



Annual Report

on the Situation of Palestinian Detainees
in Israeli Prisons

2025

Table of contents

- **Executive Summary**
- **Research Methods**
- **Scope and Limitations of the Report**
- **Introduction**
- **General Context and Shifts in Detention Policy (2023–2025)**
- **First: General Statistical Overview**
- **Second: Administrative Detention**
- **Third: Torture and Interrogation**
- **Fourth: Medical Neglect and Denial of Health Care**
- **Fifth: Denial of Adequate Food**
- **Sixth: Solitary Confinement**
- **Seventh: Enforced Disappearance and Denial of Families' Right to Know the Fate of**
- **Eighth: Denial of Access with Lawyers and Family Visits**
- **Ninth: Collective Punishment, Raids, and Forced Transfers**
- **Tenth: Targeting of Vulnerable Groups**
- **Eleventh: Deaths in Places of Detention**
- **Twelfth: Withheld Bodies**
- **Thirteenth: Leader Prisoners and Those Serving Life Sentences**
- **Fourteenth: Prisoner Exchange Deals During 2025**
- **Fifteenth: Detailed Documented Incidents During 2025**
- **Conclusion**
- **Recommendations**
- **Sources and References**

Executive Summary

This annual report tracks the reality facing Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons and detention facilities throughout 2025. It examines these conditions within the context of the ongoing conflict and the great escalation in detention policies—particularly following the events of October 7, 2023.

Documented data indicates major shifts in prison administration, including broader use of administrative detention, growing reliance on military and temporary detention facilities, and tighter restrictions on family visits and access to legal counsel. It further records increasing reports of torture and ill-treatment, alongside reports of starvation, medical neglect, and extended solitary confinement.

By the end of 2025, more than 9,300 Palestinians were held in Israeli prisons, including approximately 3,350 under administrative detention—detained without charge or trial—and around 1,220 children. The figure also includes detainees classified under the so-called “unlawful combatant” framework, a legal mechanism that allows prolonged detention without sufficient guarantees of a fair trial.

In 2025, 32 prisoners were reported to have died in detention, with official information on the circumstances of their deaths remaining limited. Prisoner organizations further report that since October 2023, a total of 86 detainees have died, including at least 50 from Gaza Strip, while the bodies of 83 remain in custody and the fate of several others from Gaza remains unknown.

The report concludes that the range and recurrence of these violations, if proven to be widespread or systematic, may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity under international law, calling for effective and independent accountability.

Research Methods

This report relies on a multi-source human rights documentation methodology, drawing on:

- Data and reports issued by specialized Palestinian prisoner organizations.
- Verified testimonies from released prisoners and lawyers.
- Medical and human rights reports from local and international institutions, including independent Israeli organizations.
- Reports and documents from relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms.
- Review of official Israeli statements, legislation, and publicly announced policies.

The information was verified through cross-referencing multiple sources whenever possible. Consideration was also given to restrictions on access to detention facilities, limitations on visits, and constraints on the work of lawyers and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

All testimonies cited in this report are documented with the International Organization of Solidarity with Palestinian Prisoners (Tadamon) and preserved in its archives, collected in accordance with established human rights documentation standards.



Scope and Limitations of the Report

This report covers the period from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, while also referencing earlier incidents as appropriate, when they were revealed or reported during the covered period.

The focus is on the conditions of Palestinians deprived of their liberty in Israeli prisons and military detention facilities, including those held under administrative detention or the so-called “unlawful combatant” framework. It also addresses groups afforded special protection under international law, such as children, women, the ill, and the elderly.

Given the ongoing restrictions on access to detention sites and the lack of transparency regarding the number and location of detainees—particularly in cases of enforced disappearance—the figures and data presented in this report represent the minimum documented cases for the period and should not be regarded as a comprehensive account of all violations.

Introduction

This report comes in the context of a notable deterioration in detention conditions following the events of October 2023, which saw significant changes in arrest policies and prison procedures in Israeli facilities.

Documented information indicates increasing restrictions on detainees, including the expanded use of solitary confinement, tightened security measures, and limitations on visits and access to legal counsel. Repeated reports of torture, ill-treatment, and medical neglect have also been raised, raising serious concerns about the authorities' compliance with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

General Context and Shifts in Detention Policy (2023–2025)

Since October 7, 2023, the Israeli detention system has seen a significant expansion in the use of administrative detention and the implementation of exceptional measures within detention facilities. These policies continued throughout 2025, accompanied by legislative and procedural amendments that reinforced the continuation of measures initially introduced under the state of emergency.

By the end of 2025, Israeli authorities held over 9,300 Palestinians, including approximately 3,350 under administrative detention. The administrative detention system allows individuals to be held for renewable periods based on secret evidence, without granting them full access to the evidence or an effective means to challenge it.

Authorities have also expanded the application of the so-called “unlawful combatant” framework, particularly against detainees from the Gaza Strip, allowing for prolonged detention without clear charges and without sufficient guarantees for a fair trial.

The report also documents military orders and procedures that extended detention periods before judicial review, limited access to legal counsel, and delayed disclosure of detainees' locations.

Additional measures within prisons included reduced visitations, limited time in the yard, and restrictions on essential supplies.

The data indicate that these measures continued throughout 2025 and are no longer confined to a temporary framework. There has also been increased reliance on military or temporary detention facilities lacking independent oversight, heightening the risk of torture and ill-treatment.

These policies raise serious concerns regarding their compliance with Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, particularly with respect to the prohibition of arbitrary detention and the guarantees of a fair trial.

1. General Statistical Overview

By the end of 2025, according to data from the Palestinian Prisoners and Freed Prisoners Affairs Commission and specialized Palestinian institutions, Israeli authorities held over 9,300 Palestinians in Israeli prisons and detention facilities. This figure represents one of the highest detention rates recorded in recent years.

The data indicate a significant increase in the use of administrative detention and detention under the so-called "unlawful combatant" framework, alongside the continued imprisonment of children, women, journalists, and individuals with serious health conditions. Deaths in detention were also recorded, and the practice of withholding the bodies of Palestinians continues.

These figures reflect the widening scope of detention to include groups afforded special protection under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including children, journalists, and the sick.

Number of Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees by Category (2025)

Category	Number	Percentage (%)
Administrative detainees	3350	49%
“Unlawful Combatant” Detainees (Mostly Gaza)	1220	
Children	≈350	4%
Women	49	0.5%
Journalists	42	0.4%
Sick prisoners (chronic diseases)	Thousands	-
Deaths in prisons (2025)	32	-
Withheld bodies	94	-
Total prisoners and detainees	≥ 9300	-

**Note: Percentages are approximate and calculated based on 9,300 detainees. Categories with an unspecified number are not included.*

Groups with special protection under international humanitarian law, such as children, women, journalists, and the sick, represent a significant proportion of the total detainee population.

 Data Limitations

These figures do not include individuals held in military facilities, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where reports indicate that people are detained without being officially registered in prison records and with insufficient transparency regarding their locations or legal status. As a result, the actual number of individuals deprived of their liberty is likely higher than the figures presented above.

Implications

The large scale of detention, along with the significant number of individuals held without charge or trial, reflects a widespread reliance on prolonged detention outside full judicial safeguards. These trends raise serious concerns about compliance with international standards that prohibit arbitrary detention, guarantee the right to a fair trial, and require special protections for vulnerable groups, including children, journalists, and the sick.

2. Administrative detention

Israeli authorities continued throughout 2025 to expand the use of administrative detention within a detention framework based on orders issued without specific criminal charges and without referral to trial.

By the end of 2025, the number of administrative detainees had reached approximately 3,350, marking one of the highest levels recorded in recent years, including in comparison with earlier periods of security escalation.

Indefinite detention periods

Administrative detention is carried out through renewable orders that can extend for periods ranging from several months to years, without the filing of formal charges. Administrative detainees are issued detention orders based on what authorities describe as “secret evidence,” which neither the detainees nor their lawyers are permitted to access or effectively challenge.

Available data indicate that judicial review of these orders is often limited to formal approval, with scrutiny of whether the detention is necessary or proportionate.

Expanded Detention Scope

- Former prisoners who were re-arrested.
- Children.
- Women, including mothers and primary caregivers.
- Patients and elderly individuals with serious or critical health conditions.

The expansion of targeted groups points to a widespread use of this measure well beyond the narrow exceptional circumstances allowed under international law.

Psychological Impact of Administrative Detention

The effects of administrative detention extend beyond the mere deprivation of liberty, encompassing psychological consequences linked to the uncertainty of detention duration, as orders are repeatedly renewed without a clear time limit.

Documented testimonies indicate that the repeated renewal of orders keeps detainees in a constant state of anxiety and psychological instability.

Pattern of Violation

The repeated issuance and renewal of administrative detention orders, reliance on secret evidence that cannot be effectively reviewed, and the widening of groups subjected to this measure point to an established pattern of using this system as a tool for long-term detention. The limited scope of effective judicial oversight further heightens concerns over the absence of fundamental procedural safeguards.

Legal Characterization

Administrative detention in this form constitutes a violation of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, in particular:

- **Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**, which prohibits arbitrary detention and guarantees the right to challenge the lawfulness of detention.
- **Article 78 of the Fourth Geneva Convention**, which permits administrative detention only under specific exceptional circumstances, subject to genuine judicial oversight and within clearly defined time limits.

When administrative detention is employed broadly and systematically, alongside the effective denial of legal safeguards, it may constitute a crime against humanity under **Article 7 of the Rome Statute**, if proven to be part of a widespread or systematic attack targeting a civilian population.

3. Torture and Interrogation

The report documents repeated reports of torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees from the moment of arrest and throughout the interrogation process. Verified testimonies and data from human rights organizations indicate a notable escalation in interrogation methods during 2025, both in terms of the severity and duration of violence used, and the widening scope of affected groups, including men, women, children, patients, and the elderly—particularly detainees from the Gaza Strip.

Patterns of Torture and Ill-Treatment

Documented practices during interrogation include:

- Beatings with hands, feet, or hard objects, causing physical injuries.
- Prolonged restraint in painful positions, often with limbs bound.
- Sleep deprivation through continuous questioning or enforced uncomfortable postures.
- Sexual threats or threats of harm against family members.
- Verbal abuse and humiliation that degrades the detainee's dignity.
- Prolonged solitary confinement during interrogation.

Documented Testimonies

- **Sami Khalili (41) – Nablus**

In his verified testimony, he reported undergoing prolonged interrogation sessions that included beatings, painful restraint, and sleep deprivation, noting that these practices were used as a form of pressure during questioning.

- **Hazem Salem Muhammad Al-Samouni (46) – Gaza Strip**

He stated that he was subjected to painful restraint, beatings, and direct threats against his family, in addition to being held in isolation from the moment of his arrest.

- **Hamad Salah Al-Masri (31) – Northern Gaza Strip**

He reported being arrested on October 19, 2023, blindfolded, and restrained, then transferred to a temporary military site where he was

subjected to repeated assaults and forced to sit in painful positions under threats of death.

- **Eyad Salem Abu Asr (48) – Hamd City**

He stated that he was forced to stand while restrained for long periods, subjected to beatings and verbal abuse, deprived of sleep, and received threats against his family.

Gaza Detainees and Detention Camps

Verified testimonies from detainees in the Gaza Strip indicate that, in military detention facilities—including the Sde Teiman camp—they were subjected to multiple forms of ill-treatment, including forced nudity, group beatings, prolonged restraint, and deprivation of sleep and food, in addition to sexual or ethnic humiliation.

Data show that these interrogations took place in detention environments lacking effective judicial oversight and were conducted under the supervision of security and military authorities.

Children and Coercive Interrogation

The minor detainee **Mohammad Dar Al-Deek (16) – Hebron** reported being subjected to continuous sleep deprivation, psychological pressure, and threats during interrogation. Upon his release, he stated: *“I would sometimes cry for no reason... just because I was hungry.”*

Pattern of Violation

Consistent testimonies across multiple detention sites indicate a recurring pattern of abuse. The wide range of affected groups and the nature of the documented practices further heighten concerns regarding the absence of fundamental safeguards during questioning.

Legal Characterization

If proven, the practices of torture and ill-treatment constitute a violation of the **Convention Against Torture**, particularly its absolute prohibition of torture, and also breach **Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**, which prohibits torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

When carried out on a widespread or systematic scale, these acts may constitute **war crimes or crimes against humanity** under the **Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court**, provided the required legal elements are satisfied.

4. Medical Neglect and Denial of Healthcare

The report documents repeated cases of Palestinian prisoners and detainees being denied adequate medical care within detention facilities. Verified data and testimonies indicate that some detainees do not receive necessary treatment, face delays in diagnosis or transfer to medical facilities, or are provided only with painkillers without addressing the underlying medical condition.

During 2025, these practices affected sick and injured prisoners, elderly individuals, and persons with disabilities, as well as detainees from the Gaza Strip. Testimonies indicate that some of them were released from interrogation while still suffering injuries without having received appropriate medical care.

Documented Patterns of Medical Neglect

- Refusal to conduct necessary medical examinations.
- Delays in transferring detainees to hospitals.
- Providing only painkillers instead of appropriate treatment.
- Denial of essential medications supplied by detainees' family members.
- Lack of regular medical follow-up.
- Keeping detainees with serious illnesses in detention conditions that do not accommodate their health needs.

Documented Testimonies

- **Sami Khalili (41) – Nablus**

In his verified testimony, he reported that his health deteriorated during detention due to beatings and prolonged restraint, causing severe joint and back pain. He stated that, despite repeatedly requesting a medical examination, he received only basic painkillers, with no adequate response to his condition.

- **Ahmed Salah Al-Masri (31) – Northern Gaza Strip**

He reported being released from interrogation with severe pain throughout his body due to repeated beatings. He noted that he was not transferred to a medical clinic but returned to his cell without receiving treatment.

- **Eyad Salem Abu Asr (48) – Hamad City**

He stated that he sustained injuries during interrogation from prolonged standing, restraint, and beatings, resulting in ongoing pain and difficulty moving. He received only painkillers despite the persistence of his medical condition.

- **Ahmed Jarabah (33) – Jenin**

He reported experiencing severe dizziness and weakness during detention, without being seen by a specialist doctor despite clear deterioration in his health. He noted that his requests for medical care were not adequately addressed.

Gaza Detainees at Sde Teyman Camp

Verified testimonies indicate that some detainees suffered from open wounds and fractures during detention without receiving treatment, and some injured individuals were left for days without any medical intervention.

Detainees with Serious Illnesses

Data indicate the presence of detainees suffering from cancer and chronic diseases that require specialized treatment and regular monitoring. However, many of them do not receive the necessary medical care or face delays in examinations and treatment.

Link Between Medical Neglect and Deaths

The report draws a connection between patterns of denial of healthcare and deaths in detention facilities. Some detainees died after suffering from illnesses or injuries for which they did not receive appropriate treatment, amid limited information available regarding investigations into the circumstances of their deaths.

Pattern of Violation

The repeated denial of treatment, delays in medical examinations, and deprivation of specialized care across multiple detention facilities indicate an ongoing pattern in the management of healthcare within the detention system. The breadth of affected groups and the consistency of neglect patterns further raise concerns about the adequacy of medical safeguards for detainees.

Legal Characterization

If established, the denial of adequate healthcare constitutes a violation of **Article 12** of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention concerning the provision of medical care to protected persons.

When such deprivation is intentional or systematic, it may amount to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, and may constitute a **war crime** under international humanitarian law if it results in the detainee's death or permanent disability.

5. Denial of Adequate Food

The report documents denial of adequate food provided to Palestinian prisoners and detainees in places of detention, along with complaints regarding the poor quality of food, restrictions on purchasing food items, and limitations on bringing food from outside.

During 2025, documented testimonies and reports by specialized organizations indicated that these practices contributed to weight loss among a number of detainees and the deterioration of their health conditions.

Documented Patterns of Food Deprivation

- Providing meals of limited quantity or low nutritional value.
- Reducing the number of daily meals or delaying their distribution.
- Restricting the purchase of essential food items through the prison “canteen.”
- Confiscating food during searches or raids.
- Failing to provide special meals or medical diets for detainees with health conditions.

Malnutrition-related health problems

Documented testimonies indicate that some detainees experienced weight loss over short periods and developed symptoms associated with malnutrition, such as dizziness, fatigue, and weakened immunity. These findings further raise concerns about the adequacy of food provisions within detention facilities.

Documented Testimonies

- **Ahmed Jarabah – Jenin**
In his testimony, he reported suffering from persistent hunger during detention and losing more than twenty kilograms of his weight over a short period. After his release, he stated: *“I would sometimes cry for no reason... just because I was hungry.”*
- **Mohammad Dar Al-Deek (16) – Hebron**
He reported that the meals provided to him during interrogation and detention were extremely limited and did not meet his nutritional needs, and that hunger accompanied him throughout his period of detention.
- **Ahmed Salah Al-Masri (31) – Northern Gaza Strip**
He stated that the food provided to him and other detainees was limited in both quantity and quality, and that many detainees went to sleep while still hungry.
- **Gaza Detainees at Sde Teyman Camp**
Documented testimonies indicate that some detainees received extremely limited meals, sometimes only one meal per day, without access to additional sources of food.

Link Between Starvation and Deaths

The report links patterns of severe food deprivation to the deterioration of the health of some detainees, including deaths that occurred in detention settings where reports indicated shortages of food and healthcare. Severe malnutrition can weaken the immune system and increase vulnerability to serious health complications.

Pattern of Violation

The repeated reduction of food rations and restrictions on food sources across multiple detention facilities, coupled with the large number of affected detainees, indicate a persistent pattern in the management of detainees' food supplies. The intersection of these practices with complaints regarding healthcare further heightens concerns about the adequacy of fundamental safeguards for ensuring a dignified standard of living in detention.

Legal Assessment

If proven, the deliberate denial of adequate food constitutes a violation of **Article 11** of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which guarantees the right to an adequate standard of living, including sufficient food. It also breaches the obligations of an occupying power under the Fourth Geneva Convention concerning the provision of essential needs for protected persons.

When carried out on a widespread or systematic basis, and used as a punitive measure, such conduct may amount to a **war crime** under international humanitarian law.

6. Solitary confinement

The report documents the use of solitary confinement against Palestinian prisoners and detainees during 2025 in Israeli detention facilities. Available data and documented testimonies indicate that this measure was used repeatedly, whether as a disciplinary sanction, in the context of interrogation, or following incidents within prisons.

Specialized organizations concerned with prisoners' affairs reported that a number of detainees were held in solitary confinement for periods ranging from days to weeks and months, and in some cases for longer durations, with orders renewed successively.

Conditions and Characteristics of Solitary Confinement Cells

Testimonies indicate that solitary confinement cells are characterized by harsh conditions, including:

- Small spaces that restrict normal movement.
- Limited or no access to natural lighting.
- Inadequate ventilation and unsuitable climatic conditions.
- Worn-out mattresses or sleeping directly on a concrete floor.
- Restricted access to the yard or exposure to sunlight.

Detainees also reported remaining inside the cells for approximately 23 hours per day or more, with minimal human interaction and, in some cases, the absence of activities or reading materials.

Patterns of Use of Solitary Confinement

The report identifies the use of solitary confinement in several contexts, including:

- As a disciplinary measure following protests or alleged infractions.
- As a means of pressure during or after interrogation.
- Against detainees described by prison authorities as leaders.
- Following raids or tensions within prison sections.

Testimonies also indicate that some solitary confinement decisions were imposed without effective judicial review or clear individualized justification.

Psychological and Physical Effects

Testimonies from released detainees documented psychological and physical effects associated with prolonged solitary confinement, including symptoms of depression, anxiety, sleep disturbances, and reduced ability to concentrate.

Some also reported a deterioration in their health conditions amid limited medical and psychological follow-up within solitary confinement cells.

Documented Testimonies

Several released detainees reported being held in solitary confinement cells for extended periods without effective judicial decisions, and that solitary confinement orders were renewed periodically without enabling them to challenge them effectively.

Others stated that they were transferred to solitary confinement following mass raids, during which they were restrained and blindfolded before being placed in individual cells.

Pattern of Violation

The repeated resort to solitary confinement, the length of time detainees spend in it, and the multiple contexts in which it has been used point to a persistent pattern in the use of this measure within the detention system. The limited scope of effective judicial oversight over solitary confinement decisions further raises concerns about its compliance with international standards.

Legal Characterization

Prolonged solitary confinement, when it exceeds the limits of necessity and proportionality, may constitute a violation of Israel's obligations under:

- the Convention Against Torture;
- **Article 7** of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), which prohibit prolonged solitary confinement (more than 15 days).

When solitary confinement is used on a widespread or systematic basis, it may amount to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, and potentially to an international crime if the required legal elements are met.

7. Enforced Disappearance and Denial of Families' Right to Know the Fate of Detainees

Scope of the Violation

The report documents cases in which detainees' whereabouts or legal status were not disclosed for varying periods of time, particularly affecting detainees from Gaza Strip during 2025.

Available information indicates that a number of individuals arrested since October 7, 2023 remained without adequate information regarding their place of detention or legal status for weeks or months, amid the limited availability of updated official records.

Documented Patterns of Enforced Disappearance

Documented practices that constitute enforced disappearance include:

- Failing to register certain detainees in official records for extended periods.
- Withholding information about the locations of detention.
- Denying access to legal counsel.
- Preventing family visits.
- Holding individuals in closed military facilities without independent oversight.

Affected Groups: Gaza Detainees

Data indicate that detainees from the Gaza Strip are among the most affected groups, with some held under the so-called “Unlawful Combatant Law,” without clear charges and without being brought before a judge for extended periods.

Testimonies report that detainees were held in military facilities or closed sections, including **Sde Teyman Camp, Rakefet Section, Ramla Prison.**

Documented Testimonies

- **Hazem Salem Mohammad Al-Samouni (46) – Gaza Strip**
He reported being detained for a period following his arrest without official registration and was unable to notify any party of his

whereabouts, depriving his family of knowledge of his location during that time.

- **Ahmed Salah Al-Masri (31) – Northern Gaza Strip**
He stated that he was held for weeks in temporary military sites without his name being entered into official records during that period.
- **Eyad Salem Abu Asr (48) – Hamad City**
He explained that his family only knew about his location after a period of detention, without any official clarification regarding the conditions of his detention.

Impact of Enforced Disappearance on Families

Families of detainees reported submitting requests and inquiries to official authorities and international organizations for information, often receiving no clear responses.

These findings indicate that the lack of information about the fate of detainees has prolonged psychological and social effects on their families, in addition to directly affecting the rights of the detainees themselves.

Link Between Enforced Disappearance and Deaths

The report documents cases in which detainees were reported deceased after periods during which their whereabouts were unknown, without sufficient details being provided about the conditions of their detention or the circumstances of their deaths. This raises serious concerns about the effectiveness of investigations and accountability.

Pattern of Violation

The repeated nondisclosure of detention locations, delays in registering detainees, and denial of legal access across closely spaced time periods and multiple detention facilities indicate a recurring pattern in the management of certain cases of detention. The large number of affected individuals further raises concerns about compliance with fundamental safeguards related to the right to know the fate of detainees.

🚩 International Legal Framework

Enforced disappearance is defined under the **International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (2006)** as the arrest or detention of a person followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or concealment of the person's fate or whereabouts, placing them outside the protection of the law.

🚩 Enforced disappearance constitutes:

- A violation of the **right to liberty and personal security** as guaranteed under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- A violation of families' **right to know the fate** of their relatives.
- A continuing crime for as long as the person's fate or whereabouts remain concealed.

When carried out on a widespread or systematic scale, enforced disappearance may amount to a **crime against humanity** under **Article 7** of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

8. Denial of Access to Lawyers and Family Visits

🚩 Scope of violation

The report documents the imposition of broad restrictions on the right of Palestinian prisoners and detainees to communicate with their lawyers and families during 2025. Available data indicate the continued denial or limitation of legal meetings and family visits, particularly for detainees from the Gaza Strip, for extended periods.

Available information also shows that these restrictions were not limited to individual or exceptional cases but were applied widely across several detention facilities, directly affecting fundamental procedural safeguards.

🚩 Documented Patterns of Restrictions

- Denial of in-person meetings with lawyers during periods of interrogation or detention.
- Delays or prolonged restrictions on legal communication.
- Suspension of family visits or their significant reduction.

- Imposition of complex administrative requirements to obtain visitation permits.
- Cancellation of visits without prior notice or clear justification.

Impact of Restrictions on Fair Trial Guarantees

The denial of legal communication is associated with several rights-related consequences, including:

- Weakening the ability to prepare an effective defense.
- Limiting the possibility of challenging the lawfulness of detention.
- Undermining the ability to document allegations of torture or ill-treatment in a timely manner.
- Increasing the risk of coerced confessions during periods of isolation.

The denial of family contact also intensifies the psychological impact of detention and affects the right to maintain family ties.

Documented testimonies

- **Sami Khalili (41) – Nablus**

In his documented testimony, he reported being prevented from meeting his lawyer for extended periods during the interrogation stage and was unable to submit formal complaints regarding the treatment he experienced in detention.

- **Hazem Salem Mohammad Al-Samouni (46) – Gaza Strip**

He stated that he was unable to communicate with any lawyer throughout the entire interrogation period and remained without legal assistance during that stage.

- **Ahmed Salah Al-Masri (31) – Northern Gaza Strip**

He reported remaining for a period of his detention without any legal or family contact, leaving him completely isolated from the outside world.

- **Eyad Salem Abu Asr (48) – Hamad City**

He indicated that his family was unaware of his place of detention for a period of time and that he was not allowed to communicate with a lawyer during that stage.

- **Tasneem Marwan Al-Hams (22) – Khan Younis / Southern Gaza Strip**

In her documented testimony following her release in 2025, she reported that she had been detained in Ashkelon and Damon prisons for nearly two months, during which she was denied both legal visits and family visits.

Pattern of Violation

The repeated denial of legal meetings and suspension of family visits across multiple detention facilities and affecting different categories of detainees indicates a consistent pattern of restricting external communication. The overlap of these restrictions with periods of interrogation or prolonged detention further raises concerns about their direct impact on fair trial guarantees and on protection from torture and ill-treatment.

International Legal Framework

The unjustified denial of access to lawyers and family visits constitutes:

- A violation of **Article 14** of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees the right to a fair trial and the right to legal counsel.
- A violation of **Article 9** of the same covenant, which guarantees the right to challenge the lawfulness of detention.
- A breach of the obligations of an occupying power under the Fourth Geneva Convention, which provides for detainees' right to communicate with their families and receive visits.

Prolonged or systematic denial of legal communication—particularly when combined with isolation or ill-treatment—may amount to **cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment** within the meaning of **Article 7** of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

9. Collective Punishment, Raids, and Forced Transfers

Scope of the Violation

The report documents an escalation in the use of collective punitive measures against Palestinian prisoners and detainees during 2025. These measures included repeated raids on prison sections, the imposition of sanctions affecting groups of detainees without distinction, and their forced transfer between different detention facilities.

Available data indicate that large-scale raid operations were carried out by special units, often accompanied by physical assaults, confiscation of personal belongings, the closure of prison sections, and the imposition of collective restrictions. Available information suggests that these measures were implemented repeatedly across several prisons and detention centers.

Documented Patterns of Collective Punishment

The documented practices include:

- Raiding prison sections and cells using force.
- Physical assaults on prisoners during raids.
- Confiscation of clothing, blankets, and personal belongings.
- Imposition of collective financial penalties.
- Closure of prison sections for extended periods.
- Collective denial of yard time (“fura”) or restrictions on purchasing basic items from the prison canteen.

Forced Transfers

The report documents the coercive transfer of groups of prisoners between prisons and detention camps without prior notice or clear individual justification. Testimonies indicate that transfers occurred under conditions that included:

- Painful restraints for prolonged periods.
- Blindfolding.
- Denial of food or water during transit.
- Exposure to physical assaults and verbal abuse.

Available information indicates that these transfers were not solely for administrative purposes but, in several cases, were used as an additional punitive measure.

Documented Testimonies

- **Sami Khalili (41) – Nablus**
In his documented testimony, he reported that the section where he was held was subjected to repeated raids, involving physical assaults and confiscation of personal belongings, creating a constant state of tension within the section.

- **Ahmed Salah Al-Masri (31) – Northern Gaza Strip**
He stated that he was forcibly transferred multiple times between different detention sites while handcuffed and blindfolded, without being informed of the reason or duration of the transfer, under conditions he described as harsh.
- **Gaza Detainees – Sdy Teyman Camp**
Documented testimonies indicate that several detainees were subjected to collective beatings while being transferred between military sites, while handcuffed and blindfolded, and were denied access to basic necessities during transit.

Pattern of Violation

The repeated raids, imposition of collective punishments, and forced transfers across multiple detention facilities and similar contexts indicate a consistent pattern of punitive measures applied without individual assessment. The combination of these practices with physical assaults and confiscation of personal belongings further raises concerns about their use as a means of coercion and subjugation within the detention system.

International Legal Framework

Collective punishments and forced displacements constitute:

- A violation of the prohibition of collective punishment stipulated in Article (33) of the Fourth Geneva Convention.
- A violation of Article (7) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which prohibits cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

When such acts are carried out on a widespread or systematic scale, they may amount to grave breaches of international humanitarian law and necessitates accountability under the relevant international standards.

10. Targeting Vulnerable Groups

(Children – Women – Sick Prisoners – Elderly Persons)

This report documents the exposure of groups afforded special protection under international humanitarian law and international human rights law to multiple violations during 2025, including children, female detainees, sick prisoners, and elderly persons, in the context of the expanding use of

detention and the tightening of detention conditions within prisons and camps.

A. Child Detainees

Numbers and Data

Data issued by institutions concerned with prisoners' affairs indicate a noticeable increase in the number of detained children by the end of 2025.

During 2025, these institutions documented approximately 1,655 cases of arrest in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, among them 650 children. It is noted that these figures do not include cases of arrest from the Gaza Strip.

The data further indicate that Israeli forces arrested more than 600 Palestinian children during the same year, of whom 350 remained in detention by the end of the year.

Conditions of Arrest and Interrogation

Documented information indicates that the majority of children were arrested during nighttime raids on their homes, which involved measures including:

- Handcuffing the children and blindfolding them.
- Transferring them to interrogation centers without informing their families of their place of detention.

Testimonies indicate that a number of children were interrogated without the presence of a parent or a lawyer, in the absence of the safeguards afforded to juveniles. According to these accounts, the interrogations were accompanied by:

- Threats, shouting, and humiliation.
- Sleep deprivation.
- Intense psychological pressure.
- In some cases, physical violence.

Detention Conditions and Consequences

Available data indicate that children are deprived of their right to education during their period of detention and of an environment that takes into account their age-specific and psychological needs.

Testimonies from released child detainees have also documented noticeable weight loss, sleep disturbances, and recurrent episodes of fear and anxiety—effects that raise concerns about potential long-term psychological consequences.

Death in Detention

In March 2025, the death of the child **Walid Abdullah Ahmad Khaled** (17 years old) was announced while he was held in Megiddo Prison. He had been arrested as a minor and detained under harsh conditions, without the publication of detailed information regarding the circumstances of his death or the findings of an independent investigation.

This case raises serious concerns regarding the effectiveness of investigative mechanisms and the safeguards available to protect detained children.

Pattern of Violations

The recurring arrest of children, their deprivation of basic procedural safeguards, and their exposure to coercive interrogation practices indicate a pattern that extends beyond isolated cases. The expanding use of administrative detention against children also raises serious concerns regarding compliance with the principle that the detention of a child should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible period of time.

International Legal Framework

These practices constitute a potential violation of:

- Article 37 of the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**.
- Article 76 of the **Fourth Geneva Convention**.
- Relevant provisions of the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**, particularly those concerning guarantees of a fair trial and the prohibition of cruel treatment.

B. Female Detainees

Scope of Violations

The report documents that Palestinian female detainees were subjected to multiple violations with gender-based dimensions during 2025.

During the year, over 200 cases of arrest of Palestinian women were recorded, while the number of detainees by the end of the year reached approximately 49, including minors, mothers, and women held under administrative detention without charge or trial.

Specialized institutions emphasize that these figures do not cover all detention cases, particularly those from Gaza Strip, given the existence of temporary detentions and the lack of full transparency regarding places of detention.

Strip Searches and Humiliating Treatment

Documented testimonies from released female detainees indicate that strip searches were used repeatedly, and in some cases without a clear security justification.

Rula Hasanin (30 years old) – Ramallah

In her testimony following her release in January 2025, she reported that she, along with other female detainees, was forced to undergo a strip search prior to transfer from Damon Prison, which included the removal of her hijab and clothing under the supervision of female prison guards.

Denial of Sanitary Supplies

Consistent testimonies indicate that access to essential sanitary supplies during menstruation was restricted or denied, causing both physical and psychological suffering for the female detainees.

Deprivation of Adequate Food

Testimonies documented cases of insufficient food in terms of both quantity and quality, leading to noticeable weight loss and physical exhaustion.

Tasneem Marwan Al-Hams (22 years old) – Khan Yunis, Southern Gaza Strip

In her documented testimony following her release, she reported experiencing health deterioration and was transferred to a hospital after release due to evident physical weakness.

Pregnant Detainees and Medical Neglect

Testimonies revealed:

- Deprivation of routine medical check-ups.
- Lack of access to specialized prenatal care.
- Deliberate delays in transferring emergency cases to hospitals.

Information indicates that some pregnant detainees were subjected to psychological pressure amid the absence of adequate medical safeguards.

Sexual Harassment and Assault

Documented testimonies indicate that some female detainees were subjected to sexual threats or humiliating practices during interrogation or searches. In several accounts, these incidents were described as sexual assaults carried out within the detention context and under the full control of the authorities in charge, which may legally constitute sexual violence under international law.

Pattern of Violations

The recurrence of such incidents across multiple prisons, coupled with the absence of information on effective independent investigations, points to consistent risks to the safety and dignity of female detainees within the detention system.

International legal framework.

These practices constitute a potential violation of:

- The **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**.
- The **Convention Against Torture**.
- Article 7 of the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**.
- The **Fourth Geneva Convention**.

When such acts are carried out on a widespread and systematic scale, within the context of an armed conflict and occupation, they may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity under the **Rome Statute**, and give rise to individual criminal accountability.

C. Sick Prisoners and Elderly Detainees

Sick Prisoners

Scope of Violations

Data from prisoner-related institutions indicate the presence of hundreds of detainees suffering from chronic and serious illnesses, including cancer, heart disease, kidney failure, diabetes, and neurological disorders, as well as injuries resulting from arrest or torture.

Information also points to cases of delayed medical examinations or treatment, or merely providing painkillers without addressing the underlying medical condition.

Documented Cases of Sick Prisoners

- **Nader Al-Sheikh – Beit Surik/Ramallah (Ofer Prison):**
According to information from prisoner-related institutions, he suffers from severe tooth pain reportedly resulting from being beaten during his arrest, which led to the loss of an upper dental crown. He had not received the necessary treatment as of the preparation of this report.
- **Mohammad Khalaf (19 years old) – Al-Am'ari Camp/Ramallah (Ofer Prison):**
An administrative detainee for six months. Data from prisoner-related institutions indicate that he suffers from pain in his left foot and requires medical treatment that has not yet been provided.

- **Ahmed Abed (18 years old) – Tulkarm (Megiddo Prison):** According to available information, he suffers from health complications following an urgent gallbladder surgery, amid a lack of adequate medical follow-up inside the prison.

Pattern of Violations

The recurrence of these cases, combined with instances of deaths in detention, raises serious concerns regarding the adequacy of the healthcare system within detention facilities and the respect for detainees' right to health.

Elderly Detainees

The report documents the continued detention of dozens of elderly prisoners, some of whom are over seventy years old, and who suffer from chronic illnesses or physical disabilities, without the existence of special arrangements that take their health conditions into account.

Conclusion

The data concerning children, female prisoners, sick detainees, and elderly prisoners indicate consistent risks regarding the compliance of detaining authorities with their international obligations. If these practices are found to be carried out on a widespread or systematic basis, they may amount to serious violations of international law, including war crimes or crimes against humanity under relevant international standards.

11. Deaths in Places of Detention

The report documents multiple deaths in Israeli prisons and detention camps during 2025, within a detention system marked by escalating allegations of torture and ill-treatment, medical neglect, starvation, and a lack of transparency regarding detention locations.

During the year, deaths of Palestinian prisoners were announced, with detailed information about the circumstances of death absent in several cases, independent and public investigations lacking, and complete medical records not made available to families or independent bodies.

These findings raise serious concerns about the extent to which the detaining authorities comply with their obligations to protect the right to life and ensure the safety of detainees.

General Data

Data from prisoner organizations indicate that the number of Palestinian prisoner deaths since 1967 has exceeded 300 cases.

The data also point to a marked increase in deaths from October 7, 2023 until the end of 2025, particularly among detainees from the Gaza Strip, including individuals who were held in enforced disappearance for periods before their deaths were announced, or whose deaths were declared without sufficient details about the circumstances of their detention.

Documented Death Patterns During 2025

Analysis of the reported cases in 2025 reveals recurring patterns, notably:

- Deaths linked to allegations of torture or ill-treatment during interrogation or detention.
- Deaths following deterioration in health, amid claims of delayed or denied access to adequate medical care.
- Deaths associated with food deprivation or harsh detention conditions.
- Deaths occurring in military facilities or closed detention sites lacking independent oversight.
- Deaths of minors in custody, including the case of 17-year-old Walid Khaled Abdullah Ahmad, who died in Megiddo Prison in March 2025.

Withholding of Bodies and Lack of Transparency

In numerous cases, bodies were either not returned to families promptly or were handed over only after extended periods, without the release of independent medical reports or clear autopsy findings.

This practice results in:

- Families being deprived of complete information about the cause of death.
- Hindering the possibility of independent medical examinations.
- Undermining prospects for effective accountability and justice.

Table of Prisoner Movement Martyrs – Announcements Issued During 2025

	Name	Age	City	Date of death	Date of announcement	Place of detention
1	Amro Hatem Odeh	33	Gaza	13/12/2023	22/5/2025	Sdy Timan
2	Ayman Abdelhadi Qudeih	56	Gaza	12/10/2023	15/5/2025	Israeli Prisons
3	Bilal Talal Salameh	24	Gaza	11/8/2024	15/5/2025	Israeli Prisons
4	Muhammad Ismail Al-Astal	46	Gaza	2/5/2025	15/5/2025	Israeli Prisons
5	Muhammad Sharif Al-Asali	35	Gaza	17/5/2024	29/01/2025	Ashkelon
6	Ibrahim Adnan Ashour	25	Gaza	23/6/2024	29/01/2025	Israeli Prisons
7	Muhammad Yaseen Khalil Jabr	22	Bethlehem	18/1/2025	18/1/2025	Negev Prison

8	Musab Hani Haniyeh	35	Gaza	2025	5/1/2025	Israeli Prisons
9	Muhammad Ibrahim Hussein Abu Habl	70	Gaza	4/6/2025	10/1/2025	Israeli Prisons
10	Sael Rajab Abu Nasr	60	Gaza	21/1/2025	30/7/2025	Israeli Prisons
11	Ali Ashour Ali Al- Battash	62	Gaza	21/2/2025	21/2/2025	Soroka
12	Khaled Mahmoud Qassem Abdullah	40	Jenin	23/2/2025	3/3/2025	Megiddo Prison
13	Raafat Adnan Abu Fanuneh	34	Gaza	26/2/2025	26/2/2025	Assaf Harofeh
14	Walid Khaled Abdullah Ahmad	17	Ramallah	24/3/2025	24/3/2025	Megiddo Prison
15	Musab Hasan Adaily	20	Nablus	17/4/2025	17/4/2025	Soroka
16	Nasser Khalil Rdaideh	49	Bethlehe m	20/4/2025	20/4/2025	Hadassa h
17	Raed Ismail Asa'asa	57	Tulkarm	13/6/2025	13/6/2025	Israeli Hospital
18	Louay Faisal Muhammad Nasrallah	22	Jenin	30/6/2025	30/6/2025	Soroka
19	Samir Muhammad Youssef Al- Rifai	53	Jenin	17/7/2025	17/7/2025	Israeli Hospital
20	Ahmed Saeed Saleh Tazzazah	20	Jenin	3/8/2025	3/8/2025	Megiddo Prison
21	Musab Abdel	20	Hebron	25/8/2025	25/8/2025	Sha'arei Tsedek

	Moneim Al-Aida					
2 2	Ahmed Hatem Muhammad Khudairat	22	Hebron	7/10/2025	7/10/2025	Soroka
2 3	Kamel Muhammad Mahmoud Al-Ajrami	69	Gaza	10/10/2025	20/10/2025	Soroka
2 4	Mahmoud Talal Abdullah	49	Jenin	19/10/2025	19/10/2025	Assaf Harofeh
2 5	Muhammad Hussein Muhammad Ghawadra	63	Jenin	2/11/2025	2/11/2025	Janot Prison
2 6	Tayseer Saeed Al-Abed Sabbaba	60	Gaza	31/12/2024	4/12/2025	Israeli Prisons
2 7	Khalil Ahmed Khalil Haniyeh	35	Gaza	25/12/2024	4/12/2025	Israeli Prisons
2 8	Abdulrahman Sufyan Al-Sabatin	21	Bethlehem	10/12/2025	10/12/2025	Sha'arei Tsedek
2 9	Sakher Ahmed Za'oul	26	Bethlehem	24/12/2025	24/12/2025	Ofer Prison
3 0	Firas Ahmed Sobh	47	Tubas	17/07/2025	17/07/2025	Israeli Hospitals
31	Moataz Abu Zneid	35	Hebron	13/01/2025	13/01/2025	Soroka Hospital
3 2	Mohyuddin Fahmi Saeed Najm	60	Jenin	04/05/2025	04/05/2025	Soroka

Analytical Observations on the Table

A. Time Gap Between the Date of Death and the Date of Announcement

The table indicates that several prisoners had died in 2023 and 2024, while the official announcements of their deaths were issued only in 2025, in some cases after significant delays of several months.

Such delays raise concerns regarding:

- The families' right to timely information.
- The ability to ensure independent and reliable medical documentation.
- The preservation of evidence related to the circumstances surrounding the deaths.

B. Delayed Announcements and Lack of Information

Available information indicates that official announcements are often issued in brief form, without the publication of independent medical reports or autopsy findings, and typically note that “an investigation is ongoing.” Such practices may undermine the effectiveness of investigations and prolong the absence of accountability.

C. Concentration of Detainees from Gaza

The table shows that a significant proportion of the cases involve detainees from the Gaza Strip, within a detention context marked by a lack of transparency, instances of enforced disappearance in some cases, and detention in military camps or closed facilities.

D. Intersection of Delayed Announcements with Other Patterns of Violations

In a number of cases, delayed announcements coincide with deaths that occurred shortly after arrest, or in the context of deteriorating health conditions or detention under harsh circumstances. This underscores the need for independent and effective investigations into all cases of death in custody.

Pattern Characterization of the Violation

The recurrence of deaths, delays in announcing them, and the lack of transparency regarding their circumstances—occurring within a detention context that in several instances lacks effective independent oversight—indicates a recurring administrative pattern in the management of deaths in places of detention.

The association of these cases with the absence of independent and public investigations further heightens concerns about structural shortcomings in ensuring the right to life and the safety of detainees.

Legal Characterization

Deaths in places of detention, where they are found to be linked to torture, medical neglect, or ill-treatment, or where independent and effective investigations are not conducted, may constitute:

- A violation of Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (the right to life).
- A violation of Articles 7 and 10 of the same covenant (the prohibition of torture and the obligation to ensure humane treatment of detainees).
- A form of Enforced Disappearance where it is associated with unacknowledged detention or delays in disclosing the fate of the detainee.

When such acts are carried out on a widespread or systematic basis, they may amount to War Crimes or Crimes Against Humanity under relevant international standards, and may entail the accountability of those responsible.

12. Withheld Bodies

Scope of the Violation

The report documents the continued withholding of the bodies of Palestinians by the Israeli authorities during 2025. Available data indicate that the impact of this policy extends beyond depriving families of the return of their relatives' bodies; it also obstructs access to information regarding the causes of death and limits the possibility of conducting independent examinations, with potential implications for the rights to truth and accountability.

Available figures indicate that the number of withheld bodies has reached **770**, distributed between so-called “cemeteries of numbers”

and morgue facilities. Of these, **256 bodies** are held in the cemeteries of numbers, while **514 bodies** have been withheld since the reintroduction of the policy of retaining bodies in 2015.

The data further indicate that among the withheld bodies are **76 children under the age of eighteen** and **10 women**, in addition to **94 prisoners who died in custody**.

Patterns of Return and Associated Violations

During 2025, a number of bodies were returned after varying periods of retention, while the majority remained withheld at the time of the preparation of this report.

Information from families, lawyers, and human rights organizations indicates that some of the bodies that were returned bore:

- Signs of restraint.
- Bruises, wounds, or bodily deformities.
- Fatal injuries that raise questions regarding the circumstances of death.
- Indicators that give rise to serious suspicions of torture leading to death or, in some cases, possible extrajudicial killings.

Reports further document that the return of some bodies occurred under one or more of the following conditions:

- The absence of complete medical reports.
- Failure to disclose detailed information regarding the circumstances of death.
- Restrictions on or denial of independent autopsies.
- The imposition of limitations on the timing of burial and the number of participants in funeral ceremonies.
- The return of bodies after prolonged periods of retention that affected their condition, potentially complicating the accurate determination of the cause of death.

Link to a Broader Pattern of Violations

Available information indicates that the withholding of bodies intersects, in a number of cases, with deaths occurring in custody or in contexts involving allegations of torture, medical neglect, or the excessive use of force.

In cases involving prisoners who died in detention, the continued retention of the body obstructs independent verification of the cause of death and restricts families' access to full information regarding the circumstances surrounding the death.

Characterization of the Violation Pattern

The prolonged retention of a large number of bodies over several years, coupled with the repeated practice of releasing them under restrictions or without adequate medical information, points to a consistent and systematic administrative pattern in handling this matter.

The policy's application to specially protected groups, including children and women, underscores both its wide-ranging impact and its methodical enforcement.

Legal Characterization

The retention of bodies, the failure to release them without a lawful justification, or the restriction of families' right to receive and bury them with dignity, constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law, in particular:

- **Article 27** of the Fourth Geneva Convention concerning respect for the dignity of persons.
- **Article 130** of the same convention regarding inhumane treatment.
- Customary international law rules requiring respect for the dead, prompt release of bodies, and enabling families to conduct burials with dignity.
- **Article 7** of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

When the retention of bodies coincides with deaths suspected to be linked to torture, deliberate killing, or gross negligence, or is used to obstruct investigations, it may constitute a serious violation that warrants accountability under relevant international standards.

Table of Withheld Bodies

Category	Number	Documentation Notes
Total withheld bodies	770 bodies	Cumulative number of bodies held in cemeteries of numbers and morgues
Held in cemeteries of numbers	256 bodies	Secret cemeteries where names are replaced with numbers
Withheld since 2015	514 bodies	Bodies withheld since the reintroduction of the policy in 2015
Prisoners who died in custody	94 bodies	According to prisoner organizations
Children's bodies	76 bodies	Children under 18 years of age
Women	10 bodies	Female bodies
Recently released bodies	150 bodies	Bodies released under conditions after periods of retention
Still withheld	Majority	Bodies not yet released

13. Leader Prisoners and Those Serving Life Sentences

Scope of the Violation

The report documents an escalation in measures imposed on leader prisoners and those serving life or long-term sentences in Israeli prisons during 2025. Available data indicate that this group was subjected to strict and repeated measures affecting their detention conditions, transfers, and communication rights—sometimes exceeding the restrictions applied to other prisoners.

Available information suggests that these measures are not only based on individual considerations but are part of an internal management strategy targeting prisoners who hold organizational or representative roles within the prisons. This may affect the internal structure of the prisoner movement and the mechanisms for collective representation of detainees.

Case Example: Prisoner Marwan Barghouti

Prisoner rights organizations reported that in 2025, Marwan Barghouti was subjected to heightened restrictive measures, including solitary confinement, limitations on communication, and allegations of physical assault and medical neglect.

Given his prominent leadership role within the prisons, the nature and intensity of these measures raise serious concerns about their proportionality and necessity, particularly in light of reports indicating a decline in his health and the absence of regular, adequate medical care.

This case, viewed in the context of broader testimonies and data, is understood within a pattern of escalating restrictions imposed on prisoners classified as “leaders” or serving life sentences.

Documented Patterns of Measures Against Leader Prisoners and Life-Sentenced Detainees

Data from prisoner organizations indicate that in 2025, this group was subjected to a series of recurring measures, including:

- Physical assaults during section raids.
- Prolonged solitary confinement.
- Frequent transfers between prisons or sections without clear justification.
- Deprivation of, or severe restrictions on, visits and communication.
- Medical neglect or delays in providing treatment for prisoners with chronic illnesses.

Testimonies indicate that in some cases, these measures are applied simultaneously, undermining the ability of leader prisoners to exercise any representative or organizational role within the prisons.

General Context

This pattern of measures intersects with an official political and media discourse that intensified during 2025, calling for stricter detention conditions for prisoners classified as “leaders” or serving life sentences, including the reduction of their privileges or their isolation from other detainees.

This broader context supports the analytical conclusion that the restrictions imposed do not appear incidental or purely individual in all cases, but are linked to a general policy trend aimed at tightening detention conditions specifically for this group.

Pattern Characterization of the Violation

The repeated use of solitary confinement, arbitrary transfers, strict communication restrictions, and recurring allegations of physical assaults or medical neglect points to a consistent administrative pattern in the treatment of leader prisoners and those serving long-term or life sentences.

The concentration of these measures on a specific group due to their symbolic or organizational role raises concerns about the use of detention measures as a tool to restrict internal organization and expression within detention facilities.

Legal Characterization

When substantiated, the documented practices constitute violations of several international obligations, notably:

- The Convention Against Torture, which prohibits torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, including beatings and prolonged solitary confinement.
- Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- Article 27 of the Fourth Geneva Convention

14. Prisoner Exchange Deals in 2025

Scope of the Chapter

This report documents prisoner exchange deals and releases carried out during 2025, recognizing them as a significant milestone in the trajectory of the Palestinian prisoners' issue, both in terms of the number of detainees released and the nature, conditions, and subsequent impact of their release.

These exchanges occurred within a complex political and security context, where the release of prisoners was used as part of negotiation arrangements and, in most cases, was not linked to independent judicial reviews of the lawfulness of detention or to the implementation of legal obligations

incumbent on the occupying power under international humanitarian law and human rights law.

Available data indicate that, despite their humanitarian significance, the releases did not lead to a sustained reduction in the overall number of prisoners, as they coincided with ongoing large-scale arrest campaigns. This reflects the continued management of the detention system through multiple mechanisms, including exchanges and phased releases.

Number of Released Prisoners

According to data from organizations specializing in prisoner affairs, a total of **3,745 prisoners** were released in 2025 through exchange deals and phased releases implemented in multiple stages.

Available information indicates that these releases were not based on independent judicial decisions examining the lawfulness of detention in each individual case, but were carried out within the framework of political and security arrangements.

This figure does not reflect a dismantling of the detention system, but rather coincides with the continuation of arrest policies, including administrative detention and re-arrests.

Categories Included in the Releases

The 2025 exchange deals covered multiple categories of prisoners, including:

- Prisoners serving long-term or life sentences, some of whom had spent decades in detention.
- Prisoners from the Gaza Strip, who constituted the largest proportion of those released.
- Palestinian female prisoners, with several released after prolonged and harsh detention.
- Minors detained under conditions lacking adequate protections for children.
- Sick and elderly prisoners, some of whom were released following deterioration in their health.
- A limited number of prisoners detained prior to the Oslo Accords, reflecting the symbolic significance of the length of their detention.

Conversely, large segments of the prisoner population remained outside the scope of releases, particularly many administrative detainees, and in some cases, previously released prisoners were re-arrested.

Conditional Release and Re-Arrest

Available data indicate that a number of releases were accompanied by conditions that effectively restricted the freedom of the released prisoners, including:

- Limitations on movement and travel.
- Repeated security summons.
- Close monitoring and surveillance.
- Obligations related to residency or public activity.

Prisoner organizations also documented the re-arrest of dozens of released individuals within weeks or months of their release. In some cases, they were immediately placed under administrative detention without formal charges or trial.

This pattern raises serious concerns regarding the legal stability of released prisoners and undermines the finality and effectiveness of the release process.

Forced Displacement

Some of the exchange deals were accompanied by instances of forced displacement, either to areas outside the Palestinian territories or to locations within them that are not their original places of residence.

This practice deprives the released individuals of their right to return to their homes and to fully reunite with their families.

The transfer or deportation of protected persons is prohibited under **Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention**, whether carried out individually or collectively, regardless of the negotiation context in which it occurred.

Pattern Characterization

The concurrence of releases with ongoing detention, the imposition of restrictive conditions, and the re-arrest of some individuals points to a pattern in which tools of detention and phased release overlap, without addressing the underlying legal basis of the detention itself.

The use of forced displacement and subsequent restrictions raises serious questions about the compatibility of release mechanisms with fundamental guarantees of personal liberty and legal security.

Legal Characterization

Prisoner exchange deals, in principle, do **not**:

- Relieve authorities of legal responsibility for prior violations, including arbitrary detention, torture, or medical neglect;
- Legitimize post-release restrictions imposed on released individuals;
- Justify re-arrest or subsequent administrative detention;
- Grant legality to forced displacement.

International humanitarian law and human rights law require that the release of detained persons be non-arbitrary and not accompanied by measures that undermine the essence of the right to liberty or serve as an extension of punishment outside a lawful judicial framework.

Accordingly, any violations that accompany or follow a release may be considered a continuation of the original violation, rather than its resolution.

Table: Statistical Indicators on Prisoner Exchange Deals in 2025

Category	Number	Documentation Notes
Total number of prisoners released	3,745	Through exchange deals and phased releases
Prisoners from the Gaza Strip	2,600	Represented the largest proportion
Prisoners from the West Bank and Jerusalem	900	From multiple areas
Female prisoners	80	Released after periods of harsh detention
Children (under 18)	320	Detained under conditions violating juvenile protection standards
Sick and elderly prisoners	150	Some released following deterioration in health
Prisoners serving long-term or life sentences	120	Some had spent decades in prison
Prisoners detained before the Oslo Accords	20	A limited, symbolic number
Released prisoners who were re-arrested	Dozens of cases	Some placed under administrative detention
Cases of forced displacement	40–60	To locations outside or within the Palestinian territories
Released prisoners subjected to restrictions and monitoring	Hundreds of cases	Movement restrictions, security summons, and threats

15. Detailed Documented Incidents During 2025

(Legislative Escalation, Official Incitement, Sexual Violence, Visual Evidence, and the Criminalization of International Solidarity)

General Framework

The year 2025 witnessed developments of qualitative significance within the broader pattern of violations committed against Palestinian prisoners and detainees. These developments were not limited to practices inside places of detention but were also linked to publicly articulated political discourse, legislative initiatives, and official statements issued by government officials.

The interconnection between official rhetoric and practices on the ground points to a political and legal environment that weakens the legal protections afforded to persons protected under international humanitarian law and heightens the risk of serious violations occurring without effective accountability.

In this context, the public role played by Itamar Ben-Gvir, Israel's Minister of National Security, is particularly notable through statements and initiatives related to tightening detention conditions and the treatment of Palestinian prisoners.

A. Proposed Law on the Death Penalty for Palestinian Prisoners

During 2025, a bill was reintroduced in the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, that would allow the imposition of the death penalty on Palestinians in cases defined as "terrorist acts." The proposal received explicit political support from the Israeli Minister of National Security, Itamar Ben-Gvir.

The reintroduction of the bill occurred amid a broader escalation of violations reported within places of detention, including allegations of torture, ill-treatment, and medical neglect.

Legal Significance:

The imposition of the death penalty in a context of military occupation raises serious legal concerns under international humanitarian law, particularly under the Fourth Geneva Convention, which imposes strict limitations on trials and penalties imposed on protected persons.

Moreover, expanding the use of capital punishment in the context of an armed conflict may raise concerns regarding the risk of arbitrary deprivation of the right to life, as guaranteed under Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

B. Public Official Incitement and the Dehumanization of Prisoners

During 2025, public statements were issued by government officials, including the Israeli Minister of National Security, Itamar Ben-Gvir, calling for stricter detention conditions for prisoners, reductions in food provisions, and the imposition of additional restrictions.

Video footage was also circulated showing official visits to detention facilities, within a broader discourse characterized by a hardline stance toward Palestinian prisoners.

Legal Significance:

International criminal law indicates that public incitement to commit crimes, where its elements are established, may give rise to individual criminal responsibility.

Moreover, rhetoric that dehumanizes a protected group may contribute to creating an environment that facilitates the commission of serious violations.

C. Sexual Violence in Places of Detention

In 2025, video material emerged from a military detention facility showing severe physical assaults against detainees. Palestinian human rights organizations also documented testimonies from released female and male prisoners who reported being subjected to forms of sexual violence during detention.

Documented Testimonies

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights documented the testimony of a released Palestinian female prisoner (N.A. ,42), who was arrested in November 2024. She stated that she was subjected to:

- Repeated sexual assaults,
- Forced stripping,
- Being photographed naked under threat,
- Electric shocks,
- Beatings and sexually degrading insults.

The testimony of an 18-year-old male prisoner (M.A.) was also documented. He reported being subjected to sexual assault involving the forced insertion of a hard object into the anus, and indicated that similar practices were carried out against other detainees.

Legal Characterization:

Rape and other forms of sexual violence in the context of detention constitute:

- A form of torture that is absolutely prohibited under international law;
- A war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

- And may amount to a crime against humanity if committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack.

These allegations require an independent and effective criminal investigation in accordance with international standards.

D. Proposal to Establish a Prison Surrounded by Crocodiles

Media reports during 2025 referred to a proposal attributed to the Israeli Minister of National Security, Itamar Ben-Gvir, suggesting the establishment of a detention facility surrounded by water-filled trenches containing crocodiles as a deterrent measure.

Even if not implemented, such a proposal reflects rhetoric based on symbolic intimidation and raises concerns regarding the use of threats involving predatory animals as a form of psychological deterrence.

🚦 Legal Significance

Subjecting detainees to threats or any form of degrading or inhuman treatment is prohibited under the Convention Against Torture and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules).

E. Recorded Threats Against Released Prisoners – Freedom Under Threat

Video clips circulated during 2025 showing threatening statements directed at released prisoners. If verified, such incidents raise serious concerns regarding the safety of released individuals, particularly in light of reports of re-arrests or the imposition of post-release restrictions.

F. Visual Evidence of Health Deterioration

During 2025, images circulated of released prisoners displaying signs of severe weight loss and significant health deterioration. In addition, some of the bodies that were returned showed marks of restraint and visible injuries.

These visual materials constitute supporting indicators for testimonies referring to starvation, ill-treatment, and medical neglect.

Legal Implications

If it is established that the deterioration in health conditions resulted from the deliberate deprivation of food or medical treatment, this may amount to:

- cruel or inhuman treatment;
- a war crime if starvation was used as a punitive measure.

G. Arrest of Freedom Flotilla Activists – Criminalizing International Solidarity

In 2025, reports indicated that civilian vessels participating in the Freedom Flotilla were intercepted and international activists on board were detained.

According to available reports, the interceptions occurred in international waters, and some detainees were initially denied free access to lawyers or to their diplomatic representatives.

Legal Characterization

The interception of civilian vessels in international waters may constitute a violation of the law of the sea if it lacks a recognized legal basis.

Furthermore, the detention of civilians without adequate legal guarantees may amount to arbitrary detention in violation of Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Analytical Conclusion

The events documented during 2025 reflect a clear intersection between:

- public political rhetoric,
- legislative initiatives, and
- practices inside places of detention.

This convergence suggests the existence of an institutional environment that weakens the legal protections afforded to protected persons and increases the risk of serious violations.

These developments underscore the need for:

- independent international investigative mechanisms;

- individual criminal accountability where sufficient evidence exists; and
- urgent protection guarantees for prisoners and released detainees.

The continued international silence, or the mere issuance of statements of concern, cannot be considered a neutral position; rather, it effectively contributes to the perpetuation of these crimes.

Ensuring justice for Palestinian prisoners is therefore not only a moral demand but also a binding obligation under international law that is not subject to limitation.

The International Organization for Solidarity with Palestinian Prisoners (Tadamon) affirms that this report is presented as a human rights indictment and a clear call for responsibility and concrete action to bring an end to a detention system that has become one of the most serious manifestations of ongoing international crimes in the modern era.

Conclusion

This report concludes that the violations documented during 2025—including torture, sexual violence, medical neglect, starvation, prolonged solitary confinement, enforced disappearance, deaths in detention, and the withholding of bodies—cannot be regarded as isolated incidents or individual failures.

The data and analysis of recurring patterns indicate the existence of a detention system characterized by its widespread and systematic nature, lacking the fundamental protections guaranteed to persons under international humanitarian law and human rights law.

Furthermore, the interplay between public political rhetoric, legislative developments, and practices within detention facilities reflects an institutional environment that undermines accountability and entrenches impunity.

In the absence of independent and effective domestic investigations, there is a clear need for international intervention grounded in the rules of international law to ensure:

- immediate protection for prisoners and detainees,
- accountability of those responsible for violations, and
- prevention of recurrence of such practices in the future.

Recommendations

I. Urgent Measures

1. For the United Nations and its relevant mechanisms:

- Call for the immediate cessation of all forms of torture, ill-treatment, and sexual violence in detention facilities.
- Ensure unrestricted and continuous access to all detention sites, including military facilities and temporary detention camps.

Activate the mandates of:

- The Special Rapporteur on Torture,
- The Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women,
- The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention,
- The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

Include the situation of Palestinian prisoners as a permanent agenda item within monitoring mechanisms related to the occupied Palestinian territory.

2. For the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC):

- Intensify efforts to ensure regular and unrestricted visits to all detainees.
- Investigate and clarify the fate of all forcibly disappeared individuals, with particular attention to detainees from Gaza.
- Utilize all available tools under its mandate to uphold humanitarian standards, including public advocacy if confidential channels fail to produce results.

3. For the Occupying Authorities (under international legal obligations):

- Immediately release all individuals held arbitrarily, with priority for children, the ill, the elderly, and administrative detainees held without charge.
- End the use of prolonged solitary confinement in line with the Mandela Rules.
- Ensure prompt and adequate medical care for all detainees, including unhindered access to necessary medications.
- Return all withheld bodies without delay, allowing families to conduct burials with full dignity.

II. **Accountability Measures**

1) For the International Criminal Court (ICC):

- a) Include the documented violations against Palestinian detainees in the ongoing investigation concerning the situation in Palestine, covering:
 - i. Torture
 - ii. Sexual violence,
 - iii. Deliberate starvation,
 - iv. Deaths in detention,
 - v. Enforced disappearances,
 - vi. Withholding of bodies.
- b) Examine individual and command responsibility of decision-makers, instigators, and those executing the acts.
- c) Investigate allegations of sexual violence as war crimes, which may rise to crimes against humanity if proven systematic or widespread.

2) For the States Parties to the Geneva Conventions:

- Uphold their obligations under Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions to ensure respect for the Conventions under all circumstances.
- Exercise universal jurisdiction where sufficient evidence exists concerning grave violations.
- Refrain from providing any military or security assistance that could facilitate or prolong serious violations.

3) For International Investigative Mechanisms:

Establish an independent mechanism to collect and preserve evidence of violations within detention facilities, including:

- Medical records,
- Witness statements,
- Visual documentation,
- Official documents.

III. Long-Term Measures

1. Legal and Structural Reforms

- Abolish or significantly reform the current system of administrative detention, which lacks fair trial guarantees.
- Repeal or amend laws that allow indefinite detention or restrict legal communication.
- Align the detention system with international standards, including the Mandela Rules and the Convention against Torture.

2. Protection of Vulnerable Groups

- Implement special safeguards for:
 - i) Children
 - ii) Women
 - iii) Sick individuals
 - iv) Elderly detainees
- Ensure that children are detained only as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

3. Victim and Survivor Support

- Provide comprehensive psychological, medical, and legal assistance to survivors of torture and sexual violence.
- Ensure reparations and compensation in accordance with international standards for victims' rights.
- Protect witnesses and maintain confidentiality of testimonies in cases of sexual violence.

4. Prevention of Recurring Violations

- Establish independent, permanent monitoring mechanisms for all detention facilities.
- Guarantee transparency in investigations of all deaths occurring in custody.
- End practices of withholding or detaining bodies as punitive measures.

Sources and References

This report draws on multiple institutional and human rights sources, alongside documented field testimonies, collected and analyzed according to established human rights documentation standards, consistent with methodologies used in United Nations and other international human rights reports. The sources include:

1. **The Commission of Detainees Affairs**

Official data and statistics regarding the number of prisoners and detainees, detention conditions, and deaths in custody for the years 2024–2025.

2. **Palestinian Prisoner’s Society**

Periodic reports and documentation on administrative detention, the situation of children and female prisoners, and violations within Israeli prisons, 2024–2025.

3. **Palestinian Center for Human Rights**

Human rights reports and verified testimonies on torture, medical neglect, sexual violence, and enforced disappearances of Palestinian detainees, 2024–2025.

4. **Palestinian, Israeli, and International Human Rights Organizations**

Medical and human rights reports related to detention and investigation conditions, as well as healthcare provision within prisons and detention facilities.

5. **United Nations and Its Relevant Mechanisms**

Reports and documents from the Special Rapporteur on Torture, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, and other standards related to international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

6. **Israeli Legislation and Official Statements**

Texts of laws, military orders, and official statements issued by Israeli authorities relevant to detention policies during the period covered by the report.

Documentation of Prisoner and Detainee Testimonies

All testimonies included in this report are verified and archived by the **International Organization of Solidarity with Palestinian Prisoners (Tadamon)**.

These accounts were collected during 2024–2025 through direct interviews with released prisoners, their families, or legal representatives. Collection followed established human rights documentation standards, ensuring confidentiality, witness protection, and avoidance of any harm.

Testimonies are presented in the report in a concise and analytical form, while full details are provided in the annexes where appropriate.