

**Joint Submission to the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment on Israel's Crimes of Sexual Torture against Palestinians**

**Submitted by:**

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association

Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR)

The Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC)

The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy – MIFTAH

Date: 24 April 2024

## Introduction and Context

1. This submission is prepared in response to a [call for input](#) issued by the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment for her upcoming report to the UN General Assembly on the identification, documentation, investigation and prosecution of crimes of sexual torture and other related cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment committed during war and armed conflicts, and rehabilitation of victims and survivors.
2. This joint submission contextualises Israel’s sexual torture of Palestinians—which is one among the numerous forms of collective and individual torment imposed on them—within the wider framework of settler-colonial apartheid, military occupation, and genocide, and highlights documented cases of sexual torture endured by Palestinians.
3. Since 1948, Israel has designed and implemented an institutionalised system of racial domination and oppression over the Palestinian people as a whole. Israel’s apartheid regime serves as a structural element in advancing [Zionist settler-colonialism](#), blatantly violating the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to return. Israel’s persistent endeavour to uphold its settler-colonial domination over the Palestinian people has resulted in decades of unlawful policies and practices. These include, among others, the arbitrary arrest and detention of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, along with instances of torture and other forms of ill-treatment. From 1967—i.e., the start of Israel’s belligerent occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, known collectively as the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT)—to 2014, over 800,000 Palestinians were detained and arrested under Israeli military orders. This [makes up](#) 20% of the Palestinian residents of the OPT and 40% of the male Palestinian population.
4. Israeli authorities have resorted to systematic torture and ill-treatment against Palestinian detainees in violation of the [absolute and non-derogable prohibition of torture](#). Affidavits and documented cases gathered by various human rights organisations throughout the years have shown that the Israeli authorities use torture as a core technique in extracting statements from Palestinian prisoners and detainees, in violation of their rights to bodily integrity, physical safety, and dignity, doing so with legal cover provided by the Israeli judicial system.<sup>1</sup>
5. In 2016, the UN Committee against Torture, in its concluding observations on Israel, expressed its concerns regarding “allegations of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of persons deprived of liberty, including minors. According to these allegations, torture and ill-treatment are mostly perpetrated by law enforcement and security officials, mainly from the Israel Security Agency, the police and the Israeli [military], particularly during arrest, transfer and interrogation. In addition,

---

<sup>1</sup> See International Human Rights Clinic, Harvard Law School, and Addameer, “Apartheid in the Occupied West Bank: A Legal Analysis of Israel’s Actions”, 28 February 2022, pp. 18-19, available at: <https://www.addameer.org/sites/default/files/IHRC-Addameer-Submission-to-HRC-COI-Apartheid-in-WB.pdf>; and Ardi Imseis, “Moderate Torture on Trial: Critical Reflections on the Israeli Supreme Court Judgement concerning the Legality of General Security Service Interrogation Methods” (2001) 19(2) Berkeley Journal of International Law 328.

the Committee remains concerned at allegations that Israel Security Agency interrogators continue to resort to interrogation methods that are contrary to the Convention, such as stress positions and sleep deprivation”.<sup>2</sup> The many communications to Israel joined by previous Special Rapporteurs on Torture over the years also attest to Israel’s widespread and systematic use of torture against Palestinians.<sup>3</sup>

6. Torture techniques, including physical pressure and methods of psychological torture, have been used since the beginning of the Israel occupation and have become [standard operating procedure](#). Examples of such techniques include physical beatings, stress positions, sleep deprivation, isolation, and solitary confinement during interrogation, subjection to sounds of torture from neighbouring cells, deliberate medical neglect, screaming and cursing, threats of sexual harassment, particularly against women and children, and threats of harming family members.
7. [Addameer](#)’s documentation indicates that Israeli authorities continue to develop new methods of psychological torture that are used in conjunction with physical torture. According to [Defense for Children International—Palestine](#) (DCI-Palestine), the majority of detained Palestinian children report being subjected to harsh interrogation techniques, amounting to torture and other cruel and inhuman treatment, to coerce them into self-incrimination through the extraction of confessions.
8. Another Israeli technique is the use of informants to extract information from detainees by misleading, luring, or threatening them. Informants exert psychological pressure by threatening detainees and their family members with physical violence or harm.<sup>4</sup> In the most extreme cases, Palestinian detainees have ‘died’ in Israeli detention as a result.<sup>5</sup> Finally, Addameer has highlighted: The [Israeli] judicial and medical systems contribute in concealing crimes of torture by often refraining from documenting the torture Palestinian detainees endure, extending the detention of detainees for the purpose of interrogation in a complete disregard of markings of torture littering their bodies, as well as perpetually certifying that detainees are medically fit to withstand interrogation despite their pains and suffering.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> UN Committee against Torture, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Israel, UN Doc CAT/C/ISR/CO/5, 3 June 2016, para. 30.

<sup>3</sup> Including communications [ISR 2/2022](#), [ISR 9/2021](#), [ISR 6/2021](#), [ISR 5/2021](#), [ISR 1/2021](#), [ISR 9/2020](#), [ISR 8/2020](#), [ISR 2/2020](#), [ISR 15/2019](#), [ISR 14/2019](#), [ISR 13/2018](#), [ISR 11/2018](#), [ISR 10/2018](#), [ISR 7/2018](#), [ISR 5/2017](#), [ISR 2/2017](#), [ISR 13/2016](#), [ISR 11/2016](#), [ISR 7/2016](#), [ISR 4/2016](#), [ISR 2/2016](#), [ISR 11/2015](#), [ISR 10/2015](#), [ISR 9/2015](#), [ISR 3/2015](#), [ISR 6/2014](#), [ISR 5/2014](#), [ISR 4/2014](#), [ISR 1/2014](#), [ISR 7/2013](#), [ISR 5/2013](#), [ISR 3/2013](#), [ISR 4/2013](#), [ISR 12/2012](#), [ISR 5/2012](#), [ISR 4/2012](#), [ISR 1/2012](#) and [ISR 10/2011](#).

<sup>4</sup> Al-Haq, “Joint Parallel Report to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on Israel’s Seventeenth to Nineteenth Periodic Reports 100th Session”, 10 November 2019, para. 128, available at: [https://www.alhaq.org/cached\\_uploads/download/2019/11/12/joint-parallel-report-to-cerd-on-israel-s-17th-19th-periodic-reports-10-november-2019-final-1573563352.pdf](https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2019/11/12/joint-parallel-report-to-cerd-on-israel-s-17th-19th-periodic-reports-10-november-2019-final-1573563352.pdf); and Addameer, “Cell No. 26: A Study on the Use of Torture Against Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Interrogation Centers”, 2022, pp. 40-41, available at: <https://www.addameer.org/sites/default/files/publications/Cell%2026-%20A%20Study%20on%20the%20Use%20of%20Torture%20Against%20Palestinian%20in%20Israeli%20Interrogation%20Centers.pdf> (hereinafter, “Addameer, Cell No.26”).

<sup>5</sup> Addameer, Cell No. 26, p. 48, and 127.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*; Derek Summerfield, “The campaign about doctors and torture in Israel five years on” (2014) *The BMJ* 349; and Sharmila Devi, “Israeli doctors accused of collusion in torture” (2013) 381(9869) *The Lancet*, available at: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(13\)60612-1/fulltext#%20](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(13)60612-1/fulltext#%20).

9. Over the past 200 days, in complete disregard of the [provisional measures order](#) issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 26 January 2024, the Israeli occupying forces (IOF) have detained thousands Palestinian residents of the occupied Gaza Strip, including women, children, elderly people, as well as professionals such as doctors, nurses, teachers and journalists. The precise number of Gaza prisoners and detainees remains unknown, as they were abducted *en masse* from Gaza during the ground invasion by the IOF and then forcibly disappeared in military detention camps outside of the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) system, devoid of any judicial oversight and excluded from access to lawyers. Based on firsthand documentation, [Al Mezan](#) estimates that around 1,650 Palestinian residents of Gaza are held in Israeli prisons under the Unlawful Combatants Law.
10. Concurrently, the IOF have increased their nightly house raids and arbitrary arrests and detention in the West Bank. Between 7 October 2023 and 23 April 2024, more than 8,430 Palestinian residents of the occupied West Bank have been arrested by the IOF. As of time of writing, over 9,500 Palestinian residents of the West Bank are currently withheld in Israeli prisons, including over 200 children, 76 women, 56 journalists, and more than 3,600 detained under administrative detention.
11. Israeli authorities have also detained an undetermined number of Palestinian workers and [medical patients](#) from Gaza, [reportedly numbering in the thousands](#). These individuals possessed Israeli-issued travel and work permits and were present in Israel and the West Bank on 7 October 2023.
12. Notably, since 7 October 2023, the [International Committee of the Red Cross](#) “has not been able to visit any Palestinian detainees held in Israeli places of detention”, either those detained from the West Bank or from the Gaza Strip. Known to exploit legal loopholes to evade compliance with both international humanitarian law, Israel, since Israel’s declaration of a heightened “state of emergency” on 7 October 2023, has carried out a series of changes in many of the legal amendments related to Palestinian prisoners and detainees. These legal and judicial amendments, coupled with military orders, represent blatant violations and have imposed further restrictions on Palestinian lawyers, severely impeding their ability to meet with their detained clients. For two months after 7 October 2023, Palestinians lawyers were denied access to Palestinian prisoners and detainees of the West Bank. Most Gaza prisoners are still denied access to lawyers to this day.
13. This aggressive campaign of detention is unprecedented: Palestinian prisoners and detainees are subjected to multiple forms of cruelty, torture, inhuman and degrading treatment—including various forms of sexual torture—from the moment of arrest and continuing throughout their detention. But the infliction of such abusive and illegal practices, including sexual torture, on Palestinian prisoners and detainees by Israeli authorities is nothing new. For example, in 2019, [Mais Abu Ghosh](#), a 22-year-old Palestinian university student at the time, was detained and placed under administrative detention for 16 months. During her detention, she was cursed and degraded by male and

female soldiers. Mais was also exposed to an attempt of a bare body search. Upon her outright refusal, she was threatened to be searched by force and to be raped.

14. Nonetheless, the IOF and Israeli authorities have notably escalated this practice in the past six months, that is, during the ongoing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. Significantly, the heightened torture and ill-treatment affect all Palestinian detainees and prisoners, including those holding Israeli citizenship.
15. Israel's torture of Palestinians needs to be understood and investigated as part of Israel's genocidal military campaign against Palestinians in Gaza. Notably, Article II(b) of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide includes "causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group" as one of the five acts of genocide listed therein. As set out in the jurisprudence of the Special Tribunals and of the International Court of Justice, the harm must go "beyond temporary unhappiness, embarrassment or humiliation" and inflict "grave and long-term disadvantage to a person's ability to lead a normal and constructive life."<sup>7</sup> However to "support a conviction for genocide, the bodily harm or the mental harm inflicted on members of a group must be of such a serious nature as to threaten its destruction in whole or in part".<sup>8</sup> Examples of acts causing serious bodily or mental harm include "torture, inhumane or degrading treatment, sexual violence including rape, interrogations combined with beatings, threats of death, and harm that damages health or causes disfigurement or serious injury to members of the targeted national, ethnical, racial or religious group".<sup>9</sup>
16. It is essential to avoid restricting analyses of sexual and gender-based violence and torture to strictly individual and interpersonal framings. As noted by the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, "no form of interpersonal violence against women is devoid of structural violence,"<sup>10</sup> including in systems of colonialism, imperialism, apartheid and occupation,<sup>11</sup> and "violence against women is not the root problem, but occurs because other forms of discrimination are allowed to flourish."<sup>12</sup> Special Procedures have therefore advocated for contextualising and viewing gender-based violence across a continuum that "acknowledges the structural aspects and factors of discrimination,"<sup>13</sup> including racial discrimination,<sup>14</sup> and addressing root causes of violence including patriarchy, systemic racism, and colonialism.<sup>15</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> Krstić Trial Judgement, para. 513; see also Blagojević and Jokić Trial Judgement, para. 645.

<sup>8</sup> Seromba Appeal Judgement, para. 46. See also Krajišnik Trial Judgement, para. 862.

<sup>9</sup> Brñanin Trial Judgement, para 690. See also ICJ Bosnia Judgment, para. 319.

<sup>10</sup> OHCHR, Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo, focusing on gender-based violence and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, 2 May 2011, UN Doc A/HRC/17/26, para. 24.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 69.

<sup>12</sup> OHCHR, Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, 1 August 2011, UN Doc A/66/215, para. 83.

<sup>13</sup> OHCHR, Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo, focusing on gender-based violence and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, 2 May 2011, UN Doc A/HRC/17/26, paras. 66, 94, and 100.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 31.

<sup>15</sup> OHCHR, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, Tlaleng Mofokeng, focusing on Violence and its impact on the right to health, 14 April 2022, UN Doc A/HRC/50/28, paras. 6 and 65.

17. Sexual and gender-based violence is “an intrinsic and inevitable aspect of oppressive regimes.”<sup>16</sup> This is also true of settler-colonial contexts, given the well-documented historical and contemporary use of this violence by colonial powers as a racist and patriarchal tool to control and oppress peoples under their subjugation.<sup>17</sup> Israel is no exception, as both older and recent communications and press releases by Special Procedures have also attested.<sup>18</sup> Acts of sexual torture against Palestinians must therefore be seen as part of a broader context and history of Israel’s apartheid and settler-colonial violence against the Palestinian people.
18. Palestinian scholars such as Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian have long articulated that “nationalist framings of reproduction and the idea of women’s bodies as vessels of population growth that must be controlled have framed the Palestinian woman’s womb as a weapon that must be curtailed.”<sup>19</sup> As Kathryn Medlen argues, “Palestine/Israel is often absent from international reports and scholarship on sexual violence in conflict, where attention is increasingly focused on non-state actors. [...] [T]his absence functions to both obscure the sexual violence of Israel’s settler colonial occupation and bolster the notion of Israel as a modern liberal democracy engaging in a conflict against a population deemed terrorist. Against this narrative, the use of sexual torture against Palestinians held in Israeli prison and detention facilities is documented, as are the sexually violent structures of militarized settler colonialism and occupation more broadly.”<sup>20</sup>
19. South Africa importantly [included a gender analysis](#) of Israel’s ongoing genocide in its submissions to the ICJ, throughout which it referred to Special Procedures’ findings, and

---

<sup>16</sup> Prachiti Venkatraman and Ruby Mae Axelson: “Reproductive Violence in Palestine: The Need for a Feminist Approach to Justice” *OpinioJuris*, 1 February 2024, available at:

<https://opiniojuris.org/2024/02/01/reproductive-violence-in-palestine-the-need-for-a-feminist-approach-to-justice/>.

<sup>17</sup> OHCHR, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, Tlaleng Mofokeng, 16 July 2021, UN Doc A/76/172, paras 1-3; OHCHR, Report of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls focusing on Women’s and girls’ sexual and reproductive health rights in crisis, 28 April 2021, UN Doc A/HRC/47/38, para. 63; and Morgensen, S. L., “Theorising Gender, Sexuality and Settler Colonialism: An Introduction” (2012) *Settler Colonial Studies*, 2(2), pp. 2–22.

<sup>18</sup> *See, for example*, OHCHR, “Occupied Palestinian territory and Israel: UN experts call for permanent ceasefire to protect rights and futures of women and girls”, 14 December 2023, available at:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/12/occupied-palestinian-territory-and-israel-un-experts-call-permanent>

[t](https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/02/israelopt-un-experts-appalled-reported-human-rights-violations-against); OHCHR, “Israel/oPt: UN experts appalled by reported human rights violations against Palestinian women and girls”, 19 February 2024, available at:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/02/israelopt-un-experts-appalled-reported-human-rights-violations-against>;

Communication ISR 1/2024 to Israel about the detention, extrajudicial execution of Palestinian women and girls and the reported subjugation of Palestinian female detainees to sexual assaults as well as threats of rape, including a section on torture in the Annex; OHCHR, “Occupied Palestinian territory and Israel: Women and girls face exacerbated violence, inequalities and discrimination and see their future destroyed in front of their eyes”, 14 December 2023, available at:

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/women/wg/WGDAWG-Statement-Gaza-2023.pdf>; and

ISR 4/2012 about the arbitrary arrest and detention with sexual assault and torture of a Palestinian woman by the Israeli military forces.

<sup>19</sup> Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, “The politics of birth and the intimacies of violence against Palestinian women in occupied East Jerusalem.” *The British Journal of Criminology*, vol. 55, no. 6, 2015, pp. 1187–206, as cited in

<https://opiniojuris.org/2024/02/01/reproductive-violence-in-palestine-the-need-for-a-feminist-approach-to-justice/>.

<sup>20</sup> Medien, K. (2021). Israeli settler colonialism, “humanitarian warfare,” and sexual violence in Palestine. *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 23(5), 698–719.

outlined acts of Israel's reproductive violence and imposition of measures intended to prevent Palestinian births. The Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territory also documented acts of sexual torture in her recent report on "Anatomy of a Genocide", including of Palestinians "being rounded up, stripped naked, blindfolded and subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment."<sup>21</sup>

20. It is important to address the sexual violence imposed against Palestinian men as part of the analysis of Israel's genocidal violence and as part of the Special Rapporteur's upcoming report.<sup>22</sup> As in other contexts, genocidal gender-based violence is also directed against men in an effort to "humiliate and disempower the male members of the protected group [...] and to assert the supremacy of those directing the sexual violence."<sup>23</sup>
21. It is also important to address the sexual violence imposed against the Palestinian people in its historic context. According to Professor [Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian](#), Sarah Ihmoud and Suhad Dahir-Nashif, "[t]he targeting of Palestinian women's bodies and sexuality [...] is structural to the Israeli settler colonial project's racialized logic of elimination. [Rape and other forms of sexual violence against Palestinian women](#) have always been an element of the settler colonial state's attempts to destroy and eliminate indigenous Palestinians from their land. In addition to rape and other forms of sexual violence, the racialized logic of sexual violence energizes the very imaginary and project of conquering and cultivating Palestinian land, in transforming it into the Jewish polis." They also articulated that "[r]ape and [killing](#) of Palestinian women was a central aspect of Israeli troops' systematic massacres and evictions during the destruction of Palestinian villages in 1948."
22. For example, in his book '[The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine](#)', Israeli Jewish historian Ilan Pappé tells of the massacre of Deir Yassin: "On 9 April 1948, Jewish forces occupied the village of Deir Yassin. [...] As they burst into the village, the Jewish soldiers sprayed the houses with machine-gun fire, killing many of the inhabitants. The remaining villagers were then gathered in one place and murdered in cold blood, their bodies abused while a number of the women were raped and then killed." Fahim Zaydan, who was twelve years old at the time, [recalled](#) how he saw his family murdered in front of his eyes: "They took us out one after the other; shot an old man and when one of his daughters cried, she was shot too. Then they called my brother Muhammad, and shot him in front of us, and when my mother yelled, bending over him – carrying my little sister Hudra in her hands, still breastfeeding her – they shot her too."

---

<sup>21</sup> OHCHR, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese focusing on Anatomy of Genocide, 25 March 2024, UN Doc A/HRC/55/73, para. 32.

<sup>22</sup> The call for inputs notes that "[m]en and boys are also subjected to such crimes, for many of the same reasons, such as to humiliate or punish them, to exercise power over them, or to strip them of their humanity and dignity."

<sup>23</sup> Sareta Ashraph, "Beyond killing: gender, genocide and obligations under International Law", Global Justice Center, 2018, p.20 and 48, available at: <https://wordpress-537312-2488108.cloudwaysapps.com/temp-uploads/2018/12/Gender-and-Genocide-Whitepaper-FINAL.pdf>.

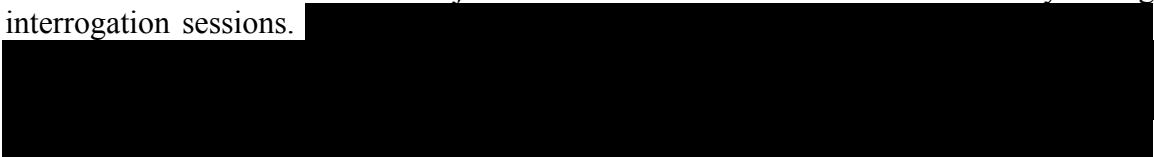

23. Other [documented](#) cases of rape during the 1947-9 *Nakba* were revealed around the Tantura massacre (22–23 May 1948) as well as the [gang-rape](#) of a Palestinian Bedouin woman in an Israeli military base in August 1949.
24. Almost 76 years on, Israel continues with its torture, including sexual torture, of Palestinians. In addition to the previously shared instances of documented sexual torture, [submitted](#) as an urgent appeal for the attention of the Special Rapporteur on 21 March 2024, this joint submission provides further documented cases of sexual torture endured by Palestinians at the hands of the IOF and Israeli settlers. These cases include instances of rape, attempted rape, threats of rape, beatings on genitalia, sexual harassment, and strip searches, including those conducted in front of other Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

### **Palestinians Abducted by the IOF Amid Ground Invasion of Gaza**

25. According to Al Mezan's investigations, since the beginning of their genocidal military campaign, the IOF have taken [at least 3,000 Palestinian residents of Gaza](#) into their custody, including women, children, elderly people, as well as professionals such as doctors, nurses, teachers and journalists. The total number remains unknown, as the overwhelming majority of them were abducted *en masse* from Gaza during the ground invasion by Israeli troops and then forcibly disappeared in Israeli military detention camps and prisoners without any access to lawyers, their families, or the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) sent communications regarding 103 Palestinians residents of Gaza arrested in Israel and in the Gaza Strip since 7 October 2023. These communications have been sent to various Israeli civil and military authorities, including the Military Attorney General (MAG) Corps, Anatot Detention Center, and the Israeli Prison Service. To date, there has been no response regarding the status or whereabouts of these individuals.
26. Al Mezan and PCHR have gathered numerous harrowing testimonies from Palestinians who were abducted from Gaza by the IOF and subsequently returned to the occupied territory via the Karem Abu Salem crossing. Many of them were taken from hospitals and schools that had been besieged and raided by the IOF, while others were apprehended at Israeli military checkpoints along Salah Al-Din road as they attempted to evacuate to southern Gaza following Israeli evacuation orders. Additionally, Palestinians were also seized from their homes or the houses where they had sought shelter.
27. All testimonies point to a similar pattern. Initially, following the separation of men from women (and sometimes even male and female children as young as 15 or 16), Israeli soldiers proceed to forcefully strip Palestinians of their clothing and conduct a thorough search. Sometimes they are given their own old clothes back; others are left in underwear; others are provided jail uniforms by Israeli authorities. During this phase, numerous testimonies accounted for verbal and physical abuse and harassment, including of sexual nature. In several testimonies, Palestinian women and girls recounted being forced to remove their veil in front of male Israeli soldiers.
28. The apprehended persons are handcuffed with a plastic band around their wrists and blindfolded. They are then loaded into vehicles with tens of other detainees and taken to areas near the perimeter fence separating Gaza and Israel. The duration of their



confinement in these areas can range from hours to days, but typically, detainees are subsequently relocated from Gaza to external locations, either to detention centres run by the Israel Prison Service (IPS) across the occupied West Bank and Israel or to more *ad hoc*, army-administered detention camps, primarily situated in the Naqab desert, in the Beersheba district, southern Israel.

29. During their abduction and detention, Palestinian residents of Gaza are treated as ‘[human animals](#)’, demonstrating that the dehumanising and genocidal rhetoric used by the highest levels of the Israeli leadership to characterise Palestinians was embraced throughout all ranks within the military and the IPS. In one instance, a released female prisoner, Abeer Ghaben, [told](#) Al-Haq, “**When they took us to the detention facility, they walked us as if we were dogs, pulling our hair.** They beat us with brass knuckles, rifle butts, and military boots on our thighs. They also beat us on our faces with sandals. **They pulled our hair. They body searched us, even when we were naked.**”
30. Former detainees described being forced to shower in cold water and that food provisions were meagre. Many detainees upon release showed signs of acute emaciation, fatigue and back curvature. One detainee described the conditions within the detention rooms, stating that there was nothing in them but mattresses, which were brought in at 10 pm and removed after four hours. He stated that for breakfast they were given ten slices of bread and one small *labneh* container for the 12 detainees in the room. The second meal of the day consisted of three tomatoes and a plate of rice and the third meal of either one egg or one can of tuna for the entire room.
31. Palestinian detainees are also subjected to horrific forms of torture and cruelty during interrogation sessions.   
 At the conclusion of the interrogations, detainees are pressured into signing documents, likely confessions, written in Hebrew, despite being unaware of their contents.

### **Palestinians Detained by the IOF in the West Bank**

32. The brutality and excessive use of force by the IOF during mass arrest campaigns have reached horrifying levels. In the West Bank campaigns are being carried out in the middle of the night, and involve forced strip searches of men and women—often in front of children—and blowing up doors, which resulted in the killing of Mohammad Manasra in December 2023 in Qalandiya Refugee Camp near Ramallah.
33. Since 7 October 2023, changes implemented by the IPS have worsened conditions for Palestinian prisoners and detainees. All electrical appliances and tools, pillows, blankets, and prisoners’ clothing were confiscated. The IPS further removed window glass within the cells; exposing Palestinian detainees and prisoners to the harsh winter air and allowing rainwater into the cells, while further failing to provide Palestinian prisoners and detainees with warm clothing, or a source of light, leaving Palestinian prisoners and

detainees in complete darkness. Heated water in the showers is only turned on for one hour per day.

34. Moreover, the escalating number of Palestinian prisoners since 7 October 2023 has left detainees in overcrowded cells, enduring unsanitary environments and restricted mobility. Medical care is neglected, preventing sick prisoners and detainees from visiting the clinic, while many are denied essential medications, especially for conditions like diabetes. In the same vein, cancer patients are denied proper chemotherapy, and those granted access report incorrect dosages leading to loss of consciousness.
35. Detainees have further reported that the special force within Israeli prisons, known as 'Keter', has been forcefully entering prison cells almost daily with weapons and iron rods, and accompanied by muzzled dogs with long claws that attack and harm prisoners and detainees. Palestinian prisoners and detainees have been brutally beaten with iron rods for extended periods, many of whom have sustained fractures in various parts of their bodies as a result. Some injuries resemble bullet holes in depth, leaving holes in different parts of their bodies. Moreover, Palestinian prisoners and detainees are coerced into signing documents, including confessions, in Hebrew, a language they do not understand. If they resist, soldiers proceed to beat them to the floor with metal batons.
36. The IPS further initiated a starvation policy, reducing the standard three daily meals for each prisoner to only two. These reduced meals are not only little in quantity but also of poor quality. Oftentimes, the prisoners recalled that the little food that is provided would be contaminated with dirt or even hair. In addition, the bread would be stale and the food would lack flavour. This is due to the fact that the food inside the prisons is prepared by Israeli criminal prisoners or it would be their leftovers. Palestinian prisoners are forced to share the small portions they are provided with each other. Since 7 October 2023, many prisoners have reported the rapid loss of weight they have been experiencing while in detention. One prisoner, [REDACTED] stated in his testimony to Addameer that "I was released from Naqab Prison on 8 February 2024. During my 120 days there, I lost 28 kilograms due to poor food conditions."

#### **Documented Cases of Sexual Torture: Rape**

37. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

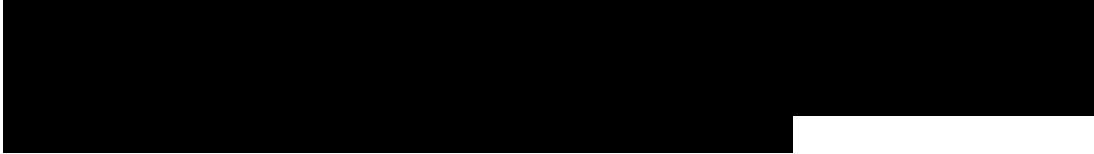
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



## **Documented Cases of Sexual Torture: Attempted Rape**

### **38. Mohammad Matar, 46-year-old resident of Ramallah Governorate**

Mohammad Matar is a 46-year-old Palestinian father of five children aged between two to twelve years old and the Head of the Middle Area of the West Bank at the Colonization and Wall Resistance Commission.

On 11 October 2023, Israeli settlers published on Facebook their plans to ‘liberate Wadi Al-Seeq from the Palestinians’. Wadi Al-Seeq, stretching over around nine thousand dunams, is a Palestinian area located to the east of Deir Dibwan town, near Ramallah city. Since Israel’s illegal occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1967, Israel has targeted Wadi Al-Seeq due to its strategic location, as it connects eastern Ramallah with western Jericho. Living in mobile tents and barracks, Palestinians in Wadi Al-Seeq have been, for decades, denied access to basic services, including [restrictions on education](#), and access to water, as well as [repetitive demolitions](#).

On 12 October 2023, Mohammad and his colleague, M.N, and a resident of Wadi Al-Seeq, M.K, ended up brutally attacked, undressed, and humiliated by Israeli settlers for almost nine hours. Mohammad was further urinated at, and sexually assaulted. In his affidavit to Al-Haq, Mohammad recalled the settlers’ attack against him, and his colleague, as they were at Wadi Al-Seeq on the morning of the attack:

Approximately 10 to 12 settlers got out of [their] cars, some of them were in the back of the open trucks. They were all armed with M16 rifles, and two to three of them were wearing masks. They were dressed in military style clothing. Although I am sure that they were settlers since they arrived in the settlers’ cars and some of their faces were known to us. They were settlers from “pastoral outposts” in the area.

They attacked us while we were outside our vehicle, close to the women and children. They threatened us with their weapons, ordered us to lie face down, and began kicking both M.N and I. I received at least ten strong kicks to my sides and head. Some were wearing military boots and others had sports shoes on.

They were shouting at us in Arabic... A masked settler ordered us to take everything out of our pockets, so we took out the money and wallet in our pockets, as I had NIS 1,800 in my pockets and NIS 370 in my wallet, and M.N, as I later learned, had NIS 600 in his pocket, and they took them from us. All of this happened while they were shouting and saying that they would kill us, and there would be no Arabs left here, and that they would send the rest of the Arabs to Jordan.

Then, one of the masked settlers told me to open my mobile phone. I refused to open my phone, which had a passcode. He then struck my arms and shoulders with the rifle's buttstock around five times. I told him that I had to open it using the eye scan, due to the beating I had received. He reluctantly returned the phone, and I tried to unlock it with the eye scan. However, due to the dirt and sweat on my face, I couldn't get it to open. The settler hit me on the top of my head with the rifle's barrel, wounding me. Blood began to flow profusely from my head, into my eyes, and onto my face. I then opened the phone using the passcode. The settler took the phone and moved away, and I continued lying face down on the ground, bleeding. The settlers alternated between kicking me sporadically, and [M.N] was nearby, about five metres away from me. He, too, was being subjected to beatings, as I could tell from the sounds of his distress and the blows from the settlers, even though I was facing the ground and couldn't see him. I continued to bleed and the settlers didn't provide any medical assistance. Each time I tried to lift my head and wipe the blood from my face, they stepped on my head and smeared dirt on my face.

During that time, I heard one of the settlers screaming in Hebrew, saying, 'He has a knife'. At that moment, I felt that the settlers were going to kill us for sure, and they would claim that I had attempted a stabbing attack against them. I replied to him in Hebrew, 'Look, I have a vegetable knife and kitchen utensils with me'. Indeed, we had gathered our personal belongings owned by the Colonisation and Wall Resistance Commission, which were in our tent, including chairs, sleeping bags, kitchen equipment, and a cooking gas cylinder, in preparation to leave with the dispersal of the [Wadi Al-Seeq].

These belongings were stored in bags in the trunk of the car I was driving, and the trunk was closed. He told me, 'No, this is a knife; you want to attack us'... I also heard the settler saying he had a stick to use against us. Then it crossed my mind that I had a dustpan stick with me, so I told him it was for work. The settlers then brought the wooden stick and started beating both me and M.N with it all over our bodies.

While Israeli settlers continued to beat us, two vehicles belonging to the Israeli Civil Administration and a settler's guard car arrived. When I saw these cars, I thought that our ordeal would finally end. Four officers in Israeli occupying army uniforms got out of one of the vehicles. When these cars appeared, the settlers stopped beating us. One of [the Israeli occupying soldiers] approached me and asked for my ID card. I

told him it was with the settlers, along with our money and mobile phones. The settlers told him that we had a knife with us.

I saw him checking our ID cards on his mobile phone and at that moment, it seemed like he realised that we were previously detained by the Israeli occupying authorities. He told the settlers, 'These were prisoners on security charges; they're troublemakers'. I asked him if they were soldiers or settlers, and he said, 'They are soldiers', even though I was sure they were settlers. In front of the Israeli Civil Administration officers, the settlers tied our hands behind our backs with ropes. He returned my ID card to a masked settler. I overheard the settlers telling the Civil Administration officer, 'These are wanted by the Israeli intelligence (Shabak), and Shabak is on the way'. After that, the officer and the other officers with him left the scene. It seemed like they gave the settlers the green light to do as they pleased with us. After that, the settlers resumed beating us with sticks and kicking us.

The beating lasted for around two and a half hours. At around 12:30 pm, another group of the IOF arrived at the scene; further allowing for Israeli settlers to continue their physical assault and attacks against Mohammad, M.N and M.K. In his affidavit to Al-Haq, Mohammad recounted the following:

A person dressed as a soldier approached me...He kicked me on my left side and then stood on my head with both feet, grinding my face into the ground with dirt. He kicked me on my right ear. All of this happened while I was lying face down on the ground with my hands bound behind my back.

Afterward, he pulled me up by my shirt from behind and told me to sit. I adjusted my position and sat on the ground. He said to me in Hebrew, 'Do you remember me?' I replied, 'No'. He told me, 'I'm the cattle herder in Bidiya, you were there some time ago pretending to be Abu Ali and blocking the street'. I told him, 'No, I wasn't in Bidiya (Salfit governorate). I only work in Ramallah'.

**He kicked me in the chest and then took out a knife and proceeded to tear all of my clothes, except my underwear. I saw him doing the same with M.N. He then removed our shoes and tied a piece of my torn clothes over my eyes.** I could partially see under the blindfold, so I saw that he did the same to M.N. After that, we were taken to the edge of the [Wadi Al-Seeq], where there was an empty sheep pen, away from some of the residents who were still present. I genuinely thought that they would kill us and justify our killing by saying we had a knife. Inside the pen, we were forced to lie face down with our hands tied behind our backs and our eyes blindfolded.

**One settler put his foot on my head and rubbed my face on the ground several times, saying, 'Eat, eat', treating me like livestock as the ground had remnants of straw and sheep food...**

At that point, I began to feel pain in my chest, as I had previously suffered from heart problems and had undergone a heart surgery. I told him in Hebrew that I had heart problems and had a heart surgery before. He lifted me and told me to show where I



had surgery, then kicked me in the chest, saying, 'Die, die'. He pushed my face back to the ground and started jumping forcefully on my back, around 3 or 4 times. I felt that my spine was about to break. The purpose of these beatings seemed to be to cause permanent disability.

Afterward, he directed kicks to my sides, near my kidneys, and told me, 'You know that the Jews have gone mad... We will kill all of you... and send you to Jordan'. Later, he left the pen, and I could hear M.N beside me, enduring beatings and pain. Another person was brought in, and I overheard the settlers saying to each other, 'Look at these troublemakers, this guy is a Bedouin'. I realised that the third person who was brought in, whose voice I could hear but was unable to see, was a Palestinian [M.K]...

They continued to beat us in rounds, each round lasting for around an hour, and then they would stop for a few minutes, and start with the next round. In one of the last rounds, an Israeli settler urinated on my head and body... During that, he was saying 'you must die'.

After a settler had urinated at Mohammad, he was further subjected to sexual assault. In his affidavit to Al-Haq, Mohammad recounted the following:

I began screaming due to the intense pain in my hands, feeling a severe ache in them, as if the blood had ceased to flow, and they had swollen to the point of almost cutting off circulation. The settler then approached and untied the ropes on my hands. I thought that he might be offering me some relief from the pain, but instead, he tied them behind my back using a coiled metal wire typically used in construction. The pain intensified, and he continued to beat me with a stick, which I couldn't tell whether it was wooden or plastic, for approximately ten minutes.

**Following this, he placed the stick in the area of my anus, over my underwear, without removing the underwear. He began to apply pressure, attempting to insert the stick into my rectum, while I resisted, straining to prevent it from going in. He used his full weight and kicked me on my back to make me relax, but I refused. This continued for about two minutes.**

**Under the pressure, I shifted slightly, causing the stick to move away from me. At this point, he started to brutally beat me, and I was in a state of despair, crying out, 'Just shoot me in the head to end this'. After that, I remained in a collapsed state for about half an hour, listening to the ongoing cries of M.N and [M.K].**

At around 7:15 pm, almost nine hours after the brutal attacks against Mohammad, and M.N started, another IOF group arrived at the scene, and released Mohammad, M.N, and M.K. Almost half an hour later, a Palestinian ambulance arrived, transferring Mohammad, M.N, and M.K to H Clinic Hospital in Ramallah, where they received the needed medical assistance.

### **Documented Cases of Sexual Torture: Threats of Rape**

**39. D.E. a 29-year-old female lawyer and human rights defender from Al-Bireh Governorate**

D.E., a 29-year-old Palestinian lawyer was detained on 17 January 2024, at around 3:00 pm near an Israeli checkpoint. On 23 January 2024, Addameer lawyer visited D.E., who disclosed experiencing sexual harassment during her arrest and detention, along with threats of sexual violence against her family.

D.E. recalled that the IOF ordered the public vehicle she was travelling in to pull over to the side for ID checks. Upon stopping, she was abruptly asked to exit the vehicle.

She got out of the vehicle and was taken to a room at the checkpoint. A male and female soldier escorted her behind the room, and the female soldier started hitting her feet from the inside in order to force her to open her legs until she could no longer open them further. While hitting her, the female soldier pulled her hand back and hit D.E.'s hands and back several times.

After that, D.E. was placed into a vehicle and her phone was confiscated. She was then transported to a location with a cage as a cell. The cell was a wire mesh cage and there was a jailer present. Later, she requested to use the bathroom and they escorted her there. **When she returned, there was another jailer who behaved in a disgusting manner, sitting and leering at her, and started making sexual threats.** He was approximately 170 cm tall, unmasked, with light brown hair, white skin, brown eyes, and did not speak Arabic fluently. She remembers his appearance clearly.

**He called her derogatory names and threatened her sexually, saying in English, "I will fuck your family," and accused her of being associated with Hamas, adding, "You are ugly."**

And when D.E. asked if they were in Bethlehem, he told her, "You are in Israel", and then insulted her. After that, a large black car arrived. They blindfolded her and tied her hands in front with plastic, then transported her by car to the camp near Bethlehem. D.E. is now in Damon prison under four months administrative detention.

**Documented Cases of Sexual Torture: Beatings on Genitalia**

**40. Z.S., a 51-year-old mother of five and resident of Deheisha Refugee Camp, Bethlehem Governorate**

Z.S. has breast masses and underwent surgery in 2009 to remove these masses, which were benign. However, after the surgery, she was given a single dose of chemotherapy as a preventive measure. Immediately after the operation, her left breast continued to discharge fluid and blood from the nipple. **Arrested on 25 November 2023, Z.S. recalls that from the second day of her arrest she began to feel pain, especially in her left breast, after receiving beatings from a jailor in Hasharon on her chest.** Upon the arrest, a military force came to the house around 2:30 am, asking if there were any young men in the house. Z.S. stated that she and her daughter were at home. The soldier told her daughter to come with them, commenting that she looked young (appearing to be around 14-15 years old). Z.S.'s daughter replied that she just needed to get dressed, to which the officer responded, "Forget it, don't come," and instructed Z.S. to come instead.

Z.S. was asked for her ID, then searched by a female soldier. Afterward, they took her outside the house, restrained her hands with plastic behind her back. Z.S. was pushed to the ground and injured in the face. Subsequently, the soldier began pulling and dragging her as they attempted to leave the area due to confrontations that were ongoing in the area.

She was taken a long distance, and upon arrival, they blindfolded her. They walked up the mountain and descended near the Martyrs' Cemetery, then she boarded the jeep from the back. They travelled a considerable distance, either towards Gush Etzion or towards Kriyat Arba, and they kept her outside for about an hour. Afterward, they took her to a location about a third of an hour away, where she sat in an open space on a chair for about an hour. Then a female soldier came and transferred her to an interrogation room, removed her restraints and blindfold.

The interrogation lasted for an hour or an hour and a half. She was asked to unlock her phone and check her Facebook account. The interrogator had a stack of printed papers from Facebook and they wanted her to confess that she's affiliated with Hamas. During the interrogation, he threatened her using her son, saying that next time he is detained, he will come back dead.

He kept telling her that she and her children are terrorists, and her whole family is a terrorist family. She refused to write and sign a paper stating that she is Hamas. Then, a person entered the room and wrote on the paper "I am Hamas" and signed Z.S.'s name in English.

Immediately after, she was transferred to Hasharon. On the way, an Israeli soldier was beating her and slapping her face while she was blindfolded and her hands were tied behind her back. **They were hurling insults at her, calling her names like "cow", "bear", "traitor", and "whore".**

When she arrived at Hasharon, a jailor came to get her out of the car and also delivered a series of consecutive slaps to her face while she was blindfolded. The jailor then punched her shoulder, grabbed her by the hair, and pulled her out of the vehicle. The soldier and the other jailors were also hitting her with batons on her head. They continued hitting her until she reached the door of the room.

Once inside the room, the female soldier and the two female jailers continued to beat her. After the female soldier left, the two remaining jailers continued beating Z.S.. **They then ordered her to hand over her clothes and Z.S. complied. While Z.S. was fully naked, the jailers ordered her to squat in a frog position and open her legs multiple times. While this was going on, Z.S. was still being hit and had her head slammed against the wall by the jailer. The jailer proceeded to photograph Z.S. while she was naked to which Z.S. pleaded for her not to do so but the jailer only responded back by saying she was not photographing her.**

**During the search, Z.S. was restrained, and the jailor told her, "I'll take you to the civilians [referring to Israeli criminal prisoners] and have one of them marry you."** The jailor also wanted her to put her head in the toilet and threw something that was in a cup over her head, making Z.S. think it was urine. **The beating continued while Z.S. tried to put her clothes back on, but her clothes were torn apart.**

After surrendering her belongings, the soldier who was with her on the way came to change her handcuffs and hit her on the side with the handcuff iron.

They placed her in a room with a bathroom and brought food, water, and a toothbrush for her. However, the jailor came and took away the food, water, and toothbrush. Z.S. ended up sleeping on the floor, and throughout the time, the jailor would enter the cell repeatedly to hit Z.S. with fists, batons, and punches to the stomach every ten minutes.

The next day, the jailors tied her hands and legs and began transferring her to Damon Prison in which she was repeatedly hit during the transfer process.

#### **41. N.A., a 32-year-old father of two and resident of Bireh city, Ramallah Governorate**

N.A., a Palestinian father of two, has been arrested five times by the IOF, the last of which was on 16 February 2023, when he was detained for a year under administrative detention; without charge or trial. He was released on 31 January 2024. N.A. has a heart condition; he underwent open-heart surgery about nine years ago and takes medication regularly and daily, including aspirin and coumadin. In his affidavit to Addameer, N.A. recalled the following:

After 7 October 2023, the prison conditions became more difficult for all detainees. Sections were isolated, organisations were dissolved, and prisoners' personal belongings were emptied from the rooms; depriving us of basic prisoners' rights. They closed the rooms on us completely. We spent Saturday, 7 October 2023, Sunday, 8 October 2023, and Monday, 9 October 2023, without food, as the IPS deliberately did not bring us food. On Monday, 9 October 2023, they brought us a very light meal in the evening.

After a week, on 15 October 2023, the raids began inside the sections, beating and assaulting all prisoners without regard to illness or old age, by the jailors and the Keter unit. The Keter unit is a special unit in Naqab Prison established for suppression and torture. They wear different uniforms from the jailors and wear large vests with cameras, carrying iron sticks. Before 7 October 2023, the Keter's role was limited to transferring prisoners between sections and only entering the sections during suppression. After 7 October, they began participating significantly in the suppressions inside the sections and always entered the sections with their weapons directed at the prisoners as if they were ready to fire.

On 19 October 2023, I was taken by the Keter unit to the intelligence office in Naqab Prison for interrogation by order of an officer from the Birzeit area, named Halabi. An intelligence officer from Naqab Prison interrogated me for about half an hour. The questions were about my brother, A.A., who is a released prisoner deported to Gaza in the prisoner exchange deal in 2011. During the interrogation, the officer from the Birzeit area spoke to me on the phone in the intelligence office and said to me, "You won't go anywhere. I killed your brother in Gaza, and I'll let them kill you in prison just like we killed your brother." Then, members of the Keter unit handcuffed me with iron handcuffs and took me to the isolation section in Naqab Prison - to the cells. During the transfer from the intelligence office to the cells, I was severely beaten by the Keter unit members, punched all over my body with a focus on the face, ribs, and waist. They wore bone gloves on their hands. They put me in a cell about 1.5 \* 2.5 metres with a toilet and a faucet. It was empty except for a mattress and a very light blanket.

The next day, on 20 October 2023, at around 10 am, about 12 masked members of the Keter unit stormed my cell, carrying iron sticks and accompanied by a muzzled dog. Initially, they unleashed the dog on me that pinned me down. When I tried to push the dog away, the dog hit me in the face with the muzzle and injured me. Immediately after that, about 5 members attacked me, pulling the dog away and handcuffing my hands behind my back. One of them raised my hands and pulled them upward to pin me, and about 4 of them started beating me viciously. The beating was all over my body, mainly on the upper parts, head, back, and chest. I was beaten for about 15-20 minutes, during which they were just hitting me, and I was screaming for them to stop. When I tried to tell them that I couldn't bear it and that I was ill, they beat me even harder. When I told them that I have a heart condition, one of them hit me with his boots on my left side chest area, where I felt like my ribs were broken from the blow. I immediately lost consciousness, and when I woke up, I was lying on the floor, still handcuffed and they had left. I remained on the ground for about 6 hours, unable to get up, and no one came to the cell. After this time, one officer came to the cell and removed my restraints. The effects of the beating were very clear on my face, with blood flowing from my head and hands, and swelling on the left side of my chest where I was hit. It looked like a large blood clot under the skin. After about half an hour, a nurse came to my cell, and I made him see the injury. He said to me, "great, stay like this," and then left. He refused to transfer me to the clinic or give me any medication or pain reliever.

I remained awake for 3 days, only sleeping in short intervals while sitting because I couldn't sleep on my back or sides due to the injuries. After about a week, I believe, on 26 October 2023, the Yamaz unit stormed my cell, a unit I'm familiar with from my previous detentions. **They pushed me against the wall forcefully, stripped me naked, conducted a naked search, beat me while I was naked, and then handcuffed me from behind with iron shackles. They kept me standing while they searched the cell, then they attacked me, despite my injuries. The beating lasted about 10 minutes.**

I stayed in isolation for about two weeks, during which my heart medication was withheld, along with the daily confiscation of the mattress and blanket from 6 am to 12 or 1 am, allowing only 5 or 6 hours of sleep per day. As further punishment, water was cut off from the cell except for one hour per day for refilling a 1.5-liter bottle. After that, I was transferred from isolation to Section 5, Room 5, where I spent 3 days before being moved to Section 6. During my time there, a masked force of the Keter unit, with sticks and accompanied by dogs, suddenly stormed Section 5, beating all inmates without reason and spraying gas.

Later, jailors , along with prison officers, raided Section 5 and transferred all prisoners from Section 5, around 99 prisoners, to Section 6. My cell was the last one, so they transferred 90 prisoners and then it was our turn. During this time, we heard the screams of the transferred prisoners, which filled me with terror and fear of the unknown fate awaiting us. I wished that I would die before it became our turn to be transferred. Our room housed 9 inmates. When it was our turn for transfer, a large number of jailors stormed our cell, restrained us from behind with each prisoner held

by 2 or 3 jailors , and transferred us about 50 metres to Section 6. **There, every 2-3 inmates were taken into a room, stripped naked, and brutally beaten, primarily on the genitals. Some prisoners bled, and some of them fainted from the severity of the beatings.**

I spent a week in Section 6, during which I and other prisoners were assaulted twice by the Keter unit. One time, it was because they claimed that praying aloud was forbidden. **On 11 or 12 November 2023, all prisoners from Section 6 were again transferred by a force from the jailors and the Keter unit, first to an inspection area known as Almukhool, where we were strip-searched in front of other prisoners. Every 4-5 prisoners undergo a full search together. During the search, we were severely beaten while naked using sticks, and muzzled dogs were unleashed on us.** Then I was taken to Room 27, walking about 150 metres with my back bent and head down, while my hands cuffed behind my back. They placed me in a room with 12 prisoners, even though it only has space for 6.

I was held in Naqab Prison for approximately 117 days during the war until my release. Throughout this period, we were completely deprived of yard time. We remained in the same clothes without change. Each prisoner had only two or three pieces of clothing. The cold was severe; they removed the window panes from the rooms, and most prisoners were in summer clothes without warm clothing or sufficient blankets. They entered the cells three times daily for a count. During these counts, we were forced to kneel on the ground with our hands over our heads and our heads bent down, prohibited from lifting them. Throughout the war, there were continuous, unprovoked assaults and severe beatings at any time. When we asked for the reason, they told us we were on the front lines of the battle, due to the geographical proximity of Naqab Prison to Gaza. Each cell underwent repression and raids twice or three times a week... Many prisoners had their prescription glasses broken during the beatings and were not given replacements. Many prisoners were injured and suffered fractures. We requested to go to the clinic, but it was closed in an emergency situation. When we asked the nurse for medication, he said, "There isn't any. All the medicine went to the army on the front lines. You have no medication. Die." The food was extremely scarce, just enough to keep us alive, nothing more.

#### **42. F.H., a 28-year-old Palestinian resident of Beita village, Nablus Governorate**

On 10 October 2023, F.H. was detained for the fifth time by the IOF, placed under a six-month administrative detention, and released on 8 April 2024. Following his arrest, he was immediately transferred to the Huwwara camp, where he was held for about five-six days before being transferred to Megiddo Prison, where he remained until December 2023. After that, he was transferred to Naqab Prison and eventually released from there. In his affidavit to Addameer, F.H. recounted the following:

On the day of my transfer to Megiddo prison, I was transported by a prison van operated by the Nahshon unit and placed inside it in a very tight space. I stayed in this cramped condition from around 7 am to 12 pm, which caused dizziness and vomiting. Then I was transferred to another prison van with around 15-20 other

individuals. Five prisoners, including myself, were taken to Megiddo prison, while the rest were taken to Petah Tikva. Throughout the transfer, we were treated very poorly, subjected to insults the whole time, and forced to keep our heads down.

Upon arrival at Megiddo prison, approximately 10-15 jailors, along with an officer named Sami, greeted us with insults and treated us extremely poorly. They led us to a reception area where Officer Sami shouted, "You're all Hamas" before taking us one by one to a tiny inspection room, about a metre square, where three jailors, one stationed at the door, an officer, and a third jailor conducted a strip search. **I was completely stripped naked, and during the search, the officer threatened me, saying, "If you have a smuggled phone, you'll die." They confiscated my clothes, leaving me only with my undergarments.**

After searching all the prisoners, they placed us in a cage. After about half an hour, they took us to the intelligence sorting area, where the officer interrogated me about my affiliation. When I stated that I didn't belong to any organisation, the officer brought a file and claimed that I belong to Hamas before physically assaulting me in front of the intelligence officer. He punched me approximately 10-12 times in the face, ears, and body with his fists. Then, I was transferred to a cell in Megiddo prison, which was supposed to accommodate 10 people but housed around 27.

On the second day, I was summoned to the intelligence office in the prison again, along with my brother. The intelligence officer accused us of being child killers and stated that my brother and I were not allowed to stay together. Then, they handcuffed me from behind and transferred me to Section 5, Room 12. During the transfer, they kept pushing my head down. Upon entering the section, ongoing searches and constant disturbance of bedding and clothes were underway. If canned food was discovered, it was emptied onto the bedding and clothes. One time, they poured two cans of tuna on prisoners' clothes. They confiscated our belongings, leaving each detainee with only one set of clothing worn on our bodies.

On 25 October 2023, at around 11 or 11:30 am, a large force from the Metzada and Yamam units, along with prison jailors and the IPS, stormed the Section. They opened the rooms, detonated sound bombs inside, threw us to the ground, stomped on our heads with their boots, and began beating us with sticks and their feet on our hands and feet. Then, they handcuffed us from behind and dragged us one by one to the bathroom.

**Members of the Yamam unit stripped me completely naked and interrogated me about phones for about five minutes while I was naked.** It was my turn before the last, and I could hear the sounds of beatings and prisoners screaming. Then, they handed me my clothes to put on, handcuffed me from behind, and took me out of the room.

The beatings stopped outside the room because there were cameras, and they avoided beating us in front of cameras. Then they took us to the outdoor showers and kept us there for about 3 hours until they finished searching the rooms. We were handcuffed tightly, causing my hands to turn blue and numb.

On 25 December 2023, F.H. was transferred to Naqab Prison, where he was threatened by Israeli jailors that he had entered hell. The next day, F.H. was beaten on genital area by Israeli jailors. In his affidavit to Addameer, he recounted the following:

The next day, in the morning hours, units of Metzada, Keter, and Yamam, along with the jailors, entered the section. The yard was filled with Israeli jailors and officers. They stormed the section from Room 1 to Room 9. **They handcuffed us behind our backs and started taking out the prisoners one by one. I was the last prisoner remaining in the room. They moved me from my room to Room 7. At that moment, a member of the Ketar unit collapsed on me with blows and hit me on my genitals. I started screaming from the beating, and he pulled down my pants and underwear (boxers) and forcefully grabbed my genitals while holding onto the boxers until they tore. Then two Keter soldiers grabbed me and threw me onto the backs of the guys in the room.** We were handcuffed for about an hour, then the handcuffs were removed, but we remained seated until the end of the day until they finished searching all the rooms. Prisoners of some rooms were taken to the inspection area and subjected to severe beatings. We, who remained in the section, were in better condition than them. Then they returned us to our rooms.

We stayed in the section for about 27 days without ever going out to the yard. After that, they opened the section for ten minutes so we could take a shower. There were 120 prisoners in the section who had to shower within this time frame, and those who were late were threatened with repression and pepper spray. Of course, the water was very cold. The food was very bad all the time, consisting of only 7 spoons of rice, 7 slices of bread, and a quarter of a tomato for each prisoner. We never felt full...

During Ramadan, we used to pray secretly, and one of the prisoners would stay alert to watch out for any intrusion while we prayed. Skin diseases, fungi, and scabies spread greatly among the prisoners, and they received no treatment. There was an almost daily inspection.

On the second day of Ramadan, they said they would make improvements for the prisoners, so they brought a Quran, but prayers and the call to prayer remained prohibited. They didn't improve the food; they only allowed the courtyard time, but they imposed conditions. They reduced the size of the courtyard and prohibited us from going barefoot, even though many prisoners had nothing to wear on their feet due to confiscation of slippers. One of the conditions was that standing on the bench in the yard was prohibited, and greeting other prisoners was only allowed by walking past them. We only went to the yard twice during Ramadan.

Whenever prisoners went to court, there was always beating. It's worth noting that there's a corner in Naqab Prison that cameras don't reach, known to prisoners as the 'corner of death,' which is about 200 metres away from the sections, near the inspection and the designated waiting room area. Jailors would exploit this area for beatings in an abnormal manner.

On the day of my release on 8 April 2024, they took me out of the section around noon. Four jailors handcuffed me from behind, forcefully pulled me, and blindfolded



me. Then I was surprised by a very strong blow to the chest area, followed by a barrage of beatings, and I was screaming from the intensity of the pain and the beatings. Then they dragged me about 30 metres and beat me again, focusing on my chest, and they threw me into a room about a metre by a metre. **They searched me naked, then handcuffed me behind my back and kept me until late hours before releasing me. I was extremely exhausted from the beatings.**

#### **43. A.A., 47-year-old father of six and resident of Rafah city**

On 7 October 2023, A.A., a Palestinian father of six, was in al-Lydd, inside the Green Line, where he used to work. As he attempted to go to Ramallah, he was stopped, searched and left in his underwear on a sidewalk for almost an hour and a half. In his affidavit to Al-Haq, he recounted the following:

On Saturday, 7 October 2023, at around 9:00 am, I was on a bus heading from al-Lydd to Jerusalem, intending to then travel to the city of Ramallah. There were about 27 Palestinian workers on the bus, all residents of Gaza, who also intended to go to Ramallah. In the early morning hours, we heard about an attack by the resistance on Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip, so we feared that the settlers might carry out attacks on Palestinian workers in Israel in retaliation for the attack. Therefore, I decided to leave al-Lydd, and our Israeli employer arranged the bus for us. However, about half an hour into the bus ride, while I was not exactly sure of our location because I do not know the names of the areas, I saw an Israeli military checkpoint on the road from al-Lydd to Jerusalem. Cars were passing through without being stopped, but when our bus passed through, soldiers from the Israeli Border Guard unit, distinguished by their olive uniforms, stopped the bus and boarded it. We told them that we were from Gaza, we were workers with work permits, and we explained to them that we were heading to Ramallah and wanted to stay there until things calmed down. We also told them that there were sick people among us. However, the soldiers ordered us to get off the bus in a violent manner, pushing us with their hands. **Then they proceeded to check our IDs and work permits, and afterwards, they ordered us to strip off all our clothes, including shoes and socks, and remain only in our underwear on the sidewalk beside the street, exposing us to the passing traffic. Then they ordered us to stand against a wall inside the checkpoint with our faces to the wall, forcing us to raise our hands on the wall. We remained in this position, almost naked, until around 11 am, about two hours, while I, facing the wall, could hear the traffic on the street, although it was sparse. I felt ashamed of the situation I was in, as I am a 47-year-old man; how could this happen to me?**

Then, they allowed us to put our clothes back on but returned us to the previous position against the wall. Due to fatigue, after a not-so-long period, I could not continue standing, so I sat down on the ground. At that point, the soldiers came and ordered me, pointing his rifle at me, to stand up. I told him that I couldn't and that he could shoot if he wanted to, and I showed him my swollen feet as a result of my diabetes. He left me sitting, but facing the wall. During those hours, neither did I ask nor did I hear anyone asking for water, food, or the bathroom, due to the difficult

mental state we were in, and the soldiers did not ask us if we needed anything. At around 4:00 pm, the soldiers ordered us to board the bus again, and the bus continued on to the village of Beit Sira, where we then boarded public cars to Ramallah.

**Documented Cases of Sexual Torture: Sexual Harassment**

44. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

#### 45. O.W., a 22-year-old female student and resident of Bethlehem Governorate

On 3 December 2023, at around 1:50 am, the IOF raided the house of O.W. and asked about her sisters' names. They requested her ID, and when she brought it from her room, they immediately went to search her room without any family members present. They took the books "Mistakes of the Prayers" and "Sciences of the Quran" along with papers—one of which she recognised as a leaflet distributed by the university to all students.

However, during the interrogation, they presented her with two papers which were copies of the same paper that was in her room and distributed at the university. In court, they claimed to have found 92 copies of this paper in her room.

After that, they took her to her room where a female soldier conducted a physical search. O.W. requested ablution (wudhu), which they allowed, and they asked her to bring a jacket. She took a pair of sneakers, but they threw them out during her transport. When she left her house, they put iron handcuffs on her to the front and covered her eyes with her shawl, placing her in the back of the military jeep. During this time, there was a female soldier and other soldiers with her. They reached an area near a detention camp where the car stopped on the street. A soldier from the camp performed an examination on her outside the car, including using a medical device to check her heartbeat. She refused to let him touch her hand, so the female soldier was instructed to hold her hand for the examination. He spoke to her in Hebrew, which she didn't understand, but someone translated one sentence for her: "Are you buying medicine or not?"

Then they transferred her to other vehicles outside the camp and began questioning her inside the car. The female soldier grabbed her and placed three restraints on her hands behind her back—two plastic and one iron. These restraints remained until the next day and were not removed permanently. The soldier tightened the plastic restraints whenever O.W. seemed in pain or discomfort from them. They also asked her about her phone's passcode.

Then they called the captain who was asking her about her phone and her life. **Whenever she refused to answer, he would grab her head and press on her eyes, threatening her first in Hebrew and then in Arabic, saying, "We will put you with soldiers alone and they will handle you," "We will blow up your head," and "If you don't confess here, the "birds" [referring to spies planted within the prisons; the detainees refer to them as "birds"] will have work to do."**

Afterwards, the female soldiers got out and O.W. remained with the captain and two other soldiers. **One soldier began feeling her legs while another touched her head. They made her bow her head forward, then moved the chair forward over her.** Then the female soldier returned and started hitting O.W. with the butt of her rifle and with her hands on her head and ears. She threw O.W. onto the floor inside the car, placing her legs on O.W.'s bound hands and head. O.W. lay on the floor with her head bent forward.

**When O.W. was screaming from the beating, they recorded the sound of her screams on the phone and told her to be quiet. Then they played the recording on the car radio and laughed at her.**

They would eat and throw food leftovers and garbage on O.W., and also cigarettes as well to the extent that she thought her shawl was burning, but she was blindfolded and restrained to the back. **They cursed at her with vulgar language** and told her she was Hamas. When she replied that she was not Hamas, they would hit her.

This situation continued until around 2:00 pm. They repeatedly took her out, placed her head on the ground among the stones, beat her, and then returned her to the car. Once, they took her out of the car and made her walk in the open, then pushed her until she fell while she was blindfolded and restrained to the back.

Once they put her on the ground covered with water and mud, making her kneel and pressing her head to the ground with a rifle, her clothes became soaked with dirty water and mud, and the weather was very cold. **They arrived at Ofer, where at some point the female soldier had placed adhesive tape under the shawl over O.W.'s eyes, and upon arrival at Ofer, she violently removed the tape, causing some hair from the edges of her head to be pulled out. They then conducted a naked search of her in a room before transferring her to a cell and removing the three restraints.**

Afterwards, they transferred her for questioning by one interrogator and asked to use the bathroom. **The female soldier escorted her to the bathroom, but refused to allow O.W. to close the door, so she returned to the interrogation without using it.** The interrogation lasted for about fifteen minutes. Then the female soldier handcuffed her hands behind her back and pushed her to the ground in the open outside Ofer. Later, they put her in a jeep and continued the torture, hitting and insulting her. At one point, a soldier told her to drink, but instead of handing her the water, he threw it on the ground. Then they transferred her to Hasharon with the female soldier and another soldier.

**They conducted a full strip search when she arrived at Hasharon,** and she was left in a half-sleeve blouse, prayer scarf, and prayer skirt. The female soldier who conducted the search hit her head against the wall and hit her on her back and head. They took her for an examination where they saw her hands but did not provide treatment; her hands were swollen and red where the restraints had been. As she walked, they hit her each time they moved her, often pushing her head forward.

They stopped her in the courtyard for about 20 minutes with her head bent in the cold, then transferred her to a cell with cold, drafty air and a light blanket, which she was hit and left in.

The food provided consisted of cheese, tomato, and inedible bread, and the water tasted strange, as it was water from a cola bottle. After three hours of trying to sleep, they brought five female detainees to her small cell. **In the morning, the jailers came to the cell, took everything in the room, and strip searched them in front of each other inside the cell.**

Afterwards, they were moved with their heads bent and legs restrained, and placed in a room flooded with water where they stood inside water about 3-5 cm deep. **Then they were transferred to Damon prison, and upon arrival, she underwent a strip search.**

46. [REDACTED], a 42-year-old resident of Nablus Governorate

██████████, a 42-year-old Palestinian resident of Nablus Governorate was arrested in February 2003, and released on 8 February 2024, after 21 years of imprisonment. During his detention, he was subjected to sexual harassment, including strip searches, as well as beatings on his genitalia. In his testimony to Addameer, he recalled the following:

During my detention, I was transferred between all Israeli prisons, but for the last three years, I was held at the Naqab Prison until my release. The conditions in Naqab Prison, like all Israeli prisons before 7 October 2023, were difficult. Some problems in the prisons specifically occurred when Ben Gvir assumed the position of Minister of Public Security. He was trying to impose harsh laws on us but couldn't implement them as he wanted due to prisoners' protests. However, after 7 October, he and others seized the opportunity and brutally attacked the prisoners, as there were no laws protecting Palestinian prisoners, and we were weak against overwhelming force that exploited the situation and the bloodshed in the war.

Initially, they revoked all our rights. In the early days after 7 October, they stormed us in massive numbers, reinforced by the army, special forces, and Yamam units. They placed all our clothes and blankets in the middle of the room and poured oil and food on them. Then they removed everything from pillows and covers, opened the iron lockers, and took everything out of the rooms. They kept the lights on all night so we couldn't sleep, and during the day, they cut off the electricity. This was only in the first few days. Later on, the electricity was cut off completely day and night in Naqab Prison.

Each prisoner was given only two sets of clothes. At that time, I was in Section 2 in the tents.

After the start of the war, about 12 or 13 days later, specifically in the morning hours, a very large force of guards and special units stormed the tents, beginning to torment and beat the prisoners. Initially, they started in Section 1 and Section 9, and the prisoners were transferred out. Meanwhile, we could hear the screams and cries of the prisoners being beaten and tormented. By midday, it was the turn of Section 2, where I was held, and we were moved to areas known by prisoners in Hebrew as 'Metahal Gimel,' into rooms devoid of life essentials, containing nothing but thin mattresses and blankets. A room designed for 4 prisoners accommodated 11 prisoners.

The transfer from the tents to Gimel was done in a very brutal and violent manner, primarily by the Keter unit with assistance from Israeli army forces from the Gefen units, Yamam units, and Metzada units from the Israeli police. They brought in large reinforcements, stationed outside the sections without entering the rooms. They began to remove the prisoners individually by calling out their names, and when the called prisoner exited the room, they were greeted by units who restrained them behind their backs (not everyone) and forced their heads down towards their feet for inspection. We could hear the sounds of beatings and screaming as each prisoner awaited their turn, which psychologically devastated the prisoners before their turn came.



The prisoners were assembled in groups and taken away by prison transport vehicles, and the transportation was violent, with beatings along the way to the bus. This was all happening in front of cameras in the section. When we reached the bus, a Keter unit member stood at the prison vehicle door (bus door) and held the door with a chain, making the opening only 25 cm wide, which the prisoner could not cut through, and they had to enter in a narrow space. When entering, the Keter unit member would hit the prisoner with the door.

Of course, the bus could accommodate around 20 prisoners, but about 40 prisoners were placed inside, divided into two cages.

After we arrived at the sections of section C “Metahal Gimel”, they began taking us out of the car. As we were descending from the bus, members of the Keter unit were standing on the bus steps and below, holding wooden sticks, calling out prisoner by prisoner. When the prisoner would step forward to descend, they would hit him on the head with the sticks. A prisoner from Balata Camp was brutally assaulted and subjected to violent beatings when he was descending from the bus; he fell off the steps onto the ground, and all the guards gathered with the Keter and began to beat him horribly with sticks and feet until his condition worsened, and he suffered a head injury from the beatings. Another prisoner from Bethlehem experienced the same as the first prisoner, and a prisoner from Tubas had his right hand broken due to the beatings. I saw all of this with my own eyes.

As for myself, when I got off the bus, I was also beaten, but I remained steady and did not fall to the ground. I tried to fend off the blows, so they returned me inside the bus to the empty room in the bus compartment, and four members of the Keter entered. They began beating me with sticks and started banging my head against the compartment wall. After that, they took me out of the car and led me to the waiting room of the detention center. This room was full of blood, and its smell was the blood of the prisoners who preceded me in it.

Afterwards, they led me to a room containing technological inspection tools (a magnetometer). In this room were two very large members of the Keter unit, along with an Israeli flag hanging and a video camera. **They proceeded to conduct a naked inspection of me. While I was undressing, I was subjected to beatings, and they used the magnetometer device to conduct a very clear and explicit form of sexual harassment during the inspection, which was extremely degrading for the prisoner.** The beatings continued while they were conducting the inspection, and they were saying phrases like “you are a murderer” and others. **One of them hit me forcefully in the private, sensitive area of my body, causing me to vomit immediately on the ground.** They were speaking in Hebrew, a language I understood, and one of them said something like “enough, leave him.”

**They wanted me to leave the room almost naked, but I refused. They quickly threw clothes on the ground, which were not mine, and I wore them.** They then took me to the large magnetometer area and threw me to the ground there. My right hand swelled significantly from the impact and eventually started bleeding. The Keter officer approached me and asked, “What happened to your hand?” I replied, “I

was hit by you.” He responded, “No, you hit your hand against the wall.” He insisted on this narrative, threatened me, and said, “I will teach you a lesson as long as you are here with me.”

Afterwards, I was taken to Section 22, which was around 200 metres away, with my head bowed and subjected to insults and beatings along the way, accompanied by four guards. They placed me in Room 6, where I found a young man named A.H. [name omitted] from the Um Al-Amer area, covered in bruises all over his body and in a bad condition from severe beatings. No medical treatment was provided to me or any of the prisoners. I continued to bleed when I went to the bathroom for nearly a week.

On the second day after our transfer, a Russian nurse came and took photos of my hand and the injury from behind the door on a mobile phone, but there was no medical intervention. The prisoners who witnessed the beatings included M.A., an administrative detainee, A.H., and I.K. [names omitted].

The rooms where we were held had no electricity and were devoid of basic amenities. They would conduct inspections and remove anything from the room, even a shampoo bottle. Each prisoner was only allowed one piece of clothing and a towel, which would be torn into two parts to be shared between two prisoners. Pillows were forbidden, as was the Quran. If a guard caught a prisoner praying at night, they would immediately transfer them to the waiting room of the detention cells, which were open-air cells where prisoners were kept from morning till night as punishment.

Since 7 October, we were not allowed to go out of the rooms at all. Medical clinics were not permitted except for the one time they took me to the clinic in December. I was taken to the clinic because I suffered from severe skin rash, likely due to wearing clothes that weren't mine during the transfer, leading to an infection. I was suffering from itching and inflammation, unable to sleep. The doctor told me it was not an infection and prescribed allergy medication that relieved the itching but was hard on my kidneys and required a lot of water. Water was only allowed for one hour per day, during which 11 prisoners had to use the bathroom, fill water for drinking, and shower.

The repression mostly occurred during the counting period. The jailors, accompanied by Keter units, would enter with each holding an M16 rifle with loaded magazines and accompanied by dogs. During counts, we had to kneel with our faces against the wall. Each time, they would choose a room, enter with the dogs and physically assault the prisoners. After they finished, female guards would enter and pour water on us while we were on the ground.

**In Section 28, I was not present, but the prisoners shared news that one of them was sexually assaulted in prison using a carrot. The female guards held him by his genitals in front of the other prisoners. I don't know his full name, but I do know a witness to this incident named N.A. from Jenin.**

Before 7 October, we never saw weapons inside the prison; they were only on the prison walls for guarding purposes. However, currently, the Keter unit enters during counts carrying M16 rifles, each equipped with loaded magazines and laser sights directed at the faces of the prisoners. The Keter unit now accompanies the jailors during each count, entering three times a day.

Previously, before 7 October, counts were conducted by 4-5 officers accompanied by jailors only. Today, during counts, nearly 30 jailors enter with all their gear, supported by the Keter unit and dogs. Most of the Keter unit members are usually masked.

#### **47. A.G, a Palestinian mother of three and resident of Beit Lahiya, North Gaza Governorate**

A.G., a Palestinian mother of three children, the eldest of whom is 10 years old, was detained while walking through the so-called 'safe corridor'. During her detention, she was strip searched and sexually harassed. She [told](#) MIFTAH the following:

I was displaced from the north to the south, going through a checkpoint on the so-called 'safe corridor'. On 3 December 2023, the occupation army yelled out at me, taking me from among my children. I have one girl and two boys. My daughter is 10 years old, one son is 7 and the other is 5. We were alone at the checkpoint. They took me away and left my children by themselves.

I told them, "What about my children? There is no one else with us. There's only me. They don't know anyone, they are only children. They told me, leave your children here and in five minutes we will bring them to you. Then they made my children walk away alone and they arrested me.

Then they asked me my name and ID number. They made me turn around and when I did, I saw soldiers, more than 50 soldiers standing there and two female soldiers. They ordered me to strip and I told them I don't want to. Then they said: "Your children are here; if you don't strip, we'll shoot them", so I had to strip naked.

When I was done, they told me to get dressed. They called me over and started to beat me on my head, my hands and my legs, frisking me. They then handcuffed me, shackled my feet and blindfolded me and took me to an unknown location. They made me stand there, still like a mountain.

Then an army 'captain' came up to me and asked, "You are coming to Rafah? Where is your husband? What does he do? Your brother? Your uncles? Do you know anyone from Hamas? Of course, I didn't answer him. By then it was nighttime and they put me in an army carrier and took me to some location where I stayed for about 12 hours. Of course, I'm just guessing. Then they let me sleep in an open, empty space covered in sand. The only people there were soldiers. I slept there one night.

The second day, a jeep came and took us to a building. **They stripped and searched us. Then they made us put on a pair of gray pajamas, handcuffed and blindfolded us again.** A bus came and they drove with us for about eight hours until

we arrived at a detention center named “Anatot” where we were interrogated for about eight days. The whole time we were handcuffed, our feet shackled and blindfolded. **Every time they would take us anywhere, they would first strip search us, just like the day we were born. They didn’t leave one stitch of clothing on us.**

They interrogated me every day for at least eight hours in their interrogation rooms. They would ask me: Who do you know in Hamas? What is your story? I would tell them, “You took me by mistake”. During my interrogation, I would ask them: “What is my charge? Why did you bring me here?” They would tell me, “your charge is that your husband is a terrorist, a senior commander in the [Izzedin] Qassam Brigades.” I would answer, “What are you talking about? My husband is no terrorist. I know him, he has nothing to do with the Qassam Brigades.

They showed me a picture on a laptop and I told them, “That’s not my husband.” They would say, “Isn’t his name Yehya Ghabin?”

“Yes, that’s his name, but this is not him,” I would answer. My husband’s father’s name is “this and that” and this is not him. They pulled up his picture and I’m like: yes that’s my husband. The other one is from the family but you assassinated him, he was martyred. Then they brought an army officer and the two fought in front of me. I told them, “Did you bring me here by mistake?”

He answered, “Consider that yes, we brought you here by mistake, but we can’t discredit the army, you know. So, you will have to spend the allotted time in detention and if there is nothing against you, then we will send you home.”

I was kept there for eight days; they kept questioning and interrogating me about Hamas, about my brothers and others. **They beat and insulted me. It was winter and they would take us out and make us sit on the ground, mocking us, calling us Ninja Turtles, making fun of us. Their behavior was so disgusting. They made us go to the bathroom handcuffed. We would tell them, “We need to use the bathroom, loosen the handcuffs, but they say, do it yourself. We would call one of the other women to help us pull down our pants so we could use the bathroom. Sometimes we wouldn’t make it.**

When we got our periods, they would give us just one sanitary pad, even if you soaked it to the max, they wouldn’t care. I had to rip off the pockets of my pants and made them into pads, so I wouldn’t soak through.

There was no water either. **Just curses and insults and beatings. I was one of the women who was dragged like a dog. They made me bend over and they put their boot on my back and dragged me out.** They put me out in the rain and I was soaked but they didn’t let me change.

We were freezing cold. We were held some place that was like an animal shed. It was made of barbed wire but was not closed; it only had a roof. We were freezing and hungry. They would give us a piece of cheese [every day] with two thin slices of bread. It were in a living hell.

Then they transferred us to Damon prison. Even in Damon, we were kept handcuffed and the same thing happened. **At each place, we would be strip searched, insulted and beaten. They would even take your sandal off and slap your face with it and the soldiers would frisk you; feel you up.**

#### **48. 'R. HA. 39-year-old mother of three and resident of Beit Lahia**

On 2 December 2023, 'R.HA. was detained by the IOF as she walking through the so-called safe route. In her affidavit to PCHR, 'R.HA. [recounted](#) the following:

When the war erupted on 07 October 2023, I was in Kamal Adwan Hospital treating my 5-year-old son from asthma. After 3 days and finishing my son's treatment at the hospital, we left to UNRWA al-Fakhourah School in Jabalia refugee camp that has become a shelter.

I stayed at school until it was bombed by IOF, if I am not mistaken in November 2023 (the school was targeted by IOF on 18 November 2023 killing and wounding many.) As a result, my husband's other wife was killed along with 3 of her children, so fearing for myself and my children, I rushed out to UNRWA Abu Hussein School in Jabalia refugee camp that was later bombed by IOF without a warning. Leaflets were then dropped ordering us to evacuate via the so-called safe corridor to the south ahead of Gaza Valley, so I took my children and left to the south searching for a shelter or a tent to seek refuge in Rafah.

On 02 December 2023, when I arrived at the checkpoint which IOF established on Salah al-Deen Road to cross to the safe corridor upon IOF's instructions, the soldiers called me via the loudspeaker to come. I told them I had my children aged between 5 and 13 years and could not leave them. He told me to let them walk alone and then asked me about my name and my ID number. I gave them what they wanted and they then ordered me to go behind a sand berm they created by the roadsides. I went there to find an open tent, where they had me handcuffed, searched and blindfolded, and an interrogator arrived starting to interrogate me. First, he asked for my name and ID number and then about Hamas and if I knew any of my family members affiliated with Hamas.

I waited for 5 to 6 hours not knowing my fate or what happened with my children, and when I tried to look up a little so I would see where I was, I found myself in a very dark place with another woman. They then put us in a vehicle that I did not know what it was and drove us to an empty area. We remained there for the day and the next day they took us to another area, where they stripped us and dressed us a grey pajama without underwear. They then drove us for another 8 hours until they dropped us at a detention facility called "Aan Tod."

I remained in that detention facility for 8 days, during which, I was subjected to interrogation and humiliation by taking off my sandals, hitting me with them on my face and repeatedly beating me on my thigh with their boots and feet. I was interrogated 4 times, and each time they took me early in the morning and brought me back in the evening. **Before each interrogation, which lasted for 8 hours,**

**while strip-searching us and having our legs tied, the female soldiers were biting their lips implying sexual intent and the male soldiers were staring at us. They were laughing at us, insulting us with genital-related swear words and making sexual suggestive movements. When they finished the interrogation, they would search us again.**

**Moreover, they kept us cuffed when we went to the bathroom saying, “you can handle yourself.” There was another woman detained with me who helped me pulling my pants down and up when I go to the bathroom; we helped each other a lot.** Meanwhile, if we wanted to drink, we would take the stairs to reach a tap and drink from its contaminated and chlorinated water. Thus, we filled bottles with this water and left it for half an hour until it became clearer.

We were then taken to Damon prison in Haifa. We were detained there for 45 days; during which, we were daily interrogated to verify the information we gave and the information they had. all the time, I was handcuffed in a room of 5 beds, one blanket and a very light mattress with a bathroom destitute of water; the room was very small with too many detainees. **In one of the interrogations, I told the interrogator that on October 7th I was at the hospital, and he commented that all you Gazan women are liars and hypocrites, and the Israeli women’s shoes are better than you. He insulted me with the worst words that I cannot repeat. They were always sexually harassing the female detainees by touching their necks and breasts and removing our hijabs.**

I remember one day we heard there was a ceasefire and a prisoner exchange deal, the female soldiers told us not to cheer up because it would not be for us but for them, provokingly saying, “you do not get released in exchange deals, you are here kidnapped.”

As I have hypertension, my pressure went up, so I started calling and the warden was passing by but he refused to give medication. I passed out and fell on the ground, but they then had my hands and legs tied and took me to check my pressure.

Due to the unclean water, the detainees complained of abdominal pain, itchy throat, unprecedented constipation and stomach ache. Whenever the nurse passed by, we would ask for medicine and he would say, “you constantly ask for medicine.” And we answered him to provide us clean water and we would never ask for medicine. He was very bad-tempered and always insulted us.

For food, we were eating uncooked rice, half-cooked pasta, and raw hotdogs and each one’s share of food was so little as much as a spoon. We also had 3 slight loafs of bread while sweets and coffee were banned and they offered us almost cold tea. We suffered a lot, they did not want to hear any voice, and when we were praying, they would suddenly storm the cell claiming they wanted to count us, forcing us to stop praying. Moreover, when they wanted to punish us, they cut off the water. We were also not allowed to cry and if we did, they would torture us; for example, they tightened the cuffs around my wrists leaving wounds in them and whenever I begged

the soldier not to press so my veins would not be affected as I have hypertension he pressed more.

**In one of the torture methods during the interrogation, the soldiers forced me to bend and they made the female soldiers throw themselves on me, choosing the fattest.**

**They threw food for us like if we were dogs and we were not allowed to pick it until they leave.** We were also deprived of sleep; the mattress was very light and the blanket was very dirty and black. We were freezing to death but they never cared. Moreover, they barely gave us toilet paper, and we were peeing on ourselves for taking us late to the bathroom. We had been subjected to insults and threats swearing not to allow me to see my kids and brothers again.

On 12 January 2024, I left that prison to another with heavy deployment of IOF and snipers. We stayed there for one night and the next day, they released us at the Kerem Shalom crossing in a humiliating condition, laughing at us and shooting right above us all the way until we reached a tent belonging to United Nations employees. We were then taken on a bus to Ta'if School in Rafah. All what I was think about was my children who had to walk alone via the safe corridor amid shooting and I did not know their fate.

When I arrived, I left everything and went out looking for my three children until someone met me and could recognize me. He told me that my children were with someone, who took them to Nuseirat refugee camp, and then I found them at Al-Quds Open University. I couldn't believe myself and started screaming and hugging them fearing for them and missing them so much.

#### **49. H.B, a 60-year-old mother of seven, resident of Ramallah Governorate**

On 4 September 2023, H.B.'s home was raided by the IOF and she was arrested. During her detention, she was sexually harassed. In her testimony to WCLAC, H.B. recounted the following:

They blew up the main door of the house, confiscated my husband's car, and informed me that I was under arrest. They tied me up and took me forcefully. Outside the house, I was taken by an army patrol after blindfolding me. **The whole time they were screaming at me with very sexually demeaning words and very provocative insults, and insults at my family, my mother, and my father,** including (Oh daughter of adultery, you are a slut, insulting God and the Prophet Muhammad) and most of them. **What was provocative was the soldiers' hands that were touching me from various parts of my body, especially the chest area, under the pretext of holding me for fear of falling.** These grabs made me scream at the top of my lungs, telling them to leave me, stay away from me, do not touch me, but to no avail. My hands were tied and my eyes were blindfolded, for more than four hours? For hours, I was on army patrol alone with a number of soldiers, and I did not know where they were taking me. I was in an indescribable state of fear from the soldiers' movements and harassment of me.

When I arrived at the investigation center, I sat on a chair out of extreme fatigue, and a soldier hit me very painfully on the head with his rifle and asked me to stand and not sit. I was in a lot of pain. **The officer began to approach me and ask questions, but the method of interrogation was very disgusting, as he was getting very close to my face while he was speaking and I felt his breaths on my face. When I turn my face away from him and I tell him to stay away from me, ask me while you are far away. He would extend his hands to my face and make me look at him while holding my face tightly towards him. He deliberately shouted at me more than once and called (You are a bitch. Your mother is an adulterer.) I told him, please, talk to me whatever you want and insult me, but keep a distance between us. Stay away from me. Do not touch my body. He laughed and spat in my face and walked away** and threatened me that he would bring a female soldier to continue interrogating me because the file was ready and the sentence was for 6 administrative months. I was placed in a very small, cold cell without water or food. I stayed until sunset in this condition and after a long wait they gave me bread, water and some jam. I told the female soldier that I am sick and suffer from high blood pressure and diabetes, and you are bearing the deterioration of my health because I did not take my medication.

I stayed in the cell for two days without medication or a change of clothes. In the afternoon, I was taken to Damon Prison.

The conditions of my detention in the first month were somewhat normal, but after 7 October 2023, at ten in the morning, after the events in Gaza, the world turned upside down when we were in the room. They attacked us in all sections. They threw tear gas bombs at us, and the beatings on us began from all directions. These events lasted for more than an hour, and there was spitting and cursing in all languages and using the filthiest words from all the male and female soldiers. The matter did not stop at this, but they confiscated all of the prisoners' property (clothes, food, cleaning materials, utensils, shoes, water, electricity, books, sanitary napkins, Television, mattresses, blankets). Only a very small number of mattresses and blankets remained in the section, at a rate of one third. They strictly prohibited us from going out to the yard, which is the only place and time that female prisoners get to go out for walking in the sun and for exercise.

They were difficult days in every sense of the word, and the thing we suffered most from was hunger and cold, and with the increase in the number of female prisoners, the situation became more difficult, **especially in the presence of female prisoners who were severely beaten for defending female prisoners, such as the prisoner A.J and the prisoner T.A, who were subjected to severe beatings on their genital areas. The effects of beating were clear, they were bleeding, and the color of their body was blue due to the intense torture. The scene was very painful.**

Many female prisoners spoke to me of sexual harassment by the occupation soldiers, whether at the time of arrest or during investigation, and the intense fear was evident from the recurrence of these behaviors. **One of the female prisoners (she asked me not to mention her name) told me that the investigating officer had a stick and**



**was threatening her that he would use this stick and insert her into the vagina. Any place he saw fit if she did not confess. She says that she was trembling in fear and felt more than once that she would lose consciousness whenever he waved the stick at her, especially since she was still a virgin and had not been married.**

I was among the first batch that was released in the exchange deal. I cried a lot as I said goodbye to elderly prisoners, young girls, and sick women. I left all of them in a very difficult condition.

**50. K.J, a 31-year-old mother of four children and resident of Balata Refugee camp, Nablus Governorate**

On 18 November 2023, the IOF raided Balata refugee camp in Nablus Governorate, detaining K.J., a Palestinian mother of four children. During her detention, K.J. was threatened with rape, in front of her husband. In her testimony to WCLAC, she recalled the following:

On 18 November 2023, a large force from the occupation forces invaded the Balata camp. They opened fire on everyone who moved, and attacked many homes. At exactly seven am, I woke up to the screams of my husband and father as they prevented the occupation soldiers from entering a room. I put on my clothes very quickly. Within moments, more than ten soldiers were above my head in the bedroom. They arrested my husband and took him. After that, Captain Hakim came and introduced himself as the commander of the area and asked who K.J was. A soldier came and took my 1-month old baby from me by force and gave her to my mother. They dragged me out. brutally, tied my hands with plastic handcuffs and tightened them, causing me severe pain. **They blindfolded me and hit me on the back. The cursing was continuous the whole time, obscene, offensive words were like “You daughter of adultery”, “I want to sleep on top of you” and “I will make you moan in pain”**, I remained in the occupation patrol, lying on the ground, while the soldiers beat me with their feet and said, “You Hamas bitch, you are a terrorist.”

I arrived at Huwwara camp and remained lying on the floor of the cell for five hours with my hands tied behind my back. From the severity of the beating and fatigue, I felt severe bleeding as I underwent a c section procedure recently to give birth, to the point that I saw blood on the floor of the cell. The officer interrogated me more than four times, each time they took me for interrogation and beat me severely. I returned to the cell and the bleeding intensified and blood covered the floor of the cell and my clothes. All of them. I was exhausted and begged them, but to no avail. On the contrary, the beatings increased and were directed at my back. I was accused of trying to kill a soldier and possessing a weapon stained with blood. I denied all of these charges and told the officer that I was arrested from my bedroom and my daughter was a month old and I was sick and I had complications after birth.

He did not believe me and kept cursing and saying, “You are a liar, you are Hamas, you are a terrorist.”

At the end of the night, I was transferred to Hasharon. They put me into a room in which there were approximately 6 soldiers. **I was shocked that my husband was also in the room, but he was tied up, far from me, and blindfolded. It was not an interrogation, but rather a session to provoke my husband, as the soldiers began talking to me in the filthiest words. Five soldiers spoke Arabic and the sixth spoke Hebrew. Their first words were all sexual insults, such as “You are a whore”, “a slut”, “a prostitute” and “your mother is an adulterer”. Then, one of the soldiers began to open the zipper of his trousers and threatened me, saying “I will now make you sit in my lap over my penis”.**

I began to scream at the top of my lungs out of fear and disgust. **My husband was screaming at them, but next to him stood a soldier. Every time he screamed, he would hit him. It is clear from this method that it is a threat to my husband and a method of pressure on him. A soldier shouted loudly to my husband, “Your wife’s chest is large and suitable for breastfeeding”. This despicable interrogation continued for more than three hours. They were playing songs and dancing, and all the dancing was all sexual movements, like playing with their genitals.** One of the soldiers tried to approach me with a cup of water in his hand, wanting to give me a drink. I started screaming loudly. He spat in my face and he hit me on the head. As a result, I lost consciousness completely. I woke up in the prison clinic. I had a rehydration solution stuck to my hand and I was tied to the bed. I was very tired. I had no food or water. My clothes were all in blood. I stayed for more than four hours. After that, I was taken to Damon Prison. I arrived in the women’s section. I was in a deplorable condition, and also due to the severity of the cold, I began to suffer from bronchial infections, as a result of which I completely lost my voice. I began to suffer from extreme fever, and my chest was in severe pain due to the decline in milk, and the bleeding also did not stop.

## **Documented Cases of Sexual Torture: Strip Searches**

### **51. L.K., a 26-year-old female university student and resident of Ramallah Governorate**

On 7 April 2024, at around 3:30 am, the IOF raided L.K.’s home and ordered her to kneel and lower her head. They then attacked her, pushed her to the ground, held her hands behind her back, and one of them stomped on her head. They did not have a female officer with them and they tied her hands behind her back with plastic ties.

They carried out the same procedure with her brother. Then an officer and a female officer came and took her for inspection/search inside a room. Afterward, they blindfolded her, pulled her, and were pushing aggressively. When she called out to her brother to say goodbye, one of them slammed her head against the wall. They grabbed her by the shoulders, pushed her head forward, took her downstairs, and while walking in the street, due to the pressure and speed, she fell to the ground and the restraints came loose. They then started shouting at her, pushed her to the ground again, and re-handcuffed her.

They placed her on the ground of a jeep, sandwiched between two soldiers. One soldier was pushing her, hitting her, cursing at her, and pressing his knee against her back. When she requested to have a female soldier with her, after a short while, they threw another detainee on top of her, L.N., and they began pushing and hitting both of them with their hands and feet along the way.

After some time, they arrived at a military camp, placed them against a wall facing it, and proceeded to search them. When L.K. refused, they hit and cursed at her. Afterwards, they each were placed in a small room with a mattress. The soldier told her to lie down, but she refused to sleep. She was handcuffed behind her back and blindfolded.

After that, a doctor came to examine her while she was blindfolded and restrained. Then an interrogation officer arrived and started talking and cursing. Suddenly, he slapped her hard on her left cheek, and the blow was very strong.

The soldiers were banging on the glass as if the room had a glass wall, but she doesn't know if this is accurate because she was blindfolded at the time.

They played a recording that was saying, "We are the sons of Jews, we are not afraid of you at all, and we will continue to arrest you, your children, and your grandchildren, so leave this land." Then they placed her in a car with L.N. and transported them to an interrogation in Ofer. The interrogation lasted 10 to 15 minutes, after which they took L.N. for further questioning before being transferred to Hasharon.

**In Hasharon, they were subjected to a strip search, and the soldiers wanted to search them in front of each other, but L.K. and L.N. each turned their faces away when their friend was being searched. Then they were transferred to the cell.**

They were provided with one food tray, which three detainees shared.

**In the morning, they were subjected to a strip search in the cell's bathroom, which involved complete nudity and being in a squatting position.** Their hair was searched, and the other detainees in the room were forced to sit in front of the jailor, exposing them to the inspection area, so they lowered their heads.

In the morning, they were transferred to Damon, subjected to a strip search, and then transferred to the sections. L.K. is currently held under a four-months administrative detention order.

**52. ██████████, a 57-year-old Palestinian and resident of Beit Liqya village, Ramallah Governorate**

██████████, a 57-year-old Palestinian father was arrested six times, most of which were administrative detentions. The latest arrest was on 19 October 2023, when he was held under administrative detention for four months. In his testimony to Addameer he testifies that:

I was arrested from my home in Beit Liqya village, west of Ramallah, at around 2 am by Israeli occupation forces, after they raided and vandalised the house. My son ██████████, 24 years old, was also arrested but released the same day of the arrest. They bound my hands behind my back and blindfolded me, then they took us from the

house on foot for about a kilometre to the village square. During this distance, we were subjected to severe beating by the soldiers, who punched and hit me with the butt of their rifles on my back and kidneys.

When we reached the village square, I suddenly lost consciousness. When I woke up, I found the soldiers transferring me inside a military vehicle using a stretcher, then they laid me face down on the floor of the jeep, still bound and blindfolded. In the jeep, the soldiers continued to kick me despite my condition. We were taken to Ofer Prison, where myself and a large group from our village, around 27 people from Beit Liqya, were detained on the same night, including elderly and 17-year-old children.

They refused to receive us at Ofer Prison and immediately transferred us to the Etzion detention centre. We arrived at Etzion around 11 pm on the same day, all this time bound and blindfolded without food. At Etzion, they kept us in an outdoor yard for about 3 hours, during which a group of soldiers assaulted us with punches, kicks, and rifle butts. Afterward, we were taken for individual inspection, during which a soldier conducted a strip search on me, hitting me with batons while undressing me. Then I was transferred to the communal cells.

**At Etzion, they brought about 25 detainees, including young and elderly, some from the village of Sa'ir, and made them strip completely in the yard between all the cells, including underwear, then removed the blindfolds and forced them to raise their heads while naked.** Personally, I did not witness this, but one of the prisoners in the cells saw it and started shouting, and we learned about it from him.

After that, they were distributed among the cells and some were brought to our cell, telling us what happened to them. I remained in Etzion for about two days (Thursday and Friday), then I and around 70 prisoners were transferred from Etzion to Ofer Prison around 9 am by prison vehicle. The prison vehicle accommodates about 32 prisoners divided into cages with iron chairs, and we were transported in two batches. The unit responsible for our transportation was the Nahshon unit, who brutally assaulted us inside the prison vehicle.

**When we arrived at Ofer, we were strip-searched, during which they beat us with batons on our bodies.** Then they took all my clothes and gave me prison clothes, after which they sorted me into Section 24, where I remained for about 12 days.

After 12 days in Ofer, myself and around 60-70 prisoners were transferred by bus to Nafha Prison. During the transfer, we were subjected to severe beating with wooden batons by the Nahshon unit. During the beating, I told them I had undergone back surgery, so they deliberately targeted my back more.

**At Nafha, we were received by the Shabas unit, then immediately subjected to a strip search.**

The beatings continued throughout the entry procedures until we reached the rooms in the sections. I stayed in Nafha Prison in Room 40, Section 10, for about a week, after which I was transferred to Room 69, Section 12.

On 27 November 2023, I was transferred from Nafha to Naqab Prison by the Nahshon unit. In Naqab, I was received by the Keter unit, a special unit in Naqab Prison designated for repressive measures, identifiable by their dark green uniforms. They are called by prisoners "the death unit." Their role before October 7, 2023, before the war, was to receive prisoners and intervene in case of any prison uprising. After the war, they began participating more actively in repression, entering sections and rooms with guards, masked and carrying weapons (M16 rifles) and knives and iron rods.

On 1 January 2024, I was transferred to a court session inside Naqab Prison via video conferencing. The transfer was conducted by 2 jailers and 2 Keter members. During my court session, I asked my lawyer to inform the judge about the prison conditions and medical neglect. One of the Keter members pulled out his dagger and placed it on his neck as a threat to me if I spoke. This also happened to a young man named H.J. from Hebron who had a court session on the same day as mine. They transferred him to an empty room, and a Keter member placed a dagger on his neck, leaving marks. When they brought him back to our waiting room, he was very frightened.

After the court session, I was transferred on foot to the section by two Keter members and four Shabas. They viciously beat me with punches, causing bruises on my feet. I was bound behind and they forced my head down throughout the way, continuing the beating until we reached the section. **Of course, the strip searches occurred with any transfer, even within the prison.**

### 53. N.N, a Palestinian resident of the Gaza Strip

N.N. was arrested on 24 December 2023 by the IOF. Recounting the details of her arrest and detention, including details of the strip searches, she [told](#) MIFTAH:

I was arrested on December 24 from the Amr Ibnulas School. Israeli occupation forces raided the school with bulldozers, demolishing the school's surrounding wall and the tanks stormed in. They ordered everyone inside to come out into the courtyard: men, women and children. **They then ordered the men to strip down to their underclothes right in front of us. We were all terrified. The tanks were directing their guns at us and they were yelling at us through their megaphones.**

After the men stripped, they corralled every five in a group and sent them to the Taqwa Mosque and they ordered the women and children to stand in a queue. We were also taken to the mosque. The entire way, tanks and soldiers surrounded us. We were in a constant state of terror and fear. The mosque was basically turned into a military base, there were tanks and troops everywhere. They had bulldozed the land around it and we thought they were going to bury us alive.

Inside the mosque, we were sorted into groups. Some women and children remained inside the mosque and others were ordered to stand outside it. Once we were outside, the soldiers ordered us to hand them our ID cards. **One of the soldiers yelled at me and ordered a female soldier to search me. She took me to the side and strip searched me down to my underclothes and ran a metal detector over my body.**

After she was done, she ordered me to get dressed and she took me to the intelligence officer. He started interrogating me at the door of the mosque. He asked me, "What were you doing on 7 October? Where were you that day?" I told him, "I was getting my children dressed for school and my son for kindergarten."

Then he asked me, "Did you eat any sweets [that day]?" I said, "Why would I eat sweets?" He said, "You were all happy." Then he started to tell me that Hamas had cut open the stomachs of their women; Hamas had killed them. I answered him, "What do I have to do with Hamas? I am a displaced woman in a shelter. I have nothing to do with Hamas."

He then asked me, "Who here in the school is Hamas? Who here is a fighter?" I told him, "I don't know anyone here." He kept going, "Have you seen any Hamas members? Anyone from your family? Your husband's family?"

I kept telling him, "I don't know anyone. My son is sick, take me to my son." But he answered, "If you don't help us, we will not let you see your son and we will throw you in prison for a long time."

When I kept telling him I don't know anything, he ordered them [the army] to take me away, saying "As long as she doesn't want to help us, take her".

The female soldier dragged me away, tied my hands and blindfolded me and threw me into the jeep. I found myself among maybe seven other girls and young men and we started moving very fast. All I could think was, "What am I supposed to do? What about my kids and my husband?" We didn't know what our fate would be. Were they going to kill us? What were they going to do with us? Our fate was unknown. We had done nothing but they took us anyway.

We didn't know where they were taking us and they were going very fast. The jeep was driving so fast we were bouncing up and down. We could feel the dust from the streets on our faces from the speed. We arrived to some place we did not know. They forced us out of the jeep and onto our knees and we had to stay like that for about an hour. It was so hot and we were kneeling there, blindfolded, handcuffed and our feet shackled.

**About an hour later, a female soldier pulled us up again and took us to a nearby place and strip searched us with the metal detector. She then tied my hands and feet again and blindfolded me until all she finished searching all the girls.** Then they put us back in the army carrier. Once again, our hands were tied behind our backs, our feet shackled, our eyes covered and our heads down. **The entire time, she was hitting and cursing us, using very bad language and spitting at us.**

I tried to move my hand because it was hurting me and she hit my hands and told us to shut up. She kept hitting us the whole way until we got to some other place. We had no idea what time it was. As she was pushing me out of the army vehicle, blindfolded, my hands and feet tied, I slipped and fell to the ground. The soldiers came and hoisted me up and I could feel the blood dripping down my eye, but they still would not remove the blindfold. It hurt a lot but they didn't care.

**They took me to another place and there again, I was strip searched down to my underclothes. They made us put on a gray sweat suit.** Only then did they send us to a doctor and I told him what had happened to me. He just gave me one painkiller. Then they took our blood pressure, asked if we had any illnesses and then sent us to a big area where they forced us on our knees, also blindfolded, handcuffed and our feet tied.

It was very cold and we were only wearing that gray sweat suit. At night, it got very cold. I told them I was not feeling well and even vomited. But the soldiers just stood there and asked us questions like, “Where is [Yehya] Sinwar, where is [Mohammed] Deif, where is Hamas?” They would curse and insult us the whole time.

About an hour later, they took us somewhere like a barracks, or more like a cage. The top was corrugated iron and the four sides were made of barbed wire. They pushed us inside with our hands still tied. We each got one blanket and a very thin mattress. It was really cold and we asked for more blankets but they refused.

We stayed in this detention center for eight days. We really suffered. There was a lot of noise, yelling, cursing and foul language and they would constantly curse Hamas.

#### **54. H.M., a 24-year-old resident of northern Gaza**

H.M. was detained on 3 December 2023, as she was walking through the so-called safe corridor. In her testimony to PCHR, she [recalled](#) the following:

On 07 October 2023, when Israel started its war on Gaza, I was so scared of the intense bombing and explosions we were hearing across the city and not knowing where the missiles were falling. At approximately 00:00 on 09 October 2023, I heard a loud and terrifying explosion near our house as the IOF’s warplanes targeted without prior warning my sister’s 5-storey house. As a result, my 13-year-old niece was killed and her brothers, who were moderately injured, were pulled out of the rubble while my sister’s brother-in-law and two of his children were killed as well.

Since the beginning of the Israeli war until 02 December 2023, we stayed in our house not leaving it for 60 days due to the intense bombing pounding our neighborhood. We could hardly get salty water amid no access to potable water and scarcity of food, we could only eat lentils and pasta. We had enough flour to make saj bread and cooked food on fire. We spent most of the time at home and only left when necessary to bring water.

In the morning of 03 December 2023, IOF indiscriminately intensified their strikes and fire belts. Their warplanes targeted the nearby residential buildings and entire residential squares, enticing fear among us. At that time, we decided to evacuate to the south through the so-called “safe corridor”. Before leaving our house, the house next to us was warned to be bombed. We had waited for half an hour until the house was bombed. At 09:00 and under heavy bombardment, we left the house. My mother, my sister, her children and I took a cab that drove us to the Kuwaiti roundabout and we paid the driver 150 shekels. On the way, I saw the massive destruction in houses and markets. We walked the rest of the way until we reached Netzarim checkpoint

(the safe corridor), where we could hear the terrifying sound of clashes and see a large number of Israeli soldiers and snipers stationed.

When I arrived at the checkpoint, there were around 7 persons. While passing by the Israeli soldiers, an Israeli soldier called me via a loudspeaker as I was about 8 meters away from the soldiers. I obeyed the orders and walked towards them who were stationed behind sand berms. When I was about 2 meters away from them, an Israeli soldier told me to open my ID card, give him its number, and throw away all my belongings. I was carrying my handbag and had 2,000 shekels, my A9 cell phone and my mother's A9 cell phone inside it. After that, the soldier ordered me to go to the other sand berm. I told him that I had my mother's medicines with me and she is an old woman, but he responded that my mother went to the south. I screamed out loud: I want to see my mother. Then, a female soldier approached me, pushed me, tied my hands with plastic-zip ties in front, tied my legs with steel cuffs, blindfolded me, and ordered me to walk.

Whenever I stopped, the female soldier would shout at me and push my back with her gun's muzzle. I fell on the ground, and she forcefully pulled me from the plastic-zip ties, which were hurting my hands, and insulted me. I was then taken to a tent, where I was untied and unblindfolded. **The female soldier searched me and ordered me to take off my clothes, except for my underwear. I first refused to take off my clothes, but then the female soldier pointed her weapon at my head, pulled the trigger and told me, "I will kill you." After taking off my clothes, the female soldier shouted at me to wear them quickly.** She then took me to a sand berm and few minutes later, I was taken to a tent, where there was an investigator who introduced himself as a Shin Bet officer. He asked me about the Israeli hostages, my four brothers and if there were surveillance cameras in our area. I told him I know nothing and then an Israeli soldier pulled a wooden stick from a cupboard in the tent and hit me on the back of my head near my neck. The interrogator then told the soldiers to arrest me. They threw me on the ground forcing me to sit with my head between my knees from 10:00 to 18:00 in a yard fenced with barbed wires while my hands were tied with plastic-zip ties in front and my feet were tied with steel cuffs. Despite being blindfolded, I could see from under the fold other women detained with me. At around 19:00, they took me to a room with a pebble floor while I was still handcuffed and blindfolded. I could see a dead body lying next to me and there were a lot of flies biting me. Whenever I moved, the female soldier would push me with her weapon's muzzle. **The female soldiers were speaking some Arabic and insulting me with the worst swears.**

An hour later, an armored personnel carrier arrived and the female soldier forced me to get into it. I was trying to remove the fold from my eyes to know where I was, but the carrier was completely closed and I could not see anything. The carrier drove us for an hour and a half, during which it stopped many times. At 03:00, we arrived, and the female soldiers took me to a closed tin plated caravan and searched me. There were two female soldiers in front of me and another two behind me. **Whenever I refused to take off my clothes, the female soldier would point her gun at my head and push it. And each time I refused to take off a piece of my clothes, the**



**female soldier would hit my back with her gun's butt. After taking off all my clothes (left naked), the female soldier took off the necklace around my neck and the ring in my finger.** And when she tried to take the earrings off, she could not so she brought a pliers to cut the earring off and took them. After that, she took my ID card and put me in prison.

**Hours later, the female soldiers came, took me out of prison and searched me. They took all my clothes and gave me only a gray pajama to wear it without my underwear.** They then put a plastic tag around my wrist with a number, and another tag on my foot with a number for my belongings placed in "safe custody". After that, we were taken to an open prison surrounded by a fence and they gave me a light and small mattress and one blanket. For breakfast, they gave us one slice of toast, a very small pack of labneh or one tomato. When we went to sleep, the female soldiers woke us every ten minutes to count us, so we could not sleep.

At approximately 08:00, I was taken for interrogation and returned to prison at 20:00. A male officer and a female soldier were interrogating me in a place like a caravan, where there was a chair with a wood base and steel hand rest and legs. My right hand was tied to my right leg with steel cuffs. I asked the officer where I was, and he answered, "You are in Antut prison." He then asked me where I was on 07 October, and if I knew the whereabouts of the Israeli hostages or knew any of the persons who broke through Israel's borders on 07 October. The officer also asked me if any of my relatives or brothers did cross into Israel that day, but I kept telling him that I do not know. When the female soldier did not like my answer, she would hit my head hard on the table while the officer was telling me that the female soldier's shoes are better than you. They insulted me a lot with the worst words. Once the female soldier took off my shoe and slapped me with it on my face while laughing at me.

The soldier showed me photos of our house on a screen and said, "If you do not answer the questions, we will bomb your house." After about 15 minutes of interrogation, they turned on the fans at me while my right hand was still tied to my right leg with steel cuffs and I was blindfolded. There was a camera in front of me. While I was inside the caravan, I could hear screams of someone being tortured nearby, or the soldiers were playing a sound like that on a loudspeaker just to frighten me. After 4 hours, I started screaming loud out of severe pain in my hands and I could not move my back as it got stiffened due to the very cold weather and fans directly pointed at me. The soldiers came quickly and asked if I was diabetic and I said yes. One of the soldiers then asked me to calm down and untied me. My hands were swollen and turned blue as the cuffs were very tight.

After that, they took me back to a prison that looked like a caravan, where female and male soldiers were heavily deployed around it and I was with 5 other female detainees. I was the only untied detainee as the soldiers appointed me to help other detainees because I knew English. The other detainees were handcuffed and blindfolded all day and night sitting with their heads down to the ground even when they were sleeping. If one of the detainees tried to raise her head or talk with another detainee, the soldiers would point their guns' laser at her forehead.

**When I asked for pads for the female detainees, who all had their period at the time, the soldiers would give me only one pad for each detainee. When I asked for more, they would refuse.** Meanwhile, the food in the morning and evening was only labneh and bread.

On the fifth day, the soldier called our names. After that, the female soldier called me to tell the other detainees if they wanted to use the bathroom because we will go somewhere far away. I thought that we would be released. **I helped each detainee to go to the bathroom, because their hands and legs were tied. The soldiers then tied my hands with plastic-zip ties in front and tied my legs with steel cuffs to another detainee's leg.** The cuffs were very tight and painful, as if my leg would be cut off. A bus then drove us for around four hours to Damon Prison and I was trying to remove the fold to see where we were. And when one of the detainees raised her head, a soldier attacked her and pointed his weapon at her head, but another soldier stopped him. They then dropped us off and removed the ties and blindfold. **Two female soldiers then escorted me to a small corridor, ordered me to take off my clothes, and searched me.** We were separately searched and then taken unhandcuffed to a room, where there was a bathroom with toilet paper and a water tap. There were only 5 beds in the room and we were 10 detainees, so the rest had to sleep on the floor. They gave us a 15-minute break to take a shower or have a walk. There were cameras everywhere, and they counted us 4 times a day, denying us to sleep. Among the detainees was 81-year-old F.K. [name omitted] who had been arrested from an elderly nursing home in al-Zaytoun neighborhood. The food was very bad, we had 3 meals a day: labneh and toast slices for breakfast, uneatable rice and spoiled soup for lunch, and a burnt egg and bread for dinner. And if any of us refused to eat, they would throw the food in the garbage.

Four days before being released, they took me for interrogation while my hands were tied with steel cuffs, and I was interrogated for half an hour. After that, they took my fingerprints and my toeprints and then inserted a wooden stick in my throat (I think they took a sample of my saliva). I asked female detainees from the West Bank about why they did that, and they said that I would be released. **At about 13:00 on Thursday, 18 January 2024, they took us one by one into a small room, where a female soldier ordered me to take off my clothes and searched me.** She then ordered me to wear my clothes again and took me to another room, where they took my fingerprints again. Afterwards, they tied my hands and feet and forced me onto a closed microbus with wire mesh only to allow air in, so I could not see anything. The bus drove us for about 4 hours, while cold air was coming in all the way. They then dropped us off a detention facility while I was still blindfolded and standing back to back with another detainee. They put us blindfolded in a cage and untied my legs and hands. I slept on a very light mattress and blanket, and we were shivering due to the bitter cold weather.

On Thursday, 18 January 2024, a day before my release, they took my palm prints and ordered me to sign a paper. I asked the soldiers why they did that, and they responded: "it is none of your business." We took clothes from the West Bank detainees who were with us in the same prison. The next day, at approximately 05:00

on Friday, 19 January 2024, male and female soldiers came, woke us and told us to get ready. After about half an hour, they tied our hands in front, blindfolded us, and took us to a big bus, where there were young male and female detainees. The bus drove us for more than 3 hours and then stopped at the Kerem Shalom crossing, as other detainees told me. They dropped us off, removed the ties and blindfolds, gave me only my ID card and my gold ring, and ordered us to walk. We then ran for 200 meters and took the wrong road, so the soldiers opened fire in the air. We stepped back and took the other way, walking 100 meters to find two UNRWA vehicles. They drove us to a tent 200 meters away to the west. There were employees from the Red Cross in the tent, offered us food and drinks and gave me 200 shekels. They brought us to al-Taif Preparatory Boys School shelter in the Saudi neighborhood in Rafah, where I stayed with five other women, including those who had been detained with me. We are staying under the staircase and only eat canned food for a meal a day. Some people gave us money and we bought a bag of flour. Later, I reunited with my mother. All what I had been through in detention have taken a toll on my mental health. Every day, I recall the detention, interrogations and torture. I hope that this brutal war will end soon so that we can live in peace and safety.

## **Conclusion and Recommendations**

55. In light of the above, we urge the Special Rapporteur to:

- Recognise that Israel has institutionalized the use of arbitrary detention, arrest, enforced disappearance, ill-treatment and torture, including sexual torture, of Palestinian residents of Gaza and, that these policies and practices amount to the genocidal act of “causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group”;
- Publicly condemn sexual torture and inhumane and degrading treatment willingly inflicted by Israeli authorities and forces against Palestinian prisoners and detainees; urge them to immediately cease with such practices and to fully respect Israel’s obligations under international law, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- Demand Israel to release all Palestinian political prisoners and [the bodies of deceased Palestinians](#) that Israel continues to withhold as a form of torture and collective punishment against their families, and to end its widespread and systematic use of arbitrary detention, including administrative detention, and the commission of torture and other ill-treatment against Palestinian detainees and prisoners;
- Demand Israel and the IPS to ensure and uphold Palestinian political prisoners’ right to life and the highest attainable standard of health and mental health, and to avoid and end all forms of arbitrary, retaliatory, and collective punishment imposed against Palestinian political prisoners;
- Exert meaningful pressure on Israeli authorities to grant access to legal representation and the ICRC to all Palestinians detainees and those forcibly disappeared in order to assess the conditions of detention, to investigate and disclose the conditions and whereabouts of the detained individuals to alleviate the distress of their families and ensure transparency;

56. Recognise that the Israeli civilian and military court systems are complicit in Israel's settler-colonial apartheid regime and have normalised and entrenched the pervasive impunity enjoyed by Israeli military and state officials, including for systematic torture and other ill-treatment by state bodies in the unlawful extraction of information for use in judicial proceedings;
57. Call on Israel to give access to the UN Commission of Inquiry on Israel and Palestine to investigate all crimes committed, including sexual torture and inhumane and degrading treatment;
58. Call on States to activate universal jurisdiction mechanisms to try suspected perpetrators of grave breaches and other international crimes, including the crimes of genocide and other crimes against humanity, including torture and sexual violence; and
59. Call on the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to immediately issue arrest warrants for Israeli officials implicated in perpetrating and/or ordering atrocity crime outlined in the present submission, including the Chief of the General Staff of the Israeli military and high-ranking officials within the Israel Prison Service.