تضامن
TADAMON

Statistical Human Rights Report

The Situation of Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees - October 2026

Statistical Monitoring, Human Rights Documentation and Analysis of Patterns of Violations



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Executive Summary

The International Commission for Palestinian Prisoners' Solidarity (Tadamon) confirms that October 2026 witnessed an increase in cases of arrest and re-arrest, alongside recurring testimonies regarding the use of rubber bullets, tear gas, beatings, solitary confinement and denial of medical treatment. The comparison with September reveals divergent trends, with an increase in arrests and a decrease in administrative detention orders. This requires each indicator to be examined within its respective scope, without treating a decrease in one indicator as evidence of an overall improvement in conditions of detention. [1] [2]

The Commission recorded 804 cases of arrest and re-arrest in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, compared with 670 cases within the same geographical scope in September. This represents an increase of 134 cases, or 20.0%. Hebron Governorate recorded the highest number, with 322 cases, accounting for 40.0% of the October total, followed by Nablus with 134 cases and Qalqilya with 118. These three governorates together accounted for 71.4% of the total recorded cases. [1] [2]

The number of new and renewed administrative detention orders reached 284, compared with 692 in September, representing a decrease of 408 orders, or 59.0%. The arrests included 18 children, 17 women and 17 older persons, in addition to 123 cases of re-arrest involving formerly released prisoners. This represents an increase of 72 re-arrest cases, or 141.2%, compared with September. The aforementioned categories overlap and should not be added together to derive a new total. [1] [2]

The monitoring documented testimonies concerning raids conducted on 7 and 8 October, involving female prisoners at Damon Prison and prisoners at Janot, Ofer and Negev prisons, as well as repeated assaults in the Rakevet section of Ramla Prison. The reported incidents include injuries resulting from suffocation, burns and beatings, as well as the testimony of physician Marwan al-Hams concerning his being restrained and assaulted. The conditions of Bushra al-Taweel in solitary confinement and the obstruction of legal visits were also highlighted. [1]

The reported health conditions reveal the overlapping effects of shortages of food, clothing, hygiene supplies and medical treatment, together with the consequences of assaults and solitary confinement. Among the documented cases, Basmala Saad and Ammar Anbas each lost approximately 17 kilograms during the respective periods of detention described. Other cases involve illnesses and persistent pain affecting Sally Sadaqa, Maha al-Rifai, Jamal Abu al-Haija, Rizq al-Rajoub, Islam Jarrar, Adi Anbas and Hael Deif Allah. These changes in body weight do not represent losses sustained during October alone. [1]

The report followed the announcement of the death of Ahmad Zahir Hmeidat, the withholding of official information concerning the circumstances of his death, as stated in a communiqué issued by prisoners' institutions, and the handover of the body of Marwan Herzallah. It also documented three batches of releases of detainees from Gaza, comprising 5, 7 and 9 individuals, respectively. Their combined total of 21 individuals is presented as the number of persons covered by the recorded release batches, without inferring either a comprehensive total or a monthly decrease compared with

September. The Commission calls for urgent protection measures, independent access to detainees, effective investigations, accountability and reparation. [1]

Introduction

The International Commission for Palestinian Prisoners' Solidarity (Tadamon) monitors the situation of Palestinian prisoners and detainees throughout October 2026, against a backdrop of an increase in arrests in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the continuation of testimonies concerning the use of force, solitary confinement and denial of health care inside prisons. These developments place the safety of detainees, their ability to access lawyers and medical professionals, and their families' right to know their places of detention and their fate at the centre of the human rights monitoring conducted during this month. [1] [2]

This report compares October indicators with those recorded in September in order to demonstrate changes in the scale of arrests and their distribution across governorates and population groups, as well as changes in the number of administrative detention orders. It also examines the treatment of prisoners from the time of arrest and throughout their detention, and considers what releases and deaths reveal about the impact of these experiences on detainees and their families. The legal assessment and recommendations are grounded in the documented incidents and seek to identify the measures required for urgent protection, independent investigations, accountability for those responsible and reparation. [1] [2]

Methodology

Scope and Sources of the Report

This report covers the period from 1 to 31 October 2026 and is based on the Commission's statistical and human rights monitoring, including data from prisoners' institutions and testimonies provided by lawyers, prisoners, formerly released prisoners and families. The September report is used as a reference for comparison. Incidents are attributed to their respective sources, with a distinction maintained between testimonies and medical or judicial findings, and between the date on which an incident occurred and the date on which it was reported. [1] [2]

Definition of Indicators

The term "cases of arrest and re-arrest" refers to incidents recorded during the month, rather than the number of individuals who remained in detention at the end of that month. The indicator for administrative detention orders measures new orders and renewals; it does not represent the number of unique individuals or newly detained persons. The figures relating to prisoners, female prisoners, children and administrative detainees held in prisons are stock indicators, which must be interpreted in accordance with their respective dates of update and must not be aggregated with monthly arrest figures.

The direct comparison of arrest figures is limited to the West Bank, including Jerusalem: 804 cases in October compared with 670 in September. The broader September total stood at 680 cases, including 10 cases recorded under Gaza. Accordingly, this broader total, which covers a different geographical scope, is not used as the basis for calculating the principal percentage change. The absence of a corresponding figure for Gaza in October should not be interpreted as indicating that no arrests took place there. [1] [2]

Verification and Limitations of Comparison

The percentage change is calculated by dividing the difference between the October and September figures by the September figure, multiplying the result by 100, and rounding to one decimal place. The sum of the governorate-level figures for October corresponds to the overall total of 804. The figure of 284 administrative detention orders is adopted as the October figure and includes both new orders and renewals.

Repeated reports concerning the same individual or incident have been consolidated, and the republication of a testimony concerning an injury is not counted as a new injury report. Categories relating to family relationships, occupation, age and sex are treated as overlapping categories. Summonses, deportations and extensions of trial proceedings are not automatically counted as new arrests. Testimonies concerning previous harm or assaults are included in the context of their continuing effects, while avoiding attributing all such incidents to October.

In carrying out its monitoring and documentation activities, the Commission relies on multiple and credible sources, including materials and evidence obtained directly, communications with lawyers, formerly released prisoners and the families of detainees, as well as statements and information issued by relevant human rights institutions. Information is subject to review and cross-checking in accordance with its nature and sources, taking into account the possibility of duplication or conflicting accounts and distinguishing between established facts and reported testimonies. The Commission seeks to preserve the information and supporting evidence underpinning its monitoring, while respecting confidentiality and protecting sources, victims and witnesses.

General indicators retain the qualifiers "more than" and "at least"; no precise change is derived from comparing two lower-bound figures. No numerical change is calculated by comparing a general estimate of the number of sick prisoners in September with a numerical estimate for October. The confidentiality of health information is maintained, and any individual follow-up requires informed consent and safeguards against reprisals.

First: General Indicators on Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees

Indicator	October 2026
Total number of prisoners and detainees	More than 9,400
Prisons and detention and interrogation centres	23 centres
Female prisoners	88
Children and minors	At least 350
Administrative detainees	More than 3,101
Detainees from Gaza classified as "unlawful combatants"	1,419
Prisoners serving various sentences	1,509
Detainees held pending trial or undergoing trial	3,236
Prisoners serving life sentences	119
Journalists	39, according to the general indicators table
Members of parliament	17
Identified martyrs of the Palestinian prisoners' movement	330
Individuals whose identities have been announced since 7 October 2023	93, with a broader estimate exceeding 100 cases
Sick prisoners	Approximately 5,000, according to the estimate attributed to prisoners' institutions

Source: The Commission's monitoring for October. The figures represent estimates and stock figures based on their respective update dates; they do not all constitute mutually exclusive or contemporaneous categories within a single total. [1]

In September, the number of female prisoners stood at 90, compared with 88 in the October indicator, a difference of two prisoners. The total number of prisoners and detainees stood at 9,350 in September, while the announced lower-bound figure for October exceeded 9,400. An accurate comparison remains contingent upon the availability of a final October total. The figures for administrative detainees in both months should be read as lower-bound estimates of the detained population. [1] [2]

A figure of approximately 36 appeared in one of the news reports concerning journalists, alongside the figure of 39 in the indicators table. Accordingly, the figure in the table is adopted with reference to its respective update, without merging it with the other figure or using it to calculate a monthly change. [1]

Second: Statistical Comparison between September and October

Indicator	September	October	Difference and Percentage Change
Arrests in the West Bank, including Jerusalem	670	804	Increase of 134; 20.0%
New and renewed administrative detention orders	692	284	Decrease of 408; 59.0%
Children among those arrested	20	18	Decrease of 2; 10.0%
Women among those arrested	17	17	No change
Older persons among those arrested	6	17	Increase of 11; 183.3%
Formerly released prisoners re-arrested	51	123	Increase of 72; 141.2%
Journalists among those arrested	8	6	Decrease of 2; 25.0%

Source: The Commission's monitoring for October and its September 2026 report. The overall comparison of arrest figures uses a uniform geographical scope covering the West Bank, including Jerusalem, whereas comparisons of subcategories are based on the figures monitored and published for each month, taking into account possible differences in the scope of coverage. [1] [2]

The indicators show that the overall increase in arrests coincided with a more pronounced rise in the re-arrest of formerly released prisoners and older persons. Re-arrested formerly released prisoners accounted for 15.3% of the October total, compared with 7.5% of the total published for September, taking into account differences in the scope of the respective categories. Re-arrest alone does not establish the grounds or lawfulness of detention; however, it warrants scrutiny of the individual basis for detention, the duration of deprivation of liberty and the extent to which access to judicial challenge is available. [1] [2]

The number of administrative detention orders decreased by 59.0%, despite a 20.0% increase in arrests. These indicators are not contradictory: the former measures the issuance or renewal of administrative detention orders, while the latter measures arrest incidents across all applicable procedures. The decrease in the number of orders alone does not establish a reduction in the population of administrative detainees or the cessation of arbitrary detention.

Third: Geographical Distribution of Arrests

Governorate	September	October	Share of October Total	Change
Hebron	37	322	40.0%	Increase of 285; 770.3%
Nablus	169	134	16.7%	Decrease of 35; 20.7%
Qalqilya	81	118	14.7%	Increase of 37; 45.7%
Jenin	85	75	9.3%	Decrease of 10; 11.8%
Tulkarem	62	48	6.0%	Decrease of 14; 22.6%
Bethlehem	48	33	4.1%	Decrease of 15; 31.2%
Ramallah and Al-Bireh	77	26	3.2%	Decrease of 51; 66.2%
Jerusalem	45	20	2.5%	Decrease of 25; 55.6%
Salfit	12	17	2.1%	Increase of 5; 41.7%
Jericho	8	6	0.7%	Decrease of 2; 25.0%
Tubas	46	5	0.6%	Decrease of 41; 89.1%
Common total	670	804	100%	Increase of 134; 20.0%

Source: The Commission's monitoring. October shares are calculated based on 804 cases; the sum of the rounded percentages may differ slightly from 100%. [1] [2]

Hebron recorded an increase of 285 cases, rising from 37 to 322, representing an increase of 770.3%. This was the largest increase, both numerically and proportionally, among the governorates. Arrests also increased in Qalqilya by 37 cases and in Salfit by five cases, while they decreased in the other eight governorates. The combined increase across the three governorates amounted to 327 cases, compared with a decline of 193 cases across the remaining governorates, resulting in a net increase of 134 cases.

Ramallah and Al-Bireh recorded the largest numerical decrease, with 51 fewer cases, followed by Tubas, with a decrease of 41, and Nablus, with a decrease of 35. The decline in Tubas reached 89.1%, from 46 to five cases. Large percentage changes should be interpreted in light of the underlying baseline figures. The aggregated data alone are insufficient to determine the reasons behind shifts in the geographical concentration of arrests among governorates.

Analytical Reading of the Increase in Arrests in Hebron Governorate

The exceptional increase in arrest cases in Hebron Governorate is associated with the escalation of Israeli military operations and mass raid and arrest campaigns during October, particularly the large-scale military operation that began on 23 October. This operation was accompanied by the closure of residential areas, the imposition of severe restrictions on residents' movement, and the implementation of arrest campaigns and field interrogations.

According to documentation by the Palestinian Prisoner's Society, approximately 110 arrest cases were recorded over six days during this operation, including children and dozens of formerly released prisoners.

These developments help explain the sharp increase from 37 cases in September to 322 cases in October, reflecting a tangible escalation in the use of arrest as part of military operations and the control measures imposed on the governorate. This escalation underscores the need to investigate the collective nature of the arrests and the extent to which individual legal safeguards and the prohibitions of arbitrary detention and collective punishment have been respected.

Fourth: Targeted Groups and the Extension of Arrests to Family Members

Category	Incidents Monitored in October
Children, women and older persons	18 children; 17 women; 17 older persons
Formerly released prisoners	123 cases of re-arrest
Relatives of prisoners and martyrs	5 relatives of prisoners and 8 relatives of martyrs; with possible overlap among family-related descriptions
Media, education and law	6 journalists; 5 teachers; 3 lawyers; 3 university students; and an engineer
Politics and local affairs	A political activist; a former municipal council member; a member of the Legislative Council and his son; and a Fatah Movement secretary
Health and religious institutions	A physician; 8 sheikhs; the Director of the Ibrahimi Mosque; and an official of the Sanctuary Trust
Labour and agriculture	7 workers employed by a village council; 9 farmers during the olive harvest
Family relationships within individual incidents	Two sisters; separate cases involving two brothers; three brothers; four brothers; and 12 incidents described as involving the arrest of a father and his son

These descriptions reflect the categories as monitored. The categories and individuals involved in family-related incidents should not be counted again on top of the overall total. [1]

The arrests of women included a female journalist, two sisters, a formerly released female prisoner, the wife of a prisoner, the mother of a prisoner and a university student. These descriptions do not necessarily refer to a different woman in each category. Arrests involving members of the same family warrant verification of the grounds for detaining each individual and safeguards against using family relationships as a means of pressure or punishment. [1]

The Commission documented the arrest of a Palestinian individual and solidarity activists while they were supporting the olive harvest in Madama, as well as a report concerning the arrest of solidarity activists and farmers in Husan. These incidents are presented qualitatively, without adding an unspecified number of foreign nationals to the Palestinian arrest total and without converting expressions such as "dozens" into precise figures. The Commission stresses the need to protect farmers, workers and solidarity activists from arbitrary arrest and assault. [1]

The Commission also followed the demolition by explosion of the home of the Qadri Samara family in Biddu, as reported in a statement by the Palestinian Prisoner's Society. Holding family members responsible for an act attributed to one of their relatives undermines the principle of individual responsibility and requires the operation to be examined in light of the prohibition of collective punishment and the protection of property, with documentation of the damage, the legal basis invoked and the execution orders. [1] [5]

Fifth: Use of Force and Humiliation inside Prisons

Raids of 7 and 8 October

In a statement dated 18 October, the Palestinian Prisoner's Society reported dozens of repression operations carried out on 7 October and the days that followed, during which prisoners were injured by tear gas, rubber bullets and beatings, and a number of them were transferred to hospitals. The testimonies covered Janot, Ofer, Negev and Damon prisons, and indicated that certain sections had been targeted as early as 6 October. This descriptive account is presented without converting it into a verified number of injuries or aggregating it with the individual injuries reported in separate news items. [1]

Damon Prison and the Specific Circumstances of Female Prisoners

Testimonies by female prisoners describe the use of tear gas and stun grenades, their removal to the yard while handcuffed, being forced to lie face down and being filmed, with repeated raids taking place on the same day.

The testimonies also report that an officer inspected the hair of female prisoners after their head coverings had been removed and that they were forced to undo their braids, while a group of them were held in a room. The testimonies differ regarding the number of women in the group, citing figures of 15 and 17. Accordingly, no single figure is adopted, and the two accounts are not treated as separate incidents. [1]

On 8 October, the testimonies describe pepper spray being used inside a room housing 15 female prisoners, causing significant harm to older women, as well as the spraying of gas in the shower area. Among those affected was a pregnant female prisoner who was transferred to the clinic. The testimonies also refer to food remnants and waste being thrown onto the mattresses. These incidents warrant the preservation of recordings, an examination of necessity and proportionality and the availability of alternatives, as well as an investigation into humiliation, violations of privacy and threats to the safety of pregnant women and minors. [1]

Janot Prison and the Case of Physician Marwan al-Hams

Testimonies by prisoners from Gaza describe the firing of rubber bullets, the use of tear gas and pepper spray, beatings with batons and the introduction of dogs into the rooms on 7 October. They report injuries involving fractures and burns, an assault on a leg fitted with metal plates, and failure to respond to a request for medical treatment. The descriptions of the location of the burns differ between the hand and the foot in anonymous testimonies; these references should therefore not be aggregated to derive a number of injured persons. [1]

According to the testimony attributed to prisoner and physician Marwan al-Hams, he was isolated during Itamar Ben-Gvir's presence in Room Five of Section Two, restrained and beaten. The testimony refers to fractures, back pain and the need for medical follow-up. His case warrants an

independent examination, documentation of his injuries, preservation of intervention orders and recordings, and an investigation into the role of those present and those responsible for carrying out and supervising the operation. [1]

Rakevet and Areas without Surveillance Cameras

The Commission monitored testimonies concerning repeated repression in the Rakevet section of Ramla Prison, involving batons, tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets and stun grenades. The testimonies also refer to burns to the hands and legs, a raid on Room 15 and the introduction of dogs. They further report that prisoners were transferred to a room without surveillance cameras and assaulted there.

Such practices heighten the importance of medical records, duty rosters, witness testimonies and an examination of transfer routes, in addition to recordings from corridors and room entrances. [1]

The Commission stresses that the use of force for the purpose of punishment or humiliation is prohibited. Describing an intervention as a search or a security-control measure is insufficient to establish its lawfulness. Rather, the specific threat must be identified, together with the means used, the available alternatives, the duration of the intervention and the measures taken to protect detainees and provide them with medical treatment. The standards of necessity and the prohibition of cruel treatment derive from international protections of personal safety and dignity and the standards governing the treatment of prisoners. [3] [6]

Sixth: Solitary Confinement and Safeguards Governing Access to Legal Counsel

Bushra al-Taweel

The Commission monitored the continued solitary confinement of journalist and administrative detainee Bushra al-Taweel, as well as her transfers between Damon Prison, Neve Tirtza Prison and solitary confinement sections in Beersheba, alongside the obstruction of lawyers' visits. One monitoring report indicated that her continuous period of solitary confinement had reached 46 days. Her testimony describes her being dragged and having her head struck with handcuffs inside a room without surveillance cameras, resulting in swelling to her head. It also reports that she was restrained for two hours and held in an extremely hot room. [1]

Her testimony further refers to shoulder pain, scabies and inadequate food supplies, as well as a hearing concerning her solitary confinement that took place without an interpreter, during which she was unable to understand the allegations made against her or when her solitary confinement would end. These circumstances warrant the termination of any prohibited solitary confinement, an independent medical examination, and access to a lawyer and an interpreter, together with a written decision subject to challenge. Transfers between facilities do not interrupt the calculation of the period of solitary confinement if the deprivation of meaningful human contact continues. [1] [3] [6]

Jamal Abu al-Haija, Islam Jarrar and Rizq al-Rajoub

Testimonies indicate that Jamal Abu al-Haija (68) has remained in solitary confinement at Megiddo Prison since 30 October 2025, despite having undergone amputation of his left hand and suffering from iron deficiency, other health problems and scabies, in addition to a shortage of clothing.

The Commission documents the continued solitary confinement of Islam Jarrar (54) since 12 October 2025, amid his suffering from joint and knee pain, without receiving the necessary specialised medical care. Testimonies also indicate that the physical hardship he experiences when being transferred to attend court hearings has led him to request participation in those hearings remotely, given that his continued detention conditions exacerbate his health-related suffering. [1]

Rizq al-Rajoub (68), meanwhile, is being held in solitary confinement at Janot Prison and suffers from symptoms affecting his ears and face, requiring examination by a specialist, alongside shortages of clothing and poor food quality. The combined duration of solitary confinement and the prisoners' health conditions underscore the need for an urgent independent review. Under the Nelson Mandela Rules, the classification of confinement as solitary confinement requires verification of the number of hours spent in isolation each day and the nature of human contact, rather than relying solely on the designation of the section in which the prisoner is held. [1] [6]

Cancellation of Legal Visits

The Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs and the Palestinian Prisoner's Society confirmed the cancellation of lawyers' visits scheduled for 7 October. Legal teams were informed of the decision upon arriving at prison entrances, without being provided with any reasons. The timing of the cancellation, coinciding with testimonies concerning raids, further underscores the need for independent documentation, guarantees of confidential legal visits, medical examinations and the preservation of evidence. [1]

Seventh: Health, Food and Conditions of Detention

Cases Requiring Urgent and Specialised Medical Care

Prisoner	Health and Detention-Related Information
Basmala Saad, 20	Loss of approximately 17 kg during detention; stomach pain, scabies and boils; transferred to solitary confinement on 8 October
Sally Sadaqa, 17	Suffocation and temporary loss of consciousness following exposure to tear gas on 7 October; struck on the head the following day; chest pain, coughing and skin symptoms
Maha al-Rifai, 55	Cartilage and joint disorders, a spinal disc condition and scabies; difficulty sitting on the floor; testimony concerning beatings and injuries and failure to complete medical treatment
Ammar Anbas, 38	Loss of approximately 17 kg since the beginning of the war; knee and lower back pain; shortage of medication; access to the outdoor yard limited to no more than 20 minutes, according to his testimony
Adi Anbas, 35	A retained shrapnel fragment in the lungs and severe pain; need for imaging, examinations and medical follow-up that have not been provided, according to his testimony
Hael Deif Allah, 60	Teeth broken as a result of an assault reportedly committed following his arrest; scabies and denial of necessary medical treatment
Nazmi Abu Bakr, 55	Loss of approximately 25 kg during detention and health problems; reported in connection with news of a life sentence, a fine and compensation totalling NIS 4.5 million

Source: Testimonies and statements included in the October monitoring. Changes in body weight do not constitute standardised monthly measurements, and the available data alone do not establish a definitive causal diagnosis. [1]

Maha al-Rifai's testimony concerning strip-searches and being forced to crawl at the Moscobiya detention facility is presented as an account of previous incidents included in the follow-up on her condition, whereas the October assessment focuses on the continuation of the harm and her medical needs. Similarly, the testimony of Basmala Mamoun Hawashin concerning her being restrained, blindfolded and deprived of food and water upon her arrest in July is presented as background information and is not merged with the case of Basmala Saad merely because they share the same first name. [1]

Infection, Hygiene and Overcrowding

Testimonies repeatedly refer to scabies, boils and itching severe enough to cause skin bleeding and sleep disturbances, as well as shortages of clothing and cleaning supplies and restrictions on showering at Damon, Janot and Ofer prisons. Maha al-Rifai's testimony states that three female prisoners were forced to sleep on the floor. These conditions require simultaneous treatment for affected prisoners and those who have been in contact with them, the washing of clothing and bedding, the provision of clean replacements and measures to address overcrowding. Distributing ointments alone is insufficient if the underlying causes of infection persist. [1]

The Commission also monitored reports of allergy symptoms of unspecified origin at Janot Prison. Prisoners' observations that these symptoms coincided with certain meals provide grounds for requesting an independent medical and food-related examination; however, they are not presented as medical proof of the cause of the allergic reactions. Skin and food-related examinations should be made available, and the timing of symptoms and medical interventions should be systematically recorded. [1]

Food and Preparations for Winter

Testimonies describe insufficient quantities of food and poor food quality, the denial of breakfast or delays in providing meals during raids, and shortages of blankets, clothing and mattresses. The monitoring also reports Ben-Gvir's objection to an increase in the number of olives served in one of the meals. This incident should be considered in the context of the need to assess the meal as a whole and its nutritional adequacy, without treating the number of olives alone as a comprehensive measure of caloric intake or nutritional requirements. [1]

Persons with injuries and those suffering from chronic illnesses face additional risks as a result of cold, damp conditions and the unavailability of painkillers and medical treatment. The Commission calls for individual medical and nutritional assessments, treatment of pain and its underlying causes, the provision of clothing, blankets and dry bedding, and an end to making access to basic necessities conditional upon disciplinary measures or raid-related procedures. Weight loss also requires independent examinations and systematic documentation of successive measurements, rather than attributing it to a single cause without an appropriate assessment. [1]

Recurring Patterns of Violations inside Detention Facilities

The incidents and testimonies documented by the Commission during October reveal recurring patterns of serious violations in a number of Israeli prisons and detention facilities. These include physical assaults and the punitive use of force, prolonged solitary confinement, obstruction of legal visits, and denial of health care, adequate food and hygiene supplies.

The seriousness of these practices lies not only in each individual violation, but also in their cumulative impact and the interaction of their effects on the physical and psychological well-being of detainees. Furthermore, the recurrence of similar practices across different detention facilities raises serious concerns about the existence of institutional practices extending beyond individual conduct. This necessitates an investigation into the responsibility of prison administrations and supervisory authorities for issuing orders, implementing them or allowing violations to continue, and ensuring accountability for both acts and omissions to intervene and prevent them.

Eighth: Administrative Detention, Trials and Freedom of Expression

October saw the recording of 284 new and renewed administrative detention orders. The Commission monitored the renewal of the detention of minor Hanaa Haitham Hammad, aged 17, for an additional four months, despite spinal problems and numbness in her feet; the issuance of a four-month administrative detention order against activist and teacher Samar Hamad; and the transfer of Hassan al-Safadi to administrative detention following his re-arrest. These cases are presented as illustrative examples within the indicator and are not added to the total a second time. [1]

The Commission also followed the postponement of the trial of Doaa al-Battat, a mother of five children, until 29 November; the extension of the detention of journalist Islam Amarna and her husband, Osama Hammad; and the sentencing of Bushra Qawariq to 20 months' imprisonment and a fine of NIS 10,000. The inclusion of these decisions in the monitoring report does not mean that they constitute new arrests in October. Follow-up requires scrutiny of detention periods, the reasons for postponements, the effectiveness of the defence, proportionality and the right to trial within a reasonable time. [1]

Monitoring of the use of the charge of "incitement" reveals that prosecutions extend to social media posts, symbols and educational settings, including a report concerning the arrest of a school principal in al-Eizariya. The Commission stresses that the protection of freedom of expression requires precise identification of the prohibited conduct and demonstration of its legal basis, necessity and proportionality. The mere status of an individual as a journalist or teacher, or the political content of an expression, is insufficient to justify punishment or detention. [1] [3]

The monitoring also followed reports concerning efforts to impose the death penalty in the case of Qadri Samara. This is presented as a development reported in the human rights monitoring, without asserting that a final death sentence has been issued in the case. The Commission calls for an end to moves towards imposing the death penalty, guarantees of access to legal counsel, medical care, the right to challenge decisions and a fair trial, and a review of any measures that threaten the right to life or exceed legal safeguards. [1] [3]

Ninth: Releases, Deaths and the Rights of Families

Releases and the Effects of Detention

The Commission monitored three batches of releases of detainees from Gaza, comprising 5, 7 and 9 individuals, respectively, for a total of 21 persons. Those released arrived at Nasser Medical Complex. The monitoring also included documentation indicating that the International Committee of the Red Cross transported the batch of nine individuals through Kerem Shalom Crossing. The batch of seven included a 16-year-old child, a 67-year-old older person and Khalil Mohammad al-Masri, whose family had been without information about him for an extended period. [1]

The available batches do not constitute a confirmed comprehensive record of all releases during October and therefore cannot be compared statistically with the September total of 62 detainees. The Commission also monitored the release of physician Mazen al-Rantisi, aged 71, with reported signs of assault, according to the news report; the release of Badr Radwan after 26 months of administrative detention; and the release of journalist Hazem Nasser after more than two years of administrative detention. These cases are separate from the batches of releases from Gaza. [1] [2]

The Commission stresses that release does not bring an end to the obligations to provide medical treatment and rehabilitation, investigate violations and ensure reparation. Independent examinations should be provided, and injuries, body weight and mental health should be documented. Records must be preserved with the informed consent of survivors and subject to confidentiality safeguards, and survivors should be connected with legal and social assistance without making access to treatment conditional upon filing a complaint.

Death of Ahmad Zahir Hmeidat

Prisoners' institutions reported, citing the family of Ahmad Zahir Hmeidat, aged 28, that the family received news of his death on 18 October from another prisoner at Abu Kabir, where he had been held since his arrest on 30 September. According to the information conveyed by the family, he had been suffering from a serious health condition, had not been transferred for medical treatment and had been subjected to an assault before his death was announced. The family also stated that it received his body and that an autopsy was conducted without the family being provided with details of the report. These testimonies remain attributed to their source, and determining the cause of death requires access to the medical report and an independent investigation. [1]

The detaining authority must provide a complete chronological account of the detention, the deterioration of the detainee's health, requests for medical treatment, referrals and any use of force, and must preserve surveillance camera footage, duty rosters and transfer records. The family and its lawyer must be granted access to the relevant documents and enabled to participate in the investigation, while ensuring that those conducting it are independent of the authorities connected with the detention or alleged assault. [4] [6]

Bodies and Cumulative Indicators

The Commission followed the handover of the body of Marwan Fathi Herzallah, whose death at Megiddo Prison was announced on 28 March 2026. Following the handover, a figure of 99 bodies of prisoners that remain withheld was reported, including 88 individuals who died since the beginning of the war, according to the update issued by prisoners' institutions in connection with this incident. This update is not presented as an independently confirmed count of the total number of bodies still withheld at the end of the month. [1]

The cumulative number of identified martyrs of the Palestinian prisoners' movement increased from 329 in September to 330 in October. Similarly, the number of individuals whose identities have been announced since 7 October 2023 increased from 92 to 93. This increase reflects an update to the announced cumulative figures and does not necessarily mean that the death occurred during October itself. The broader estimate of deaths since that date, which exceeds 100 cases, is presented separately from the number of individuals whose identities have been announced. [1] [2]

Tenth: Legal Assessment

Protection of Life, Physical Integrity and Dignity

Articles 6, 7 and 10 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights protect the right to life, physical integrity and dignity in detention, while articles 9 and 14 guarantee safeguards relating to liberty, the right to challenge detention, the right of defence and the right to a fair trial. Testimonies concerning beatings, injuries and denial of medical care require immediate protective measures; the obligation to provide treatment and prevent harm does not depend on the prior establishment of criminal liability. [3]

Prohibition of Torture and the Duty to Investigate

Articles 12 and 13 of the Convention against Torture require a prompt and impartial investigation whenever there are reasonable grounds to believe that torture has occurred, and guarantee the right to lodge a complaint and the protection of complainants and witnesses against intimidation.

An investigation must examine orders, duty rosters, medical records, recordings and supervisory arrangements, rather than focusing solely on the identity of the direct perpetrator. Determining individual responsibility requires an examination of the evidence, the constituent elements of the offence and the jurisdiction of the competent authority. [4]

Occupation and Individual Responsibility

Article 78 of the Fourth Geneva Convention restricts exceptional security internment to cases of imperative security reasons, subject to a right of appeal and periodic review. Article 33 prohibits collective penalties and measures of intimidation, while articles 76 and 91 concern treatment and care within their respective applicable contexts.

Every detention decision or measure affecting a family must be examined on the basis of individual responsibility, and civilians must be protected from being held accountable for acts committed by others. [5]

Solitary Confinement, Use of Force and Accountability inside Prisons

Rule 43 of the Nelson Mandela Rules prohibits prolonged solitary confinement, corporal punishment, collective punishment and the reduction of food or water as a disciplinary sanction. Rule 44 defines solitary confinement as confinement for 22 hours or more per day without meaningful human contact, and prolonged solitary confinement as solitary confinement exceeding 15 consecutive days.

Rule 71 requires that any death, disappearance or serious injury be referred to an independent investigative authority and that evidence be preserved. Rule 82 regulates the use of force, limiting it to what is strictly necessary. [6]

The cases of prolonged solitary confinement documented in this report, particularly those of Bushra al-Taweel, Jamal Abu al-Haija and Islam Jarrar, raise serious concerns regarding violations of

international safeguards governing the treatment of detainees and the prohibition of prolonged solitary confinement. These practices become even more serious when accompanied by physical assault, denial of medical treatment or obstruction of communication with lawyers.

This necessitates an investigation into the circumstances and actual duration of solitary confinement and whether the definition set out in Rule 44 of the Nelson Mandela Rules applies, as well as accountability for those responsible for maintaining any prohibited solitary confinement, particularly where it exceeds 15 consecutive days without meaningful human contact.

Children, Privacy and Freedom of Expression

Article 37 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child establishes that the detention of a child must be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period, while guaranteeing legal assistance, the right to challenge detention and treatment appropriate to the child's age. Articles 17 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights also protect the rights to privacy and freedom of expression.

The filming of detainees, the manner in which female prisoners are searched, and the targeting of journalists and teachers warrant an independent examination of the purpose, necessity and safeguards of such measures, as well as measures to prevent humiliation. [3] [7]

Treaties constitute legally binding obligations for States parties within their respective scopes of application, whereas the Nelson Mandela Rules provide detailed United Nations standards for the treatment of prisoners. A general descriptive characterisation cannot replace a criminal investigation; nor may protective measures and medical treatment be delayed on the grounds that the outcome of such an investigation is pending.

Conclusions

1. Arrests increased by 20.0% within the common geographical scope, with Hebron accounting for the largest increase, at 285 additional cases. This points to a shift in the geographical distribution of arrests during the month, although the aggregated data are insufficient to establish its causes.
2. The re-arrest of released former prisoners increased by 141.2%, while arrests of older persons increased by 183.3%, according to the published figures for these categories. This underscores the need to prioritise scrutiny of the individual grounds for detention, healthcare needs and the impact on families.
3. The number of administrative orders decreased by 59.0%, while the overall indicator continued to show more than 3,101 administrative detainees. The numerical decline in orders does not, in itself, demonstrate that the arbitrary nature of detention has been addressed or that the appeal process is effective.
4. Testimonies repeatedly describe the use of force, humiliation, solitary confinement and obstruction of legal safeguards in multiple detention facilities. This calls for investigations addressing orders, implementation, supervision and oversight, while ensuring the protection of injured persons and witnesses.
5. Shortages of food, clothing, hygiene supplies and medical treatment intersect with injuries, illness and solitary confinement. Individual cases reveal urgent needs that cannot be adequately addressed by the distribution of painkillers or ointments without diagnosis and treatment of the underlying conditions.
6. The death of Ahmad Zahir Hmeidat, the continued withholding of information about the fate of detainees, and the retention of bodies underscore the priority of the right to know and the need for an independent investigation. The announced figures for identified cases do not constitute a comprehensive count of all deaths.
7. Comparisons must distinguish between stocks and flows, orders and individuals, and monitored batches and the overall release figures, in order to ensure that statistical analysis does not produce conclusions that exceed the available evidence.

Recommendations

To the Occupying Power and the Authorities Responsible for Detention

1. Cease torture, beatings, punitive use of force and humiliation; ensure immediate medical treatment for injured persons; and preserve CCTV footage, raid orders, duty rosters, weapons and ammunition records, and medical referral records.
2. Release persons held arbitrarily and ensure urgent individual reviews of administrative detention, including its grounds and duration. Guarantee effective challenges with the assistance of a lawyer and an interpreter, and end any use of detention to punish lawful expression or exert pressure on families.
3. End prohibited solitary confinement; document its duration, hours spent in confinement and opportunities for human contact; and provide for independent review and confidential legal visits without obstruction, giving priority to children, persons who are ill and persons with disabilities.
4. Provide specialised examinations and treatment for illnesses, injuries and pain, as well as adequate food, water, clothing, blankets, bedding and hygiene supplies. Implement a plan to treat scabies and those who have been in contact with infected persons, and improve sanitary conditions before the onset of harsher winter weather.
5. Enable the family of Ahmad Ahmad Zahir Hmeidat and his lawyer to obtain the autopsy report, records and information concerning his death; conduct a prompt, effective and independent investigation; disclose the whereabouts and fate of detainees; and return bodies with dignity, while protecting families and witnesses against reprisals.
6. Cease punitive measures targeting detainees' families; prohibit the photographing of detainees and the dissemination of their images in a degrading manner; and preserve recordings necessary for investigations while safeguarding privacy.

To the International Committee of the Red Cross

Demand regular access to all detention facilities and confidential interviews with detainees; monitor medical treatment, missing persons and family contact; prioritise persons who are ill, minors and women held in solitary confinement; and facilitate follow-up with released detainees, without reducing the role of oversight within detention facilities to that of transportation alone.

To the United Nations and Its Mechanisms

The Commission calls upon United Nations human rights mechanisms, particularly the Special Rapporteur on torture, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, to issue urgent communications concerning assaults, the use of force, solitary confinement, denial of medical care, and the death in custody of Palestinian prisoner Ahmad Zahir Hmeidat. The Commission further calls

for prompt, independent and effective investigations, independent access to detainees, preservation of evidence, and protection of victims and witnesses against reprisals.

The Commission further calls for the monitoring of protection measures in a tangible and verifiable manner, particularly by ensuring that detainees can communicate with lawyers and obtain medical care; reviewing solitary confinement decisions and their duration; and informing families of the condition and whereabouts of their relatives, while ensuring accountability for those responsible for violations and providing remedies and reparation to victims.

To States and Competent Judicial Authorities

Take diplomatic and legal measures to halt violations and ensure respect for international humanitarian law; support independent investigations and initiate investigations where jurisdiction and evidence permit; protect victims and witnesses; and review forms of cooperation that contribute to violations.

To Human Rights and Medical Organisations

Standardise indicator definitions and establish clear temporal cut-off points for monitoring; cross-check release reports against names and dates; document injuries, weight loss, infections and denial of medical care on the basis of informed consent; and ensure access to treatment, rehabilitation and legal assistance, while maintaining confidentiality and the chain of custody of evidence.

Conclusion

The October findings confirm that the increase in arrests and the expansion of the re-arrest of released former prisoners coincided with testimonies concerning assaults, solitary confinement, health-related harm and obstruction of legal communication. The decline in the number of administrative orders does not alter the obligation to examine the lawfulness of detention and protect all detainees from torture and denial of care. [1] [2]

The International Commission for Palestinian Prisoners' Solidarity (Tadamon) stresses that the required response must be measured by the cessation of assaults, access to lawyers and doctors, independent oversight, disclosure of the fate of detainees, and the provision of information to their families. Accountability must encompass investigations into acts and omissions, orders and supervision, and must be accompanied by remedies for victims, rehabilitation and reparation.

References and Sources of Information

[1] International Commission for Palestinian Prisoners' Solidarity (Tadamon), Human Rights and Statistical Monitoring for October 2026. This includes the information base and incidents monitored and documented by the Commission, drawing on materials, evidence and testimonies collected from direct sources, including communication with lawyers, released prisoners and the families of detainees, as well as data and information from relevant human rights organisations, including the Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs, the Palestinian Prisoner's Society and the Prisoners' Media Office. Supporting materials and information are retained in the Commission's monitoring records, subject to confidentiality and source-protection safeguards.

[2] International Commission for Palestinian Prisoners' Solidarity (Tadamon), Statistical Human Rights Report for September 2026, version prepared on 5 October 2026; reference for the monthly comparison, geographical scope, category figures, stock figures and releases.

[3] International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in particular Articles 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 17 and 19. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
https://2covenants.ohchr.org/About-ICCPR.html

[4] Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, in particular Articles 12 and 13. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-against-torture-and-other-cruel-inhuman-or-degrading

[5] Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, in particular Articles 33, 76, 78 and 91; International Committee of the Red Cross, International Humanitarian Law Databases.
https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gciv-1949

[6] United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), General Assembly resolution 70/175, in particular Rules 43, 44, 71 and 82.
https://mandates.un.org/mandate/A/RES/70/175?subject=Documentation

[7] Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular Article 37, and General Comment No. 24 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on children's rights in the child justice system.
https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child

Annex: Indicators and Rules for Comparison

Indicator	Basis for Interpretation
804 compared with 670	Geographically harmonised comparison; an increase of 134; 20.0%.
804 compared with September's total of 680	The figures have different scopes, as September includes 10 cases from Gaza; they should not be used to calculate the principal percentage change.
284 compared with 692	New and renewed administrative orders; a decrease of 408, or 59.0%; these figures are not equivalent to the number of newly detained individuals.
21 detainees released from Gaza	Total of three monitored batches: 5 + 7 + 9; no percentage change is calculated against September's comprehensive release figure.
More than 9,400 and more than 3,101	Lower-bound figures for the respective stocks; they should not be converted into definitive totals.
330 and 93 compared with 329 and 92	Two cumulative records of identified cases; they must not be added together, as the second is a time-bounded subset of the first.
Weight loss	The figures cover different cumulative periods; the entire recorded weight loss must not be attributed to October.
Family relationships, occupations, sex and age	Overlapping categories; they must not be added together to derive a new total.