physical violence inside the detention facility:

64.9%

injuries or ongoing medical issues directly resulting from this violence

44%

systematic and repeated acts of physical violence while in detention

41%

severe physical violence during transfers:

28%

severe physical violence during initial arrest:

20%

These findings underscore the routine use of torture and CIDTP in Israeli custody and present a widespread, systemic pattern that contravenes the absolute prohibition against torture and CIDTP.

4.2. Istanbul Protocol

This section refers to Issues 18 (Istanbul Protocol) and 30 (Firas Tbeish) in the LOI.

The State and judicial system still demonstrate a clear disregard for the IP, evident in their lack of action. There is no systematic, official training for medical professionals – including physicians, forensic doctors, social workers, and mental health practitioners – on identifying or documenting signs of torture, nor are they made aware of the Protocol itself. Similarly, investigators, interrogators, and judges across the security and legal systems receive no structured training on the absolute prohibition of torture or on recognizing its signs, as outlined in the Protocol.

The HCJ has followed the Ministry of Justice in dismissing the value of the IP: all 15 IP assessments completed by internationally trained and qualified physicians and mental health experts were ignored or dismissed. Crucially, in the few cases where an IP assessment was presented to the HCJ, the court itself was dismissive of its value. The first ruling to dismiss an IP report was in *HCJ 5722/12 Abu Ghosh v. AG*, given in 2017. Another example is the case of *Firas Tbeish et al. v. the State Attorney General et al.*; though the IP report found consistency between the severe physiological and psychological finding and

Mr Tbeish's account of prolonged torture, and though no alternative professional opinion was presented, the 2018 HCJ ruling declined to give the report any evidentiary weight.⁸⁶ Eight IP assessments have since been dismissed by the Ministry of Justice, with an explicit citation of the Abu Ghosh ruling as having established that such assessments have no real value.

4.3. Safeguards

This section refers to Issues 5 (legal and other safeguards); 7 (audio-visual recording of interrogations); 34 (role of prison medical personnel) in the LOI.

Concerns regarding the effectiveness of the procedural and legal safeguards put in place by the State and their compatibility with international law have been repeatedly expressed by the Committee. We note that the Committee's recommendations have not led to any significant or meaningful changes – on the contrary, the situation has deteriorated. This gap remains rooted in the oppressive nature of Israel's legal system towards Palestinians. Since October 7 the few safeguards pertaining to Palestinians held in security prisons and camps have been legally and practically dissolved, disconnecting those held from the outside world. This has been done with the near complete concurrence of Israel's military and civil judicial system, most notably, its HCJ.

Enforced disappearance and Habeas Corpus

Under Military Order 1651, the duty to inform a detainee's family of their arrest and whereabouts can be suspended for up to 12 days. In practice, Israel has consistently applied this measure in a haphazard and inconsistent manner, particularly in cases involving Palestinians accused of security offenses – including minors. Nevertheless, before October 7, it was rare for the whereabouts of detained Palestinians to remain unknown for extended periods.

Since the outbreak of the war, Palestinians from Gaza have been subjected to enforced disappearances while detained under the UCL, significantly increasing their vulnerability to torture. The State has acknowledged that it deliberately withholds information about detainees, claiming it has no legal duty to provide it.⁸⁷ Only in May 2024, following a HaMoked petition, did the State provide an e-mail address,⁸⁸ this currently constitutes the

⁸⁶ See analyses of the HCJ reaction to the IP in: Schiemann JW., [Institutionalizing torture in Israel: The Firas Tbeish decision, A commentary by John W. Schiemann](#), PhD. *Torture*. 2019;29(2):103-107; and Shir E., [How do you say Istanbul Protocol in Hebrew? The curious case of Mr Firas Tbeish](#), *Torture*. 2019;29(2):90-95.

⁸⁷ HCJ 9021/23 *Wadi and 61 Petitioners v. Israel Defence Forces et al.*, para 6.

⁸⁸ HCJ 2254/24 *Abu Musa v. Israel Defence Forces et al.*

only avenue for tracing the whereabouts of detained Palestinians from Gaza – and even then, in practice, families and lawyers can access information only after detainees have been in military custody for 45 days. From May to October 2024 HaMoked was able to trace 501 detainees from Gaza via this email address; the organisation’s attorneys testified that most of the detainees they met did not know where they were being held nor where they had been held previously. The fate of a further 400 Palestinians from Gaza, whose cases HaMoked attempted to trace, remains unknown to this day.⁸⁹

In a grave violation of its obligations under IHL, Israel does not maintain any mechanism for recording the fate or circumstances of Palestinians arrested by its forces in Gaza.

T.T. disappeared, and in November 2024 the military claimed he was released back to Gaza; at the end of March 2025 the military, in a change of mind, cryptically informed HaMoked that he passed away in an Israeli hospital on 31 December 2024, “after his release”, without providing further information.

The fate of Mounir and Yassin Alfaqawi, father and son, remained unknown for weeks following their arrest by soldiers in March 2024; despite its initial claims, following a Habeas Corpus petition the State then determined that the two had died in military custody four months previously, and without providing further information.⁹⁰

The State refused to disclose the whereabouts of the paramedic Assad al-Nassasra for over a month prior to his release on 29 April 2025.⁹¹

Of 24 writs of Habeas Corpus filed by HaMoked to the HCJ between May and October 2024, 16 were rejected based on the state’s claim that there “was no indication of arrest or detention”. These cases included the disappearance of a 5-year-old girl and two elderly men, whose fate remains unknown.⁹² The HCJ’s refusal to hold the State to its legal obligations continues to enable the systematic enforced disappearances of Palestinian from Gaza. The Court has made no serious attempt to get to the root of the disappearances and has rejected petitions on the matter based on formalistic grounds – including a requirement that those disappeared be a formal party to petitions.

⁸⁹ HaMoked, [Unaccounted For – Disappearance of Gaza Palestinians After They Were in the Custody of Israeli Security Forces](#), November 2024.

⁹⁰ Haaretz, [A Gazan Father and Son Died in Israeli Custody. Their Family Only Found Out After Petitioning the High Court](#), 20 November 2024.

⁹¹ HaMoked, [“Surviving paramedic of Israeli attack in Rafah is being held in an unnamed facility and denied access to a lawyer”](#), 23 April 2025.

⁹² HaMoked, [“Complaint of the disappearance of Gazan detainees after having been held in the military’s custody”](#), 6 November 2024.

Incommunicado detention: denial of legal counsel

Incommunicado detention has been routinely practiced by Israel against persons detained for security offences. While this practice continues to be consistently used against oPt Palestinians, it has occasionally been employed against Israeli citizens –Palestinian and Jews – including for offences under the CTL. Since October 7 its use has been entirely normalized.

During the first months of the war, legal counsel visits to detainees held in the security wings of IPS detention facilities were drastically restricted as part of the IPS’ ‘lock down policy’. Citing ‘dynamic’ and ‘emergency needs’ in the context of the ongoing war, the IPS refused and arbitrarily cancelled attorney visits, at times over a period of many months, in a clear breach of its own guidelines. Violations and restrictions on accessing legal counsel and representation continue as an unwritten policy to this day. In January and February 2025, Megiddo prison cancelled the same scheduled visit by a PCATI lawyer on three occasions – first citing an alleged administrative mistake found only on the day of the visit, and twice more due to sudden ‘emergency situations’ announced while the lawyer was already inside the prison compound. In May 2025, a PHRI lawyer was denied visits to three detainees from Gaza in Ganot prison after the IPS claimed they had been placed in a three-week medical isolation due to scabies, in effect blocking their right to counsel. Attorneys visiting IPS detention facilities have also been humiliated and harassed by staff, who routinely breached enshrined lawyer-client privileges and IPS guidelines.

In the months since October 7 incommunicado detention has been institutionalized as a norm for Palestinians from Gaza under the UCL. In effect, all detainees from Gaza are currently banned from meeting with a lawyer for the first 45 days of their arrest, a period which has often been extended by the courts to 75 days. In its response to the UNSRT from December 2024 the State contends that “in many cases there is a clear security necessity to prevent the transmission of messages from detainees to the terrorist organizations in Gaza through their legal counsels...”⁹³ – a statement encapsulating its view of legal counsel as a security breach rather than a basic procedural safeguard against torture and CIDTP. Compounded by prolonged concealment of detainees’ imprisonment and location, incommunicado detention under the UCL may amount to the crime of enforced disappearance.⁹⁴

As noted on numerous occasions by the Committee, even before October 7 military law in Israel allowed for detainees to be denied access to legal counsel for up to 30 days by an order of an authorized ISA interrogator; incommunicado detention may be extended up to 60 days by a military court judge – three-fold longer than the period prescribed under Israeli law (21 days, by a District Court Order and authorisation of the State Attorney). The overwhelming majority of ISA interrogees are denied access to legal counsel during the

⁹³ [The State of Israel's Response to Communication by the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#), para 78.

⁹⁴ Diakonia and PCATI, [Unlawful Incarceration](#), August 2024.

length of their interrogation, enabling and compounding their maltreatment. Military courts regularly and off-handily approve extended denial of legal counsel even when allegations of torture or CIDTP are made.

Incommunicado detention: denial of contact to family / ICRC

Since October 7 all connection with family members has been severed for Palestinians classified as security detainees, including those formerly imprisoned. We note with alarm that hundreds of minors held since October 7 have had no contact with their families since their imprisonment.

Contrary to both IHL and Israeli law and for the first time since 1968, immediately following October 7 ICRC's access to all Palestinians classified as security detainees was halted, including all women and minors. This ban additionally encompassed all ISA interrogees, for whom the ICRC was previously the only contact with the outside world following 14-days of interrogation. Deviating from its past custom in times of war, Israel has moreover completely stopped sharing information with the ICRC regarding the detention of oPt Palestinians and the whereabouts of those it held. This decision, still in place to the best of our knowledge, has further impeded the little oversight effectively in place, contributing to the enforced disappearance of many Palestinians from Gaza. In July 2025 the HCJ granted the State another postponement in a petition challenging this ban's legality – the 19th since the petition was submitted in February 2024, and in which a hearing has yet to take place as of September 2025.⁹⁵

Since October 7 Israeli authorities have also denied parliamentary oversight, preventing Arab MKs from accessing Palestinians classified as security detainees. In this context, in April 2024 Adalah submitted a petition to the HCJ on behalf of MK Ahmad Tibi, demanding that he be allowed to visit political prisoner Marwan Barghouti in light of reports of harsh conditions and prolonged solitary confinement.⁹⁶ 17 months later, the petition remains pending.

Audio-visual documentation

In 2018 Israel instituted an internal CCTV broadcasting mechanism as a means of supervising ISA interrogations. After 7 years in operation, it is obvious that this mechanism, which was established in full cooperation with the ISA itself, is purposefully weak and opaque. As interrogations are not recorded, many acts of torture cannot be identified in real time nor later allegations of torture corroborated. Despite claims of hundreds of supervision hours

⁹⁵ HCJ 1537/24 *ACRI et al. v. The Government of Israel et al.* (Hebrew).

⁹⁶ HCJ 3507/24 *MK Ahmad Tibi et al. v. Minister of National Security et al.* see also: Adalah: "[MK Ahmad Tibi and Adalah petition Israeli Supreme Court to allow MKs to visit Palestinian prisoners](#)", 21 April 2024.

and dozens of reports, the State is unable to recount any meaningful action resulting from this mechanism, not to mention indictments or other criminal or disciplinary consequences.

Defence attorneys have not had access to any such documentation, yet, videos of interrogations have been released to the media since October 7.⁹⁷ The State has proven it has the ability and the capacity to record ISA interrogations; audio-visual documentation, it thus seems, is utilized by Israel not as a safeguard against torture but as a tool for propaganda.

Independent physicians in IPS facilities

The Committee has previously expressed particular concern about the denial of access to independent physicians in IPS facilities. Reasons for concern have since multiplied. Whereas physicians based in IPS facilities continue to be directly employed by the Ministry of National Security rather than the Ministry of Health, since 2019 regulations require the presence of an IPS warden in examinations conducted by independent physicians.⁹⁸

The state's claim that medical staff in detention facilities routinely document complaints of torture and ill treatment in photography and in writing is ingenious at best – having reviewed hundreds of IPS medical files in recent years, we can attest documentation is routinely trite, substandard, and in only a handful of instances has included photographic evidence. Despite numerous testimonies of severe physical violence and abuse in IPS facilities since October 7, we have not seen a single professionally adequate documentation of complaints or injuries in a medical file.

The Courts

Contrary to the state's claim, Israeli courts – from military courts through District Courts and up to the HCJ – do not act as an effective safeguard against torture and CIDTP, but rather as enablers of these acts. In the shadow of the war, the courts' failure has become flagrantly egregious: since October 7, Israeli courts have systematically failed to provide meaningful judicial oversight on the abusive detention, treatment and living conditions of Palestinian classified as security detainees – in effect granting the military and the IPS a near free reign to run their facilities behind closed gates and as they see fit.

Judicial review: remand hearings

Judicial reviews are inherently lacking as a procedural safeguard in the discriminatory military court system, which is used exclusively to detain and prosecute West Bank Palestinians. Military law additionally allows for an 8-day 'combat arrest' before the first

⁹⁷ See, for example: NBC News, [Inside Shin Bet's interrogation of 50 Hamas fighters](#), 19 November 2023; The Times of Israel, [Kill, behead, rape: Interrogated Hamas members detail atrocities against civilians](#), 24 October 2023; YNET articles from [28 October 2023](#), and [1 November 2023](#) (Hebrew).

⁹⁸ Israeli Prisons Service Commission standing Order No. 04.46.00.

judicial review, and 15 days before remand hearings thereafter.⁹⁹ Following October 7 and for a period of some 6 months, all West Bank Palestinians were automatically arrested under ‘combat arrests’, regardless of the charged offence or their age, with no right of appeal. ‘Combat arrests’ continue to be blankly applied to all West Bank ISA interrogees.

Since the outbreak of the war, thousands of detained Palestinians from Gaza have been denied judicial review for weeks and months. As conceded by the State, up to July 2024 not a single Palestinian of the thousands detained under the UCL has been released following a judicial review.¹⁰⁰ All judicial reviews of Palestinians detained for alleged security offences are carried out via video conferencing since October 7, further hindering judicial evaluation of detainees’ physical and mental condition. Testimonies reveal a disturbing picture in which remote remand hearings exclude even minimal participation by detainees, including the use of prison guards’ personal mobile devices and reliance on WhatsApp application.¹⁰¹ Detainees additionally attest to hearings taking place in extreme threatening proximity to security guards; in his remand hearing in Ofer military court in November 2023, A. was heard being abused while the camera was turned off. Hearings are also laconic and cut short: the remote hearing of Dr. N.T. in May 2024 lasted for a minute before his detention was extended for another 6 months. Dr. M.K. testified that “[I] had a hearing with a judge about sixty to sixty-five days after my arrest, conducted via mobile phone. They informed me that I was being held indefinitely. The judge was not present, only his translator...”.¹⁰²

Judicial review: the HCJ

In the face of unprecedented violation of Palestinian detainees’ rights and the institutionalization of torture and CIDTP in military and IPS facilities, Israel’s HCJ has systematically failed to provide meaningful judicial oversight. Faced with numerous petitions by NGOs, the HCJ has repeatedly chosen to dismiss petitions on procedural grounds; accept the state’s position, even when it clearly contradicts on-the-ground reality, Israeli law or the Court’s previous rulings; and prolong legal proceedings on even the most urgent issues. The HCJ’s effectiveness as a safeguard against torture and CIDTP since its seminal 1999 ruling has always been dubious; nevertheless, since October 7, it has proven itself entirely unwilling to protect Palestinians from torture and abuse or hold the State accountable for its actions, policies and laws.¹⁰³

20 petitions challenging the torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian classified as security detainees in IPS facilities have been filed since October 7 by our organisations and our colleague NGOs. To date, only two have been granted by the HCJ (see Annex 2). In November 2023, the Court upheld the validity of the then new prison-ordinance amendment

⁹⁹ Order Regarding Security Directives [Consolidated Version] (Judea and Samaria) (No. 1651), 2009, Art. 33.

¹⁰⁰ Protocol no. 242, The Knesset’s Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, 25 July 2024, p.7.

¹⁰¹ ACRI, “[Conducting Detention Hearings Using WhatsApp](#)”, 29 April 2025.

¹⁰² PHRI, [Unlawfully Detained, Torture and Starved: Gaza Medical Workers Testimonials](#), p.13. See also: B’Tselem, [Welcome to Hell](#), pp.34-35.

¹⁰³ See: Haaretz, [A Lost Battle for Human Rights: Throughout the War Israel's High Court Has Denied All Requests to Protect Gazans](#), 23 May 2025.

that to date enables inhuman crowdedness in cells. Despite the ordinance being in contradiction with its 2020 ruling, which set minimal living-quarter size in IPS facilities, the Court found that “the evaluation of human rights violations during times of war differs from their evaluation in times of peace”.¹⁰⁴ At the end of November 2023, the HCJ dismissed an urgent petition filed to stop the systematic violation of Palestinian detainees’ basic rights in IPS security wings; citing procedural claims, the Court ruled that the proper course of action is filing individual petitions – despite the fact that all Palestinians classified as security detainees were held in complete isolation from the outside world and thus unable to file such petitions.¹⁰⁵ In November 2024 the HCJ accepted the state’s claim that the scabies epidemic proliferating in IPS security wings is being properly treated; 10 months later, it is estimated that the disease has affected 25% of Palestinians in security wings and facilities, with no end in sight.¹⁰⁶ As of September 2025 the HCJ has allowed the State its 19th postponement of a petition submitted in February 2024, challenging the unprecedented ban on ICRC visits in IPS and military facilities.¹⁰⁷ A petition challenging the policy of starving Palestinians in IPS security wings and facilities, filed in April 2024, has been stalled by the Court for over 17 months prior to its ruling in September 2025. While the Court ruled that the State is failing to meet its legal obligations and must take immediate steps to ensure adequate food to all IPS detainees, it failed to establish any oversight mechanism.¹⁰⁸

The protection afforded to Palestinians held in military custody has likewise been tenuous, enabling the persistence of torture and CIDTP in military detention facilities. The HCJ’s reluctance to provide remedy in Habeas Corpus petitions has allowed the enforced disappearance of hundreds of Palestinians from Gaza. A petition challenging the legality of the amendments made to the UCL following October 7 was filed in February 2024.¹⁰⁹ Though these amendments bluntly contradict the legal framework set by the HCJ in its 2008 ruling concerning the UCL’s legality, as of September 2025 the petition is still ongoing. A petition challenging the systematic denial of food from detainees held in Ofer military camp, submitted in February 2025, is scheduled to be heard only in September 2025.¹¹⁰

A notable exception is the HCJ’s ruling in a petition brought by NGOs in May 2024, which challenged the legality of detention in Sde Teiman military camp.¹¹¹ In September 2024, the Court unanimously ruled that detention in the camp must comply with the UCL and its regulations – in effect ending long-term detention of Palestinians from Gaza in Sde Teiman. Detrimentially, the HCJ did not prescribe any actual implications to the supposed illegal

¹⁰⁴ HCJ 7650/23 *ACRI, PHRI and PCATI v. the Minister of National Security et al.*, para 6 (Hebrew).

¹⁰⁵ HCJ 7753/23 *ACRI, HaMoked, PHRI, Adalah, PCATI v. Minister of National Security et al.*

¹⁰⁶ HCJ 5908/24 *PHRI et al. v. Israel Prison Service et al.*; because of the continued deteriorating situation, a second HCJ petition challenging the IPS’ management of the scabies epidemic was filed in June 2025.

¹⁰⁷ HCJ 1537/24 *ACRI et al. v. Israel Government et al.*

¹⁰⁸ HCJ 2858/24 *ACRI et al. v. Minister of National Security*. See also: ACRI “[The Supreme Court Rules: Prisoners Cannot Be Starved](#)”, 11 September 2025.

¹⁰⁹ HCJ 1414/24 *PCATI et al. v. The Israel Knesset et al.* (Hebrew).

¹¹⁰ HCJ 32288/25 *PHRI et al. v. Israel Defence Force et al.*

¹¹¹ HCJ 4268/24 *ACRI et al. v. Minister of Defence et al.*

conduct that had taken place in the camp until then and did not rule on the legality of the abusive acts detailed in the petition – enabling the military to continue running Sde Teiman, Ofer (and previously Anatot) detention facilities under a custodian regime of torture.

4.4. Impunity Initiatives

Recent years in Israel have been characterized by a massive and widespread assault on the very existence of human rights organisations and human rights defenders. We note two specific initiatives currently advanced by the government. The first consists of a legal amendment to the Law of Associations (1980) imposing severe financial and operational restrictions on NGOs receiving funding from foreign governmental entities.¹¹² The current draft, currently under review by Israel's Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee, states that NGOs must refrain for three years from criticizing government ministries in public forums, participating in political demonstrations, election campaigning, organizing political events, or lobbying the Knesset. Engaging in any election-related activities is entirely banned. The bill also imposes steep financial penalties. NGOs that do not commit to these restrictions will face a 23% corporate tax on foreign donations, while those who violate their three-year commitments will be taxed at a punitive rate of 46%. Additional measures include special HCJ petition fees, broader grounds for dissolution – such as supporting boycotts – and administrative sanctions, with specific amounts yet to be defined. The bill forces NGOs to choose between sacrificing their core activities or facing crippling financial consequences. It severely limits freedom of expression and association, especially for human rights and advocacy groups, while court access fees threaten smaller organisations' ability to seek judicial review. The bill is a deliberate attempt to silence civil society through legal and financial coercion.

The second initiative prohibits all formal cooperation between Israeli authorities and the International Court of Justice (ICC), criminalizing citizens who would assist the ICC in any way, an offense punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment and in certain instances a life sentence.¹¹³ As many human rights NGOs documenting torture engage in dealings with the ICC on the proceedings in the Situation of Palestine, this law would hamstring them, threaten their staff, and deprive victims of torture of recourse.

Given the Israeli judicial system's utter collapse in the face of state abuses, human rights NGOs have been left as a sole bulwark for victims of torture and CIDTP. These initiatives hamper the ability of victims of torture to document their abuses and obtain redress.

¹¹² Bill to amend the Law of Associations (Foreign State Entity Donations), 2024 (submitted to the Knesset on 16 December 2024 for preliminary discussion).

¹¹³ P/25/4711 - Proposed Law: Protection of Israeli Public Officials from the Action of the International Criminal Court in The Hague against the State of Israel.

5. Recommendations

Given the multitude of severe acts of torture and ill-treatment by Israeli state officials against Palestinian prisoners and detainees and the complete lack of accountability and the state's unwillingness to act, we urge the Committee to make clear and unequivocal observations to the State of Israel, as follows:

1. **Affirm the Absolute Prohibition of Torture**

The Committee should call on the State of Israel to immediately cease all practices that amount to torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, in full compliance with Article 2(2) of the UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT), which affirms that no exceptional circumstances whatsoever may be invoked as a justification for torture, including the “necessity defence” as well as security considerations.

2. **Align Domestic Legislation with UNCAT Obligations and End Political Backing and Impunity for Torture and Ill-Treatment**

The Committee should urge Israel to dismantle all formal and informal policies, practices, and instructions that enable or legitimize torture or ill-treatment by security forces, including the military and the Israel Prison Service (IPS), and to review, amend, or repeal domestic laws, military orders, regulations, and directives — such as the Unlawful Combatants Law, the State of Emergency, and provisions of the Counter-Terrorism Law — that are incompatible with its obligations under the Convention against Torture.

3. **End Incommunicado Detention and Enforced Disappearances**

The Committee should strongly urge Israel to immediately cease the widespread use of incommunicado detention and enforced disappearances, particularly of Palestinians from Gaza since October 7. Israel must ensure detainees' right to communicate with the outside world, especially with family and legal counsel, as stipulated in Rule 43.3 of the Mandela Rules and Article 11 of UNCAT.

4. **Guarantee Access to All Places of Detention**

Israel must guarantee immediate and unrestricted access to all places of detention to independent monitors, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), lawyers, members of Knesset, and other legal representatives, and family members. Denial of access may amount to concealment of torture and enforced disappearance.

5. Ensure Accountability and End Impunity

The State of Israel must be called upon to promptly, impartially, and independently investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, particularly focusing on cases of death in custody and abuse in detention facilities, and to prosecute perpetrators. These mechanisms must include safeguards for victims, witnesses, and whistleblowers against reprisals, in accordance with Articles 12 and 13 of UNCAT. The Committee should further emphasize the necessity of full cooperation with international accountability and judicial mechanisms, including through disclosure of documentation, preservation and sharing of evidence, and engagement with independent investigations to end impunity.

6. Return of Deceased Palestinians' Bodies

The Committee should call on Israel to immediately return the bodies of all deceased Palestinians, who were killed by Israeli forces or who died in Israeli custody, to their families for a dignified burial. Israel must revoke any Cabinet decisions or policies that allow for the withholding of Palestinian bodies and for their use as political bargaining tools. This practice may amount to collective punishment and degrading treatment, in violation of Articles 1 and 16 of UNCAT.

7. Restore Judicial Oversight to Prevent Torture

Call on the State of Israel to ensure that its judicial system fully upholds its duty as a safeguard against torture and ill-treatment. The Committee should urge Israel to guarantee effective, independent judicial review of all detention practices and to categorically exclude any evidence obtained through torture or ill-treatment, in accordance with Article 15 of the UN Convention Against Torture and the standards set out in the Istanbul Protocol.

8. Ensure Compliance with the Mandela Rules

All detention and prison facilities, whether under military or IPS authority, must fully comply with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), as well as relevant provisions of Israeli law. Due to the severe treatment of the Palestinian prisoners and detainees, the Committee should urgently request data on measures taken to ensure such compliance in practice.

9. Urge Israel to Accept the Inquiry Procedure under Article 20 of UNCAT

The Committee should strongly urge Israel to formally recognize the competence of CAT under Article 20 of the Convention to conduct a confidential inquiry into well-founded indications of systematic torture. Israel's ongoing refusal to do so reflects its broader pattern of non-cooperation with international accountability mechanisms and further entrenches impunity for torture and ill-treatment.

Annex 1: Executive Summary of Alternative report submitted to the UNCAT in the context of the 6th review of Israel

SUBMITTED BY: PCATI, ADALAH, HAMOKED, PACD, PHRI, WITH SUPPORT BY OMCT - OCTOBER 2025

This report documents Israel's systematic breach of the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) through both discriminatory legislative frameworks and widespread torture practices in custody. While the State of Israel has consistently failed for decades to comply with its obligations under UNCAT, since October 7, 2023 (hereinafter: Oct. 7), there has been a dramatic escalation in torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment across all detention facilities, carried out with near total impunity and implemented as state policy targeting Palestinians. The report presents evidence that Israel has dismantled existing safeguards and now employs torture throughout the entire detention process—from arrest to imprisonment—targeting Palestinians under occupation and Palestinian citizens, with senior officials sanctioning these abuses while judicial and administrative mechanisms fail to intervene. Based on testimonies from detainees and health professionals, the report demonstrates how Palestinian detainees face layered forms of torture by multiple Israeli agencies, resulting in a surge of Palestinian deaths in custody.

1. Key Legislative Failures

Issues 1 and 6 (administrative detention, Unlawful Combatants Law); 2, 4 and 5 (appropriate legislation); 36 (inadmissibility of evidence obtained by torture) and 43 (Counter Terrorism Law) in LOI.¹¹⁴

1.1. Absence of Torture Criminalization

Despite repeated commitments to the Committee, Israel has failed to incorporate a law prohibiting or criminalizing torture as a specific offense under domestic law. Existing penal code provisions are inadequate as they:

- Mostly carry a maximum penalty of only three years, which is disproportionate to torture's gravity
- Are subject to statutes of limitation (5-10 years)
- Fail to explicitly criminalize acts causing severe physical or mental suffering for specific purposes

In August 2023, Israel's Minister of Justice admitted the government has no concrete plans to criminalize torture, contradicting previous commitments. A private bill presented in July 2025 was not endorsed by the coalition and a discussion was postponed.

1.2. Administrative Detention: indefinite detention based on classified evidence

Administrative detention of Palestinians has reached unprecedented levels. As of September 2025, Israel holds 3,577 individuals (30% of all "security prisoners") in administrative detention, representing a 30-year record that has become the norm since Oct. 7. This figure

¹¹⁴ Committee Against Torture, List of issues prior to submission of the sixth periodic report of Israel, CAT//C/ISR/QPR/6, 16 January 2019.

excludes detainees from Gaza held under the Unlawful Combatants Law, which is also a form of administrative detention. 147 minors were held under administrative detention as of June 2025

Judicial Review Failures Despite claims of judicial oversight, review processes are ineffective. All decisions are based on secret evidence, preventing effective legal recourse. An analysis of all 55 Supreme Court decisions in 2021 showed 100% upholding of administrative detention orders.

Discriminatory Application Administrative detention is now applied exclusively to Palestinians as state policy. While occasionally used against Jewish settlers in the past, the Ministry of Defence announced in Nov. 2024 that it would no longer use administrative detention against Jewish Israeli settlers, claiming it is "inappropriate for Israel to take such severe measures against settlers." The Supreme Court subsequently upheld this discriminatory policy by rejecting a Palestinian citizen of Israel's appeal against his administrative detention order.

1.3. Unlawful Combatants Law (UCL)

The 2002 UCL creates a legal category not recognized under international law, effectively stripping detainees of rights as either prisoner of war or civilian. Since Oct. 7, this framework has been used extensively against thousands of Palestinians from Gaza, including civilians. As of September 2025, Israel holds 2,662 people as "unlawful combatants," with thousands more previously held for months without charges.

Lack of Legal Safeguards: Amended since December 2023, the UCL dramatically extends timeframes of judicial review (30 days detention without warrant; 45 days before judicial review; 75 days incommunicado detention before legal counsel access).

Basis for Torture and Enforced Disappearance: These long periods of detention without oversight facilitate ill-treatment and abuse. Compounding this, the ICRC does not have access to detention sites and detainees' families are not notified of their whereabouts, in effect resulting in enforced disappearance.

1.4. Counter-Terrorism Law (CTL):

The 2016 CTL expands the powers of Israeli authorities to designate organisations as 'terrorist' and imposes harsher penalties for specified criminal offenses. It strips away minimal safeguards and is used almost exclusively against Palestinians. It authorizes:

- Delayed appearance before judges and extended detention periods beyond regular laws
- Detention hearings in the absence of detainees
- Non-disclosure of decisions to detainees

Since Oct. 7, at least 645 individuals have been arrested for speech-related offenses under this law, with over 200 charged with lengthy imprisonment. The overwhelming majority were Palestinian citizens of Israel and residents of occupied East Jerusalem.

1.5. Admissibility of Torture-Obtained Evidence

Israel routinely admits evidence obtained through torture in its justice system. The practice includes transferring detainees who were subjected to torture during ISA interrogations to a separate room for "voluntary" confession before police. This practice has led to a 96.8% confession rate following ISA interrogation versus 64.8% in regular police investigations. Military courts have declared torture-obtained confessions inadmissible in only one known case.

2. Torture in Custody

Issues 21 (conditions in places of interrogation and detention, including overcrowding) 22 (women, minors and disabled detainees); 23 (solitary confinement); 24 (healthcare in prisons); 30 (interrogation); and 32 (violence by military) in LOI.

2.1. Israel Security Agency (ISA) Interrogations

The ISA continues to employ "special measures" under the "necessity defence," a loophole from Israel's 1999 High Court ruling that effectively permits torture while providing interrogators immunity from prosecution. This violates Article 2 of UNCAT, which permits no derogation from the prohibition against torture. According to a statement by Israel's Minister of Justice in August 2023, "the State considers that the special measures employed in a necessity interrogation do not amount to torture".

Torture methods include Shackling in stress positions ("banana" and "frog" positions) while shaking or beating; Sleep deprivation through prolonged interrogations exceeding 24 and up to 48 hours; Detention in freezing temperatures and filthy, insect-infested cells; Nude interrogation, sexual intimidation, and threats to family members.

Physical and Mental Harm: Medical evaluations following the Istanbul Protocol document severe consequences including loss of consciousness, broken teeth, muscle tears, bloody stools, temporary limb paralysis, and long-term psychological trauma including depersonalization, flashbacks, and depression.

Since October 7, the ISA has intensified the use of torture. New practices include hanging detainees by their hands and complete isolation: ISA interrogees are completely prohibited from meeting with family members or the ICRC, removing the limited oversight that previously existed.

2.2. Israeli Military Detention

Military detention has escalated dramatically since Oct. 7, with over 4,000 Palestinians from Gaza detained under the UCL. Testimonies of those released depict brutal violence during arrest and throughout detention, as well as horrendous detention conditions, with no contact to the outside world.

Military Detention Facilities Three main facilities operate currently as military detention sites for 'Unlawful Combatants' since Oct. 7: Sde Teiman, Ofer and Naftali. Another military camp, Anatot, was temporarily used as a holding facility. For extended periods, detainees were confined in open-air corrals, exposed to the elements, shackled and blindfolded around the clock, forced to kneel for most of the day, and compelled to sleep on the ground. They endured inadequate sanitation, lack of healthcare, and ongoing abuse. These harsh conditions persist.

Medical Neglect and Deliberate Starvation: Dozens of cases of irreversible health sequelae were documented in these camps, including limb amputations, resulting directly from the routine violence, substandard conditions, including an untreated outbreak of scabies, and abysmal health care – resulting also in the deaths of detainees. The **Sde Teiman field hospital is an example of health professionals' complicity:** most health professional staff were serving as soldiers and not under the Medical Corps; medical staff remained anonymous, and not sign any medical documents; Facility's guidelines did not include a duty to record or report signs of violence or torture; Patients were kept handcuffed by all four limbs and blindfolded during treatment and were forced to use diapers; Sick or wounded detainees with a complex medical situation were not transferred to civilian hospitals. The

official diet of approximately 1,000 calories daily with barely 40 grams of protein was deemed by nutrition experts as "clearly unfit for human consumption" that "induces starvation." This represents a deliberate policy of malnourishment as torture.

Systematic Abuse: Testimonies account for severe abuse at every stage, including: The use of batons; pouring of boiling water, causing severe burns; Dog attacks on detainees; Use of a "Disco Room" employing intense sensory manipulation with painfully loud music; Rape with objects. In at least one well-known case, a detainee was hospitalized with internal tears, severe injuries, and broken ribs.

2.3. Israel Prison Service (IPS)

Since Oct. 7, the IPS has implemented what can only be understood as deliberate policy of systematic suffering and violence against more than 11,000 Palestinian security detainees, including minors and women.

Inhuman Conditions: Emergency orders in place since Oct. 7 have enabled inhuman overcrowding, with 10 or more detainees per cell and thousands sleeping on mattresses on the floor. Other inhuman conditions include:

- 23+ hours daily cell confinement
- Severe restrictions on water, hygiene, electricity, and shower access
- Confiscation of all personal belongings including alternative clothing
- Outbreaks of scabies affecting thousands of detainees

Starvation Policy: Since Oct. 7, purposeful food deprivation has been widespread in IPS facilities, causing malnourishment of inmates. Single meals are split between up to 10 detainees and inmates have experienced rapid and extreme weight loss. In an autopsy of a minor who died in March 2025, it was revealed that his death is related to prolonged and extreme undernutrition. In June, Minister of National Security Ben-Gvir stated officially: "It is indeed my policy to reduce the conditions of security prisoners to the minimum required by law, including in terms of food and caloric intake." Israel's High Court of Justice (HCJ) ruled in September 2025 that food rations did not meet minimum legal standards.

Medical Neglect as Torture: The IPS is deliberately using denial of medical care as a form of torture. Neglect of medical care includes:

- Withholding of appropriate, timely treatment– including lifesaving treatments
- Reduction of intake examinations and denial of primary care
- Halting of specialized hospital and prison care
- No laboratory examinations
- Deliberate non-treatment of scabies affecting thousands despite being easily treatable

Solitary Confinement since Oct. 7, no up-to-date information on the use of solitary confinement in IPS is available. Previously, it was used frequently and often exceeding 15 days, including for minors. In 2021 alone, 37 adults were held over one year in isolation. Since Oct. 7, the scabies epidemic has been used as a pretext for solitary confinement.

Physical and Sexual Torture Numerous cases of severe acts of physical violence by IPS personnel have been documented since Oct. 7, including punching, kicking, ramming with batons, painful shackling, dog attacks, threatening of and urinating on detainees as well as acts of sexual violence and rape with objects. Arbitrary violence has become part of daily prison routine, and frequent cell searches seem to have been turned into a ritual of violence and humiliation.

3. Deaths in Custody and Withholding of Bodies

Issues 28 (death in custody) and 40 (withholding of deceased Palestinians' bodies) LOI.

3.1. Dramatic Surge of Deaths in Custody

According to figures validated by UN OHCHR, at least 75 Palestinians, including a 17-year-old child, have died in Israeli custody between October 7, 2023, and August 31, 2025. An additional five Palestinians died shortly after being shot. Israeli authorities acknowledged 19 other deaths without providing sufficient verification details.

Direct Links to Torture and Neglect Evidence indicates many deaths resulted directly from inhumane conditions. At least 22 deceased had pre-existing health conditions left untreated; in 12 cases it was documented that detainees died after abuse or torture.

Deliberate obscuring of information and lack of accountability: Information regarding deaths of detainees in IPS or military camps is deliberately obscured by the State, including from decedents' families. As of September 2025, no soldiers or IPS personnel have been indicted in relation to these dozens of deaths.

3.2. Withholding of Bodies as State Policy

Israel systematically withholds Palestinian bodies as "bargaining chips" for prisoner exchanges, a practice upheld by the HCJ in 2019. As of June 2025, at least 688 Palestinian corpses were being held, not including unknown numbers from Gaza since Oct. 7. In a series of rulings in 2024 and 2025, the HCJ approved the expansion of this policy, allowing withholding of bodies of Palestinian citizens of Israel, even without an individual assessment.

4. Impunity and Systematic Dismantling of Safeguards

Issues 5 (legal and other safeguards); 7 (audio-visual recording of interrogations); 18 (Istanbul Protocol); 28, 29, 31 and 32 (investigation of allegations); 30 (Firas Tbeish) and 34 (role of prison medical personnel) in the LOI.

The failure of accountability mechanisms results in a system with no **protection** and no recourse for victims. The resulting impunity for torture in Israel is a root cause of the continued violence in detention.

4.1. Complete Absence of Accountability

Israel's investigative system is fragmented across security sectors, creating delays and ineffectiveness that discourages complaints and undermines accountability. Each branch operates with different protocols, passing complaints between mechanisms for months or years. The lack of prompt, professional and effective investigations effectively deny survivors' right to redress.

ISA Impunity Between 2001-2022, over 1,450 complaints of torture were filed against the ISA. Only three led to criminal investigations, with zero indictments—including a case involving rape. Of 40 appeals against file closures, none have ever been accepted. The average for a preliminary examination time is three years and four months, with some lasting over eight years.

Military Impunity Between 2018-2022, investigations opened in only 30% of complaints against soldiers, with 1.5% resulting in indictments. The probability of prosecution for killing a Palestinian is 0.4%—one prosecution per 219 fatalities. As of August 2024, only 58 criminal

investigations were launched regarding Gaza detainee treatment (44 concerning deaths, launched automatically). By November 2024, only 15 indictments were filed against soldiers in connection to the war—mostly for theft or weapons trafficking, not deaths in custody. Two isolated incidents resulted in – insufficient - consequences: Out of ten soldiers detained for sexual abuse in Sde Teiman, only five were indicted for serious assault, but not sexual assault; another soldier was sentenced to a mere seven months for abusing detainees under his supervision.

IPS Impunity Of 150 complaints regarding violence against IPS personnel between 2019-2022, only 3-5% resulted in indictments. No IPS personnel have been indicted for torture, sexual violence, or deaths since Oct. 7, including 19 guards investigated following the violent death of a detainee in November 2023. Detainees face severe threats and intimidation to prevent complaints, with guards warning that “they have eyes in the courts”.

4.2. Disregard for Istanbul Protocol

The State disregards the Istanbul Protocol (IP), a crucial tool for the assessment of torture and ill-treatment. No systematic training exists for medical professionals on identifying torture signs. IP assessments completed by internationally qualified experts have been ignored or dismissed by courts and the Ministry of Justice – based on a 2018 HCJ ruling, which explicitly stated that such assessments have no real value.

4.3. Systematic Dismantling of Safeguards

Since Oct. 7, even the weak safeguards that existed before have been legally and practically dissolved with concurrence of Israel’s judiciary.

Enforced Disappearances Israel maintains no mechanism for recording the fate of Palestinians arrested in Gaza since Oct. 7. Of 24 Habeas Corpus petitions filed between May-October 2024, 16 were rejected based on claims of “no indication of arrest.” Cases include the disappearance of a 5-year-old girl and two elderly men whose fate remains unknown. Only in May 2024, and following a petition to the HCJ, the State provided an email address for tracing detainees—in practice accessible only after 45 days in custody. Of 501 detainees traced through this mechanism, most didn’t know where they were being held. The fate of hundreds more remains unknown.

Denial of Legal Counsel (Incommunicado detention) Palestinians from Gaza are barred from meeting a lawyer for 45 days (often extended to 75 days). Military courts regularly approve extended denial of counsel even when torture allegations are made. Lawyer visits to Palestinian detainees held in IPS facilities are not restricted in theory, however, in practice, lawyers must wait months for an appointment, and visits are often cancelled last minute.

Complete Isolation All family contact has been severed, including for hundreds of minors, and parliamentary oversight to prisons is denied. ICRC access to all Palestinian security detainees was also completely halted. The HCJ has granted the State 19 postponements in a petition challenging this ban, with no hearing held as of September 2025.

Inadequate Medical Oversight and Lack of Independent Physicians IPS physicians remain employed by the Ministry of National Security and are not overseen by the Health Ministry, while regulations mandate the presence of an IPS warden during examinations by independent doctors. Despite numerous testimonies of severe violence since Oct. 7, medical records contain no documentation that meets professional standards for recording complaints or injuries.

Lack of Documentation of Interrogations: While Israel claims CCTV supervision of ISA interrogations, the system is deliberately weak. No consequences have so far resulted from

supervision and defence attorneys lack access to documentation. On the other hand, videos have been released to media for propaganda purposes, proving Israel's capacity to record but choosing not to use it as a torture safeguard.

4.4. Judicial Complicity

Israeli courts systematically fail to provide meaningful oversight, instead enabling torture and ill-treatment.

Judicial Review through Military Courts Since Oct. 7 over a period of 6 months, Palestinians from the West Bank (WB) were automatically arrested under "combat arrests" allowing for 8-day denial of judicial hearing and with no right to appeal. Palestinians from Gaza detained under the UCL were denied judicial review for weeks and months. All judicial reviews occur via video conference, hindering judicial evaluation of detainees' physical and mental condition. Hearings take place close to security guards and in a threatening environment — one detainee was heard being abused while cameras were turned off.

High Court of Justice Failures The HCJ has systematically failed to protect Palestinians, repeatedly dismissing petitions on procedural grounds and accepting the State's position despite contradictory evidence. Of 20 petitions filed since Oct. 7 regarding torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian detainees, only two were granted, but without prescribing consequences for State defiance or addressing previous illegal conduct. The HCJ:

- Upheld prison ordinance enabling inhuman overcrowding
- Dismissed urgent petitions to stop systematic violations of detainees' basic rights
- Accepted State claims of scabies treatment while the epidemic increased
- Allowed 19 state postponements in ICRC access petition
- Ruled on starvation policy only after 17 months, failing to establish an oversight mechanism
- No ruling yet in February 2024 petition challenging UCL amendment, providing the basis of torture and ill-treatment of Gazan detainees

5. Recommendations

Given the severe torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners by Israeli authorities and the complete lack of accountability, we urge the Committee to issue clear and unequivocal observations to Israel:

1. **Affirm the Absolute Prohibition of Torture:** Call on Israel to immediately cease all torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, in full compliance with UNCAT.
2. **Align Domestic Legislation with UNCAT and End Impunity:** Urge Israel to dismantle all policies and practices that enable torture by security forces, and to review or repeal domestic laws that are incompatible with the Convention.
3. **End Incommunicado Detention and Enforced Disappearances:** Strongly urge Israel to cease incommunicado detention and enforced disappearances and ensure detainees' right to communicate with family and legal counsel.
4. **Guarantee Access to All Places of Detention:** Israel must provide immediate, unrestricted access to all detention facilities for independent monitors, including the ICRC, lawyers, Knesset members, and family members.
5. **Ensure Accountability and End Impunity:** Israel must promptly and independently investigate all torture allegations, particularly deaths in custody, and prosecute perpetrators. Israel must fully cooperate with international accountability mechanisms.
6. **Return Deceased Palestinians' Bodies:** Call on Israel to immediately return all bodies of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or who died in custody to their families for dignified burial.
7. **Restore Judicial Oversight:** Ensure Israel's judiciary upholds its duty to prevent torture by guaranteeing independent judicial review of detention practices and excluding all evidence obtained through torture.
8. **Ensure Compliance with the Mandela Rules:** All detention facilities must fully comply with the Mandela Rules. The Committee should urgently request data on compliance measures given the severe treatment of Palestinian detainees.
9. **Accept Article 20 Inquiry Procedure:** Strongly urge Israel to recognize CAT's competence under Article 20 to conduct confidential inquiries into systematic torture.

Annex 2: HCJ litigation efforts in Israel re: Palestinian detainees since October 7

PETITIONS TO THE HCJ BY THE SUBMITTING ORGANISATIONS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

#	Petition No.	Sides	Issue	Date filed	Status / Outcomes
1	HCJ 7650/23	ACRI v. Minister of National Defense	Unconstitutionality of Incarceration emergency state which enabled IPS to overcrowd prisons	10/2023	Case dismissed – crowdedness is a result of the increase in number of detainees
2	HCJ 7753/23	ACRI v. Minister of National Defense	Order the IPS to stop the intentional decrease in living conditions and basic rights of WB detainees	10/2023	Case dismissed – factual allegations were not proven; some downgrading of conditions was necessary due the emergency situation (Nov. 2023)
3	HCJ 7946/23	A.A. et 567 al v. IDF (by Hamoked)	Habeas Corpus of 567 Gazan workers, detained after their permits were revoked on Oct. 7, 2023	11/2023	Case dismissed - HCJ ruled Israel has no obligation to reveal the location of Gazan detainees; thousands detained workers were released back to Gaza
4	HCJ 1414/24	PCATI v. The Knesset	Unconstitutionality of The Unlawful Combatants Law	02/2024	Case ongoing, recent State update: 16.7.2025. UCL gradually amended; state revealed # of detainees; alleged reduction in arrest warrants wait time; announced probe of detention conditions and official visitors.

5	HCJ 1537/24	ACRI v. The Government	Allow ICRC visits to Palestinian prisoners and detainees from the Gaza Strip	02/2024	Case ongoing, court hearing set for 19.10.2025 The state notified the court that it intends to establish an alternative mechanism for ICRC visits, supposedly supported by the UK and the US government. The State has yet to submit a formal response to the petition.
6	HCJ 2254/24	Abu Musa v. Israel Defense Forces (by Hamoked)	Individual Habeas Corpus of a detainee from Gaza (after group Habeas Corpus petitions have previously been dismissed)	03/2024	Case dismissed – individual located (May 2024). State announced it would allow tracing of Gazan detainees, but only through a cumbersome mechanism of scheduling lawyer visits, meaning that if a detainee is denied access to a lawyer, he will not be traced
7	HCJ 2858/24	ACRI v. Minister of National Security	End starvation policy in IPS facilities	04/2024	A judgement was given in Sept. 2025 noting that the IPS is obliged to provide all detainees with an adequate supply of food, and that it seems that the IPS is currently not doing so on the basis of the evidence provided.
8	HCJ 3289/24	Sanaa Daqqa v. Interim Prison Service Chief (by Adalah)	Demand to release body of deceased Palestinian prisoner and author Walid Daqqa for burial, held as bargaining chip for future hostage deals.	04/2024	Case dismissed (30.9.2024). Court upheld the Israeli Cabinet's decision to withhold the body of Daqqa.
9	HCJ 3507/24	MK Ahmad Tibi v. Minister of National Security (by Adalah)	Allow MKs to visit Palestinian prisoners	04/2024	Case ongoing (hearing set for 10.11.2025)

10	HCJ 4268/24	ACRI v. Minister of Defense	Stop holding detainees in the Sde Teiman detention facility due to degrading living conditions	04/2024	Judgement given in September 2024 stating that the state has responsibility to hold detainees in humane conditions according to all legally binding rules and regulations.
11	HCJ 5433/24	Muhammad Abu Ghanima v. Commissioner of the Israel Prison Service et	Five petitions, five of them filed by Adalah on behalf of the families of Palestinian citizens of Israel whose bodies remain withheld by the Israeli authorities as bargaining chips in future negotiations with Hamas.	07/2024	The Supreme Court joined the five petitions filed by Adalah with a sixth petition not filed by Adalah. Case dismissed (decision issued on 2.1.2025). The court upheld the sweeping policy of withholding the bodies of Palestinian citizens of Israel, even without individual assessments of whether retaining a body would contribute to negotiations.
12	HCJ 5624/24	Salam Abu Freih v. Commissioner of the Israel Police et al.	See above	07/2024	See above
13	HCJ 5655/24	Muhammad Abu Anam v. Commissioner of the Israel Police et al.	See above	07/2024	See above
14	HCJ 5240-11-24	Safa Rubai v. Commissioner of the Israel Police et al.	See above	11/2024	See above

15	HCJ 67847-11- 24	Abu Zubeih v. Commissioner of the Israel Police et al. (<i>by Adalah</i>)	See above	11/2024	See above
16	HCJ 5908/24	PHRI et al. v. Israel Prison Service et al.	Petition regarding the spread of scabies in prisons and against the treatment provided by the Israeli Prison Service	07/2024	Case dismissed after State promised to introduce a treatment plan for scabies in IPS facilities. The plan, implemented on 19.11.2024, includes medicine provision and clean clothes.
17	HCJ 32288-02- 25	PHRI et al vs. Israel Defence Forces	Petition against the starvation policy at Ofer Military Camp	02/2025	Case ongoing. State to update by 26.10.25. In past update from June 2025 the state stated that after petition was submitted changes were made in the nutrition plans at all military detention facilities.
18	HCJ 43442-02- 25	PHRI vs. Israel Defense Forces	Petition against the lack of medical treatment at Ofer Military Camp, and against the lack of replies to PHRI's individual inquiries	02/2025	Following the court's guidance, the petition was withdrawn to allow for further proceedings within the military framework
19	HCJ 62967-06- 25	PHRI vs. Israel Defense Forces	50 repeated requests regarding medical treatment at Ofer Military Camp were not answered as army promised in previous petition.	06/2025	Case was dismissed based on the claim that all the individual cases mentioned were transferred to IPS facilities.
20	HCJ 64054-06- 25	PHRI vs. Israel Prison Service	Petition regarding the resurgence of scabies in prisons, especially in Keziot Prison	06/2025	Case ongoing. Hearing scheduled for 6.11.25

