

The First Stage of Arrest: The Beginning of Hell



Since 7 October 2023, Gaza has experienced acts that qualify as genocide by international legal definitions, alongside extensive military operations conducted by the Israeli occupation forces from both land and air, resulting in the detention of thousands of civilians, irrespective of their age or health status. During this period, the detainees endured some of the most appalling abuses that infringed upon their rights and human dignity, which all international treaties mandate must be upheld. These abuses represent systematic violations of fundamental rights protected by international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

The types and instances of severe violations faced by detainees during the initial arrest phase, often occurring within the Gaza Strip or during transport to Israeli detention facilities, were diverse. These violations included unlawful field interrogations, and forced stripping that affected a significant majority of detainees, including minors. Furthermore, the practice of using civilians as human shields was implemented, forcing them to enter tunnels or booby-trapped buildings, alongside the mistreatment that all detainees experienced during transportation.



In this section of the report, each of these offenses will be analyzed to depict the reality of the suffering endured by the residents of the Gaza Strip prior to their arrival at the detention facilities.

Despite Addameer's efforts to monitor and document the conditions of over 343 prisoners from the Gaza Strip held in Israeli prisons and interviews with 32 released detainees, these figures may not fully reflect reality, as many detainees continue to feel intimidated by their captors, fearing threats or retaliation. Consequently, numerous abuses and violations might go unreported, indicating that the actual number of detainees subjected to these offenses in Israeli prisons is likely much higher than what this report suggests.

Field Interrogations



Palestinians in the Gaza Strip were apprehended from various locations. They were taken from homes, schools designated as shelters, or areas labeled by the Israeli occupation army as "safe passages," which were intended for the displacement of Gazans from the north to the south. Despite the assurance of safety and protection provided by these passages, which are supposed to be demilitarized zones, civilians were singled out and arrested within these zones. Additionally, Israeli forces used certain residences throughout the Strip as temporary detention facilities for several hours to carry out field interrogations with the arrested individuals.

The "chalets" area in Hamad City became infamous as a location for such interrogations, with the occupation forces converting these "chalets" into detention sites where numerous Palestinians were held for initial questioning before being transferred to Israeli camps and prisons. The detainees were kept in empty swimming pools. One prisoner, M.S., recounted, "They took me to the chalet and held me there from morning until midnight. We were placed in an empty swimming pool. It was freezing outside. There were about 80 to 100 of us in the pool."¹

In the initial phase of the arrests, numerous detainees experienced various offenses, such as brutal field interrogations involving severe physical abuse that resulted in broken ribs, intimidation, confiscation of belongings, etc.

The detainees were interrogated either at the location of their arrest or at other places, such as destroyed houses or military installations. They were the victims of an unlawful field interrogation that lacked the legal guarantees that all interrogations must have. They were blindfolded and suffered injuries to their wrists from the tight shackles. "They bound me with plastic ties so firmly that the flesh was ripped from my hands and blood was streaming out. I continuously asked the

¹ Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. S. in Ofer Camp on 14 July 2024.

soldiers to loosen the ties, but they did not respond," explained prisoner M. S.² In a related situation, A.H., a child prisoner, reported that he was brutally struck to such an extent he lost consciousness. He was also kept in a cold refrigerator for a while. He was flogged with a wire on his back, and the soldiers ran a knife over his thigh until he felt blood dripping from his leg. A needle was also inserted into his arm.³

While field interrogation is recognized as a component of military activities under international law, it must adhere to the stringent regulations outlined in international humanitarian law and international human rights law. In the context of the crime of genocide, the field interrogation of detainees occurred extensively and indiscriminately, affecting men, the elderly, children, and women alike. Alongside it, they were severely beaten with military boots, sticks, electric sticks, and batons, starting from the head and finishing with the legs and testicles, until they lost consciousness. In addition to pouring coffee and tea on the detainees, cigarettes were occasionally extinguished on their bodies.

"They transported us in a tank to a house located within the Gaza Strip. During the interrogation process, they spilled coffee and tea on my head,"⁴ Prisoner A. H. recounted. Prisoner A. S. also described his experiences during the field interrogation, saying: "An interrogator entered the room and inquired about my connection to Hamas. When I told him that I had no ties to them, he shoved me, causing me to fall to the ground and lose consciousness. Afterward, they splashed water on my face to revive me." A. S. was subsequently coerced to lean against a wall in a squatting position for an hour, after which he was placed in direct sunlight for another three hours, during which soldiers engaged in playing football and struck him in the face with the ball.⁵ In a comparable scenario, prisoner Z. A. stated that soldiers held him near tanks in the sun for three days, and then "they moved me to a building and made me sit on the stairs. Anyone passing by would hit me."⁶

In a similar situation, prisoner M. A. was restrained, blindfolded, and taken to an unfamiliar location, where he endured being exposed to rain for two days without food or water, before being transferred to Sde Teiman Camp.⁷

According to Addameer's follow-ups, the majority of detainees who were visited and interviewed stated that they experienced field interrogation at the onset of their arrest, during which they faced various forms of physical abuse or psychological pressure. Despite the fact that field interrogations involving beatings, threats, or the use of detainees as human shields constitute a war crime under international humanitarian law, the occupying state has shown no regard and has continued its violations.

Field Interrogation –Prisoner M. W.

The detainee (M.W.) was arrested from his home along with several other citizens and was held in a neighbor's house for four days. During this period, which served as a field interrogation, he was subjected to various forms of abuse, including severe beatings during interrogation, which involved being struck with weapons as well as being beaten by soldiers with their hands and feet. He was also attacked by police dogs, one of which urinated on him. Additionally, a bottle containing urine was thrown at him by the soldiers.

Following this, he was detained in an area of the house that resembled a waste dump and was separated from his family members who were arrested with him. Later, they were transferred to the Sde Teiman military camp.⁸

² *Ibid.*

³ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. H. in Ofer Camp on 16 May 2024.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. S. in Ofer Camp on 29 August 2024.

⁶ Lawyer's visit to prisoner Z. A. in Ofer Camp on 9 July 2024.

⁷ Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. A. in Al-Mascobiya Detention Center on 1 July 2024.

⁸ Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. W. in Ofer Camp on 13 October 2024.

Forced Stripping



Sexual crimes are widespread in the context of armed conflicts and wars around the world, and these crimes have significantly increased after October 7, 2023. Although the primary aim is not to satisfy the perpetrators' sexual desires, these crimes are closely linked to power and control. This is due to several factors, including the absence of accountability, impunity, and the lack of strict orders from the higher levels of the occupying state explicitly prohibiting such practices. Additionally, breaking the morale of detainees is one of the main reasons that have driven the occupation forces to commit these crimes.

Legal precedents and legal analyses have expanded the definition of sexual crimes, no longer limiting it to rape but broadening the concept to include sexual harassment, which encompasses forced stripping. Moreover, forced public stripping also falls within the scope of sexual violence.⁹

The occupying forces engaged in various types of sexual crimes during the initial phase of mass detentions, during which detainees, including children, experienced a specific type of sexual harassment that involved being stripped of their clothing. They were compelled to remove their clothing, either fully or partially, for reasons including torture, punishment, humiliation, or intimidation. The residents of the Gaza Strip were forced into stripping at gunpoint.

Human rights organizations have observed and recorded occurrences of forced stripping of detainees in the Gaza Strip, frequently linked to other offenses such as torture or sexual violence.¹⁰ The overwhelming majority of detainees reported being compelled to remove either all their clothing except for their underwear or to strip entirely in front of fellow detainees, and they were often made to walk certain distances while unclothed. Through the monitoring and documentation conducted by Addameer involving around 343 detainees, approximately 95% of those interviewed confirmed they experienced either partial or full stripping.

Based on accounts and documentation provided by detainees and those who have been released to human rights groups and the media, it has become evident that forced stripping is not an isolated event carried out by the occupying forces on a few detainees; rather, it has evolved into a

9 International Review of the Red Cross. "Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict: A Violation of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law." 2014

https://international-review.icrc.org/sites/default/files/12825-sexual_violence_in_armed_conflicts-opt_05.pdf

10 Human Rights Watch. "Israel: Detainees Face Inhumane Treatment". 23 July 2024.

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/07/23/israel-detainees-face-inhumane-treatment>

systematic approach affecting the majority of individuals arrested from the Gaza Strip. Following the forced stripping and the accompanying abuses, the detainees were given white garments similar to those worn by COVID-19 patients, leaving them dressed only in underwear despite the harsh cold. The practice of forced stripping was not restricted to adult males; children and women were also compelled to undress for searches prior to their arrest.

The prisoners recounted to their lawyers the abuses they experienced after being forcibly undressed. Prisoner M. H. informed the lawyer, "I was left without any clothing, and they put me in white garments. I was entirely exposed, and they assaulted me using their hands and feet."¹¹ Prisoner Kh. A. stated, "I had all my clothing taken away, leaving only my underwear, and they applied an electric shock device to my genitals."¹² Prisoner A. A. reported, "I was without my clothing and I endured an entire night exposed."¹³

Prisoner M. H. stated that he was assaulted while he was entirely naked. "I was taking shelter in a UNRWA-managed school, which was the largest congregation of displaced individuals. When the Israeli forces encircled the school, they instructed us to relocate to Rafah. They stripped me of my garments, dressed me in white attire, bound my wrists behind my back with plastic restraints, blindfolded me, and transported me to an unfamiliar military location. There at a checkpoint, I underwent interrogation before being brought into a room where two soldiers assaulted me while I was entirely naked. They struck me using their hands and feet."¹⁴

The forced stripping that the detainees endured infringes upon their human dignity and basic rights, including their entitlement to safeguard their privacy and physical integrity, which are assured by international human rights law. Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights forbids torture as well as inhumane or degrading treatment. Beyond physical and moral abuses, sexual violence falls within the scope of genocide, which seeks to eliminate the Palestinian population in Gaza, either in part or entirely.

Human Shields

The practice of using human shields gained prominence during the Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip. While this practice is not unprecedented, being utilized by the occupying forces during arrest campaigns and military actions throughout the West Bank, its application has noticeably intensified in Gaza. The use of human shields constitutes a grievous violation of human rights, not only putting individuals' lives at immediate risk of fatality but also dehumanizing them, reducing them to mere tools placed in harm's way.

¹¹ Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. H. in Ofer Camp on 25 July 2024.

¹² Lawyer's visit to prisoner Kh. A. in Ofer Camp on 26 August 2024.

¹³ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. A. in Ofer Camp on 2 September 2024.

¹⁴ Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. H. in Ofer Camp on 25 July 2024.



International law defines human shields as 'the deliberate positioning of military personnel (soldiers or equipment) and civilians within the same area; aimed at deterring or preventing attacks specifically on those military objects.' This tactic was witnessed in the Gaza Strip, where the Israeli military utilized Palestinian civilians as human shields for their own protection. Various videos circulated, including some published by Al Jazeera, depicted a civilian from Gaza who had been bound with a rope, had a camera affixed to his body, and was forced to wear an Israeli military uniform while being used as a human shield. "After my capture, the [Israeli] army took me to a house, and an officer commanded me to carry a drone after he released me and to enter a nearby house to inspect it. When I informed them that no one was present, they directed me to ascend to the upper levels," recounted prisoner S. B.¹⁵

Al Jazeera aired images and footage showing Palestinian detainees being compelled by Israeli occupation forces to navigate tunnels while being bound with ropes and fitted with cameras on their bodies. Additionally, some were forced into wearing Israeli military uniforms and utilized as human shields.¹⁶ These actions took place in defiance of a ruling issued by the Israeli Supreme Court that prohibits such conduct.

On 5 May 2002, the Israeli High Court issued a ruling in response to a petition from a coalition of human rights organizations, declaring that the employment of Palestinian citizens during military operations is strictly forbidden.¹⁷ Despite the existence of a prohibition against the use of human shields in both Israeli domestic and international law, the occupying state regularly breaches this provision and fails to adhere to this ban. International law entirely forbids the use of human shields in armed conflicts, underpinning the necessity to distinguish between combatants and non-combatants. Disregarding this principle constitutes a violation of the overarching mandate to safeguard civilians, as outlined in the Geneva Conventions and their supplementary protocols.

Under the Statute of the International Criminal Court, "utilizing the presence of a civilian or other protected person to render certain points, areas or military forces immune from military operations" constitutes a war crime in international armed conflicts. The prohibition of using human shields in the Geneva Conventions, Additional Protocol I, and the Statute of the International Criminal Court

¹⁵ Lawyer's visit to prisoner S. B. in Ofer Camp on 3 September 2024.

¹⁶ Al Jazeera. "Al Jazeera exclusive photos of the Israeli forces using Palestinian prisoners as human shields." 30 June 2024. <https://rb.gy/9e73va>

¹⁷ B'Tselem. "The Israeli Supreme Court bans the use of civilians in military operations." 6 October 2005. https://www.btselem.org/arabic/human_shields/20051006_hcj_ruling

are couched in terms of using the presence (or movements) of civilians or other protected persons to render certain points or areas (or military forces) immune from military operations¹⁸.

Gazans as Human Shields



Israeli occupation forces entered the Shujaeya neighborhood in Gaza City in late June and began launching intensive fire belts in the area. (A. B.), who was in his shop when the fire belts started, hurried back to his house to seek safety. He and his family found themselves trapped in their residence for approximately a week. On a Wednesday morning, 7 February 2024, the family overheard a group of soldiers talking in Hebrew, prompting them to shout that they were civilians to prevent being shot or harmed. Meanwhile, the soldiers broke into the family's home and unleashed an unmuzzled dog, which attacked A. B.'s brother, who has Down syndrome.¹⁹ The dog continued to bite his hand for five minutes.

After that, the soldiers burst into the rooms and commanded the family to lie on the floor. They seized A. B., blindfolded him, and took him to a corner of the building. One of the soldiers addressed him in English and gave him an explosive device. Then, the soldier removed his blindfold and told him, "You have five minutes. If you don't come back, I'll blow it up." He instructed A. B. to go into one of the nearby houses and investigate. A. B. complied and quickly returned to his own house. The soldier took the explosive device from him and commanded him to walk ahead of the soldiers. They began to move on foot from one house to another within the neighborhood since all the houses were in ruins, and there were no public pathways for them to use. Meanwhile, A. B. was not bound, but the soldiers trailed behind him with their rifles aimed at him.

After they had walked approximately 50 meters, an officer identifying himself as 'Abu Bakr' from the Israeli intelligence service [Shabak] informed A. B. that he was being detained because he was in a zone where the Israeli army had previously instructed residents to evacuate. When A. B. responded that the military operation in Shujaeya was over, the officer said that A. B. would not face arrest if he agreed to enter and examine one of the buildings. The officer gave A. B. a quadcopter (suicide drone) and threatened, "Enter the building, or we will detonate it with you inside." When A. B. declined, the soldiers aimed their rifles at him, compelling him to take the drone and enter the house, only to discover that there was nobody inside; all of the home's occupants had been killed.

¹⁸ International Humanitarian Law Databases. Rule 97: The use of human shields is prohibited. <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule97>

¹⁹ Down syndrome is a genetic disorder caused by abnormal cell division, resulting in an extra copy of chromosome 21. This extra genetic material causes changes to the body's growth and physical features.

The soldiers subsequently brought A. B. to a house along with several other unbound detainees. The conditions began to worsen, as all detainees were subjected to severe beatings, denied food, water, and sleep, and even prohibited from using the bathroom. They were detained and interrogated within the house for three days. One detainee was utilized as a human shield. They were compelled to memorize a Hebrew song and repeat it continuously. After enduring three days of torment, A. B. was apprehended alongside everyone else in the house, and they were then moved to Sde Teiman Camp before being transferred to Ofer Camp. A. B. was released on 20 August 2024 at the Sofa crossing in Rafah.²⁰

Brutal Beatings During Transfer



"We, the men, were transported in a truck to the barracks. During the journey, we were all assaulted. We were hit with various weapons, sticks, and wires. Cold water was sprayed on us while the truck was open, and it was bitterly cold." –Prisoner (A. Sh.), Ofer Camp, 29 August 2024.

Since October 7, during arrest operations conducted by the Israeli occupation army in Gaza, Palestinian detainees have reported experiencing extreme forms of beating and torture during their transfer from Gaza to Israeli detention centers and prisons. Many residents were packed into trucks or military vehicles, with their hands bound and eyes covered, to be moved to Israeli prisons. Due to the excessive number of detainees in the same vehicle, they were compelled to lie flat on their stomachs because of limited space, which resulted in oxygen deprivation for some prisoners, causing them to suffer greatly for hours in this position.

It should be noted that some of the arrests occurred during the winter months. However, Palestinians were still undressed and held outdoors for one night or longer, in addition to being deprived of their possessions and transported in open trucks amid the harsh cold. While in these trucks, they faced severe beatings. The detainees reported that Israeli soldiers not only used their fists and feet to strike them but also employed tools to inflict torture during the transfer, such as metal rods and electric batons. The brutal beatings led to significant injuries among the detainees, including fractured ribs for many, as well as serious wounds that required stitching.

"During the transfer, we experienced severe beatings and were assaulted with sticks, along with being spat on," stated prisoner (M. A.) regarding the attacks he endured during the transfer²¹.

²⁰ Phone interview conducted by Addameer with released prisoner A. B. on 9 October 2024.

²¹ Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. A. in Ofer Camp on 28 July 2024.

Prisoner (M. W.) recounted, "I was struck in the head and sustained injuries."²² Prisoner (B. Sh.) verified that he was subjected to harsh beatings. "We were transported in buses. Throughout the journey, a soldier repeatedly struck my head and back and hit me with sticks until we arrived."²³ During visits by lawyers to prisoners from Gaza in various Israeli facilities, most of the prisoners reported experiencing brutal beatings during their transfers by Israeli forces.

Palestinian detainees were violently assaulted by Israeli soldiers during all phases of their arrest. Human rights organizations have documented the experiences of these prisoners from the initial moments of their arrest to their subsequent detention in Israeli facilities. The reports indicated that soldiers carried out excessively brutal beatings against the detainees, particularly during their transport, leading to many sustaining fractures. Detainee (H. B.) suffered from chest fractures, despite being diagnosed with glandular cancer. Detainee (I. K.) sustained fractures in both the shoulder and ribs, while detainee (Kh. A.) incurred multiple rib fractures and continues to endure pain as a result of those injuries.

Just like the various offenses perpetrated by Israeli forces that have gone unpunished throughout the years, the soldiers involved in these offenses during the transfers are confident that their actions will similarly escape accountability; not because they were committed out of sight from cameras and groups that record these offenses, but rather because, even when the soldiers' wrongdoings are documented, they face no consequences.

The primary factor contributing to the alarming rise in such crimes is the conviction among Israeli occupying forces that the judicial system lacks genuine intent to hold them accountable or to investigate their actions. Additionally, there is a significant influence from the Israeli political leadership that promotes and incites such criminal behavior. The Israeli occupation forces view severe physical assaults as a tactic for intimidating detainees and undermining their spirit. The practice of inflicting repeated and arbitrary beatings during transfer serves not only as a method of physical torture but also as a form of psychological torment, designed to instill fear in prisoners prior to their arrival at detention facilities. This extreme violence aims to dominate and diminish their resolve.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz has reported that two Palestinians from Gaza were detained in March, during which they were subjected to severe physical abuse while being transferred, ultimately leading to their deaths. Evidence gathered throughout the investigation revealed that both detainees suffered multiple injuries across various parts of their bodies, with one individual sustaining a significant head injury. The report indicates that several soldiers have been investigated "under warning"; however, no arrests have been made.²⁴

Sde Teiman Camp

The Camp's Strategic and Military Changes

Israeli detention camps serve as instruments of punishment and oppression, employed by the occupying state against thousands of Palestinian men and women over many years. Following the declaration of the "State of Israel" in 1948 on occupied Palestinian land, Israeli authorities established numerous detention centers to incarcerate thousands of Palestinians amid extensive displacement operations conducted in various Palestinian cities and towns. These operations significantly contributed to the uprooting of Palestinians and facilitated their exploitation as inexpensive labor through coercive work practices. Since the inception of these facilities, the most egregious forms of abuse and torture have been inflicted upon Palestinian detainees, continuing to the present day.

²² Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. W. in Ofer Camp on 29 August 2024.

²³ Lawyer's visit to prisoner B. Sh. in Ofer Camp on 12 September 2024.

²⁴ Haaretz. "Investigation into deaths of two Gaza detainees reveals soldiers beat them during transfer to Sde Teiman facility." 28 May 2024.

<https://www.haaretz.co.il/news/politics/2024-05-28/ty-article/.premium/0000018f-bbb6-dc1f-abef-fbf9de50000?gift=34d43ebaa4e44f0e9dd72af64eac25ca>



Between 1948 and 1950, approximately 8,300 Palestinians were held in Israeli detention camps specifically established for their confinement. The most notable of these facilities included Camp 101 in Jerusalem, Ijlil Camp no. 791 located in the displaced Palestinian village of Ijlil, Atlit Camp no. 792, and Sarafand Camp no. 793, which was also referred to as a "forced labor camp." In addition to these, numerous other detention centers were utilized by Israeli authorities to inflict torture and abuse upon detainees, justified by purported "security concerns" and "demographic considerations." These justifications were employed to facilitate the complete deportation and expulsion of detainees from all Palestinian territories following the conclusion of their detention periods in these camps.²⁵

Since that time, the concept of camps has been utilized as detention centers by the occupying state for the confinement of Palestinians. These detention facilities subsequently evolved into major prisons; however, the occupying state continued to employ camps for various military, security, and other functions.

On 7 October 2023, following the onset of the genocide in Gaza and the announcement of a state of emergency in the occupied Palestinian territory, the Israeli occupation authorities initiated the establishment of multiple detention facilities aimed at arresting and holding Palestinians. This was particularly directed at individuals apprehended within the 1948 occupied territory, including those who had legally entered the area as workers prior to October 7. Among the camps designated for the detention of Palestinians from Gaza are Sde Teiman Camp, Ofer Camp, Naftali Camp, and Anatot Camp.

The arrests extended beyond the initial group of workers to encompass a significant number of civilians apprehended within Gaza during the extensive military operations that commenced with the ground offensive and persisted throughout 2024.

Among the notable detention facilities is Sde Teiman Camp, commonly referred to as the "Yemen Field," situated to the east of Juhra al-Dik in the region between Gaza and Ber El Sabe'.²⁶ This camp was specifically designated for detainees from Gaza. In the early days following the Israeli government's declaration of war, a substantial number of detainees were relocated to this camp and thrown into military barracks. Consequently, the Israeli army undertook the task of refurbishing

²⁵ Remembering the Prisoners of War Camps.

<https://www.zochrot.org/writable/uploads/Remembering%20the%20Prisoners%20of%20War%20Camps.pdf>

²⁶ Center for Defense of Liberties and Civil Rights. "Fact Sheet on the Sde Teiman Camp: Israel's Guantanamo". 5 June 2024. <https://hurryyat.net/archives/19807>

three barracks, each capable of accommodating approximately 150 detainees, in order to maximize the number of individuals held. An official military police office was established on-site, and a considerable contingent of officers and soldiers was assigned to conduct investigations and interrogations of the detainees.

On 8 October 2023, Israeli "Defense" Minister Yoav Galant made a controversial decision to designate Sde Teiman Camp as a facility for the detention of Palestinians labeled as "unlawful combatants."²⁷ Since this declaration and until the early months of 2024, the Israeli government has maintained a strict silence regarding the camp and its detainees, refusing to provide any information about the number of detainees, their identities, or the conditions they face. Furthermore, local and international human rights organizations have been barred from accessing the camp, preventing any oversight of the situation. As a result, Sde Teiman has transformed into a military intelligence facility where hundreds of Palestinians are held, often subjected to extreme forms of torture and abuse, leading to numerous deaths during their detention and interrogation.²⁸

Life in Sde Teiman

The wave of arrests commenced within the Gaza Strip as the Israeli ground offensive unfolded, leading to the detention of a significant number of civilians, including women, children, and the elderly. Many of these individuals were taken from areas designated by the occupying state as "safe corridors," or from locations that typically hold international protection during conflicts, such as universities, schools, and hospitals. Additionally, numerous civilians were apprehended from their own homes following raids conducted by Israeli forces. All detainees were subsequently moved to undisclosed locations within Gaza or to Sde Teiman Camp, which remained largely unrecognized until its announcement on 22 February 2024.

After the widespread arrests, those detained were moved via buses or military vehicles to Israeli detention facilities, such as Sde Teiman Camp, marking the commencement of unlawful detention practices that the occupying forces had initiated from the onset of the genocide in Gaza. Initially, details about this camp were scarce, limited only to its location. For many months, the physical conditions of the detention center, the identities and numbers of the detainees, as well as their health, living situations, and legal rights, remained shrouded in secrecy due to the occupation authorities' refusal to provide any information regarding the camp or its detainees.

Months into the war, human rights organizations took action to investigate and record the brutal and inhumane conditions faced by detainees, as revealed by those who were released. These conditions resembled a relentless routine of torture. The detention facilities resembled cages, with expansive courtyards featuring cold slate floors. Detainees were shackled at their hands and feet, blindfolded continuously, and subjected to enforced postures, such as kneeling, which they were not permitted to alter. This cruel treatment could last for up to 16 hours a day.

Upon arriving at Sde Teiman Camp, the detainees were forced to change out of their white clothing, known as the Covid clothes, and into light grey attire. Following this, a few were subjected to an initial medical assessment conducted by a medical recruiter or doctor, who posed general health questions like, "Do you have any chronic illnesses? Are you on any regular medication?" Unfortunately, this examination was limited to these inquiries, with no actual medical treatment provided, even though many were arrested while injured or recovering from hospital stays. A significant number of detainees did not receive any initial medical evaluation at all. During visits from their lawyers, 28 detainees reported that they only received medical care after prolonged requests, which unfortunately led to a worsening of their health. It is important to highlight that some individuals who did receive an initial medical examination did not do so until several days after their arrival, violating legal requirements that mandate immediate medical assessments for detainees upon entry into the detention facility.

²⁷ For more information, see "New Laws and Legal Amendments in 2023". <https://shorturl.at/4ZcNB>

²⁸ The New York Times. "Inside the Base Where Israel has Detained Thousands of Gazans". 6 June 2024 <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/06/world/middleeast/israel-gaza-detention-base.html>

After the initial inspection, detainees are transferred to large enclosures that resemble cages or barracks with a bare slate floor. These cages lack essential living conditions, both in terms of space and the overall preparedness to accommodate detainees. The cages are stripped of any human necessities, offering only thin mattresses that measure one to two centimeters in thickness and flimsy blankets. Detainees have reported that these blankets are insufficient for warmth during the winter months, often dirty and infested with insects. They are confined from six in the morning until evening. One released detainee, (M. M.), recounted, "Each detainee was given a single blanket that was infested with small insects. When we tried to use it for warmth, it caused intense itching and rashes. With the barracks being open and the cold biting, we had no option but to wrap ourselves in it."²⁹

The harsh realities faced by detainees in Sde Teiman extended far beyond the extreme weather and cramped living conditions. The actions of the Israeli occupation army exacerbated the already dire circumstances of their detention. The unsanitary conditions of the facility, coupled with the denial of basic hygiene practices such as showering and changing clothes, significantly deteriorated the detainees' well-being. Many detainees endured the hardship of remaining in the same clothing for over 100 days.

One prisoner, (A. N.), recounted the ordeal, stating, "I went 90 days without changing my pants."³⁰ Similarly, prisoner (Y. Z.) echoed this sentiment, revealing, "I was not allowed to change my clothes for 80 days."³¹ The frequency of showers was alarmingly limited, with detainees allowed to wash only once a week or every two weeks, for just a few minutes at a time. "We managed to shower twice a week, but it was always under 5 minutes, and we were given only basic solid soap," shared prisoner (M. S.)³² Furthermore, prisoner (M. Sh.) noted, "Initially, we received individual towels and soap, but soon after, the administration began to distribute the same towel and soap among four prisoners."³³

The personal hygiene of the prisoners was just one aspect of the severe restrictions they faced. The camp environment was appallingly unsanitary, with no efforts made to maintain cleanliness. Deprived of the ability to shower or change their clothes, and forced to share a single towel among their group, the detainees were left vulnerable to the rapid spread of contagious skin diseases, including scabies, which devastated their health. Additionally, other ailments like fungal infections and boils proliferated, yet the detainees received no medical treatment for extended periods, allowing these conditions to flourish throughout the camp.

Since the occupation forces repurposed Sde Teiman into a detention center, the camp administration has implemented a deliberate starvation strategy against the detainees. This approach is a continuation of a broader, systematic policy that has been in place in Israeli central prisons since October 7. The administration has chosen to provide food in minimal amounts, barely sufficient to sustain life. Even these meager rations are often spoiled and unfit for consumption, with meals served only once or twice daily. The diet offered to detainees is alarmingly high in sugar content. One inmate, (A. S.), described the situation succinctly: "Every 24 hours, we receive a single piece of bread, accompanied by either a cucumber or a tomato."³⁴ Another prisoner, (A. A.), corroborated this by stating, "The meals consist of slices of bread, milk, chocolate spread, and a cucumber or tomato."³⁵ Disturbingly, the harsh conditions extend to the wounded and elderly, who are subjected to the same inadequate dietary standards as the rest of the detainees.

Various forms of torture were utilized in the camp, with both physical and psychological torment prevailing for extended periods. The Israeli forces employed tactics of humiliation, degradation, and vengeance to systematically break the spirits of the detainees. Soldiers inflicted severe beatings and imposed harsh punishments for the most trivial actions, such as adjusting a sitting position or

²⁹ Phone interview conducted by Addameer with released prisoner M. M. on 25 June 2024.

³⁰ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. N. in Ofer Camp on 4 July 2024.

³¹ Lawyer's visit to prisoner Y. Z. in Ofer Camp on 25 July 2024.

³² Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. S. in Ofer Camp on 10 June 2024.

³³ Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. Sh. in Ofer Camp on 8 July 2024.

³⁴ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. S. in Ofer Camp on 9 November 2024.

³⁵ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. A. in Ofer Camp on 6 August 2024.

shifting a blindfold. At times, a detainee would be randomly selected for brutal punishment, or an entire section would be collectively punished to instill fear among the detainees. Furthermore, a designated room was established for solitary confinement, isolating detainees from the rest.

One detainee recounted his experience, "While I was performing ablution, a female officer ordered everyone to get out. I complied and left the washing area, only to be instructed to sit by the door, as we were forbidden from entering the bathroom in their presence. For this, I was subjected to five days in solitary confinement in a cramped space behind the barracks, measuring merely 2m x 1.5m. It contained just a mattress and a few blankets, with no access to a bathroom, soap, or water for handwashing."³⁶

The accounts gathered from Gaza detainees during legal visits have unveiled alarming instances of torture. These include prolonged exposure to stress positions against the camp wall, attacks by dogs, the use of electric shock devices, sexual violence, and the disco room, among other brutal tactics. Psychological torment and humiliation were also prevalent, with detainees being compelled to insult themselves, sing in Hebrew, and pose for photographs with the Israeli flag. Some were made to lie face down on the ground with their hands bound while guards walked by. One detainee recounted a harrowing experience: "Once, when someone tried to speak to another detainee, they took him to the fence and forced him to keep his hands raised. He had to endure the extreme cold all night long."³⁷ Another shared, "We were beaten. They made us kneel and kicked us. A soldier would stand on our backs, and anyone who moved or spoke was hung on the fence for up to six hours."³⁸

The American newspaper "The New York Times" undertook a comprehensive three-month investigation within the Sde Teiman military base, shedding light on the horrific physical and sexual torture inflicted upon Palestinian detainees by Israeli military personnel. This in-depth inquiry involved interviews with former detainees, Israeli army officers, medical professionals, and soldiers who had firsthand experience of the brutal treatment that led to numerous deaths among the detainees as a result of being subjected to various brutal forms of violations and physical and sexual assaults. The findings revealed shocking details about the extreme violations and brutal assaults that occurred, including electrocution, the disco room, sexual violence, severe beatings, and the use of military dogs to instill fear and terror in the detainees.³⁹

An Israeli soldier, who chose to remain anonymous to protect himself from legal repercussions, shared with a New York Times reporter troubling accounts of his comrades' boasting about their actions while inflicting violence and mistreatment on detainees. "A detainee was taken to the military base's field hospital for treatment of a broken bone inflicted by a soldier's beating. Despite the detainee's severe condition, he was later moved out of view and sent back to detention, where he was found to be bleeding around his rib cage." The soldier further revealed that "another detainee tragically lost his life at Sde Teiman Camp due to chest injuries he had suffered."⁴⁰

The harsh realities and extreme suffering faced by Gazans in Sde Teiman Camp have led to the tragic loss of at least 54 Palestinian lives since October 7.⁴¹ Many of the identities of these martyrs remain undisclosed, as the Israeli army has yet to officially release this information. Instead, it has come to light through the efforts of organizations dedicated to locating missing persons, who are investigating whether the Israeli army has detained them. During these searches, human rights organizations have gathered information about numerous individuals, some of whom lost their lives in the camp.⁴²

³⁶ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. A. in Ofer Camp on 18 December 2024.

³⁷ Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. A. in Al-Mascobiya Detention Center on 1 July 2024.

³⁸ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. J. in Ofer Camp on 7 July 2024.

³⁹ The New York Times. "Inside the Base Where Israel has Detained Thousands of Gazans". 6 June 2024 <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/06/world/middleeast/israel-gaza-detention-base.html>

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴¹ This figure encompasses all individuals who lost their lives behind bars from 7 October 2023 through the conclusion of 2024.

⁴² See Appendix 1 for a comprehensive list of the martyrs' names and the dates of their martyrdom.

Blindfolded Eyes and Deadly Chains



The use of restraints and blindfolds stands out as a critical and notorious method of torture employed by the Israeli occupation forces during their genocidal war against Gaza. From the very onset of their detention, Palestinians are subjected to being shackled and blindfolded, creating a profound sense of sensory deprivation. While Israeli authorities often cite security concerns to rationalize these practices during arrests, the experiences reported from Sde Teiman Camp reveal a different reality. The use of handcuffs and blindfolds transcends mere security measures; they serve as instruments of torture and retribution against those detained. Detainees are confined day and night with metal cuffs connected by a short chain, severely restricting their ability to move their hands. Furthermore, their legs are also restrained, despite the camp being under heavy surveillance. Testimonies from numerous detainees indicate that they endured excruciating pain from these shackling methods at various points during their imprisonment.

The detainees have voiced their struggles with the prolonged and harsh measures imposed upon them. According to the extensive monitoring and documentation carried out by Addameer with numerous released detainees, many reported that the experience of being shackled was even more brutal than the severe beatings they endured regularly. The occupation forces not only stripped these individuals of their freedom and subjected them to harsh living conditions, but they also confined them in chains within their cells.

Moreover, the blindfolds are a constant presence, rarely removed. Some detainees have had their eyes covered for over 100 consecutive days. One prisoner, (A. J.), remarked, "We were blindfolded and shackled all the time in the camp."⁴³

Extended periods of blindfolding can significantly impact eye health, potentially resulting in various issues such as temporary vision disturbances, including blurriness, trouble focusing, and dryness. When the eyes are deprived of air and light for too long, the natural blinking rate decreases, leading to reduced hydration of the eyes. Blindfolding can also weaken the eyes' sensitivity to light, causing heightened sensitivity upon removal of the blindfold. This can make it challenging for the eyes to adjust to bright environments, and they may struggle to perceive colors and fine details effectively.⁴⁴

Depending on duration, blindfolding (sensory deprivation) can have both physical and psychological health effects. Studies have shown that victims of sensory deprivation can

⁴³ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. J. in Ofer Camp on 7 July 2024.

⁴⁴ American Academy of Ophthalmology. "Surprising Health Problems an Eye Exam Can Catch". <https://www.aaopt.org/eye-health>

experience auditory and visual hallucinations, perceptual distortions, and sensory imagery. Sensory deprivation is also found to cause fear, anxiety, panic attacks, elevated levels of stress, and disorientation of time and space. Hooding/Blindfolding can have negative effects on balance and coordination because of deprivation of vision. It can prevent observation of the detainee's physical condition and prevent the victim's anticipation of harm and defensive response to e.g., kicks and punches increasing the victim's likelihood of severe physical pain, injury, and disability.⁴⁵

The Palestinian detainees faced not only sensory deprivation but also a severe lack of sunlight. Their access to the outdoors was limited to a mere 15 minutes each day or every few days, and even then, they were restricted to a cramped corridor measuring no more than 20 meters. With so many detainees in such a confined area, their ability to move freely was severely hindered, leaving them trapped in this constricted environment.

Random Selection

"Random oppression. I experienced a brutal assault that left me with a broken little finger on my left hand. After that, I was restrained against the wall and ordered to spread my legs, only to endure further violence directed at my genitals."

–Prisoner M. H., Sde Teiman, 7 August 2024

"During my detention in Sde Teiman, I was unjustly beaten without any provocation. Before the repression unit showed up, we were ordered to lie on the ground, and then they would arbitrarily choose young men. On one occasion, I was singled out and subjected to a brutal beating. They unleashed a dog on me twice. The first attack left me with a deep bite in the chest, inflicting pain that lingers even now, with a bone still out of alignment. The second time, the dog relentlessly barked at me."

–Prisoner M. A., Ofer Camp, 11 July 2024

During their visits to Sde Teiman Camp, the lawyers frequently encountered the term "random selection" mentioned by the detainees. When they probed deeper into this practice, the detainees revealed that groups of soldiers would enter a designated area of the camp and arbitrarily choose one of the prisoners by pointing at them. The selected detainee would then either be forcibly removed from the area or remain but face a brutal assault from a group of soldiers. Through their documentation efforts, the lawyers discovered that this tactic was not an isolated incident affecting just a few individuals; rather, it was a systematic method employed to inflict violence on the prisoners.

Prisoner (Y. S.) detailed the assault he endured. "On 25 March 2024, I was randomly selected and taken from my section into the corridor. They placed me in a space resembling a lawyer's visiting area. The assault began with a barrage of kicks to my sides, totaling five or more, followed by approximately 20 slaps raining down on my face and head, all while I was still in my clothes. There were about five soldiers armed with 10 batons, and they unleashed their violence on my back, legs, and throughout my entire body. I endured more than 25 strikes from those sticks. Following the brutal attack, I was left unable to stand or sleep for the entire night. For the next 20 days, I was immobilized. After the beating, they dragged me along the ground, during which military dogs attacked me, standing on my back and occasionally urinating on me."⁴⁶

"Prisoners were selected at random. They would escort you to the fence, subjecting you to a humiliating strip search while striking your hands and compelling you to spread your legs as wide as possible. They would take you to the bathroom and force your head down onto the toilet seat. They would then bring in a dog to attack you while you stood against the wall. Although the dogs wore muzzles, they would still urinate on you. You were coerced into uttering curses against

⁴⁵ Danish Institute Against Torture. "Factsheet Collection: Health # 19 Sensory Deprivation." November 2022. <https://dignity.dk/app/uploads/sensory-deprivation-factsheet-arabic.pdf.pdf>

⁴⁶ Lawyer's visit to prisoner Y. S. in Ofer Camp on 24 July 2024.

yourself and your family. Failing to repeat these degrading phrases would result in severe beatings that left you unrecognizable," added (Y. S.).⁴⁷

The practice of brutal beatings is not a recent development among the Israeli occupation forces targeting Palestinians in detention. This strategy of arbitrary selection aims to instill fear and terror within the hearts of the detainees. It is evident that these assaults are not a response to any specific "violation" by the prisoners; instead, they represent a form of indiscriminate retribution. When one prisoner out of a group of 150 is violently attacked, it creates an atmosphere of dread among the others, leaving them in constant anxiety about who might be next.

The Disco Room: An Instrument of Psychological Torment

"After spending 12 days in the disco room with constant loud music, I experienced severe ear bleeding."

—Released prisoner (F. H.), telephone interview, 11 September 2024

Many people envision a disco room as a venue for fun and celebration. This perspective is far removed from the grim reality faced by those subjected to the disco room run by the occupying state. Here, it serves as a mechanism of torment, designed to wear down prisoners both physically and mentally before they face interrogation. Inside this room, guards blast deafening music day and night, creating an unbearable environment. Prisoners are confined on flimsy mattresses, and at times, they are left without any bedding at all. They have reported that the conditions are exacerbated by the extreme cold, making their suffering even more profound.

This form of psychological torment has been prevalent for many years, classified as a type of intangible torture. The U.S. government employed it on detainees during the Iraq War.

Prisoner (M. Sh.) described the layout of the disco room to his lawyer, stating, "The disco resembles the lawyer's visiting area, with walls enclosing it. Initially, the floor was gravel, but it was later replaced with wood. The room is enclosed on three sides, while the fourth side features a fence, with the door integrated into this fence."⁴⁸

A former detainee, (F. H.), recounted the conditions of the disco room to his lawyer, stating, "The disco room is 6 by 7 meters in size and features three large air conditioning units that leak dirty water. These units operate at cold settings during the night and switch to hot during the day. We were often forced to drink the water that dripped from the air conditioners. The room is also equipped with a loudspeaker that blasts music at an unbearable volume, which never ceases."

Prisoner (F. H.) elaborated on the harsh conditions he endured. "We were confined in metal shackles on our hands and feet, forced to sit without the slightest chance to stretch or lean against the wall. Any sign of relaxation would result in a beating. The music they played consisted of Hebrew rap songs, alongside a recording filled with insults directed at Hamas, Sinwar, and Palestine."⁴⁹

Prisoner (A. Z.) vividly recounted the harrowing conditions endured by detainees in the so-called disco room, a notorious site of torture. "I was confined in Sde Teiman for approximately 90 days. Throughout this time, I was shuffled between various sections, including one known as the disco, specifically used for interrogation purposes. The music blared incessantly for 24 hours a day. I spent two grueling days there, shackled by both hands and feet. Those who needed to use the toilet had to plead with the soldier for hours before being granted permission. The same humiliating process applied to accessing drinking water; after begging for hours, the soldier would allow me to

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ Lawyer's visit to prisoner Y. S. in Ofer Camp on 24 July 2024.

⁴⁹ Phone interview conducted by Addameer with released prisoner F. H. on 11 September 2024.

open my mouth just enough to pour a meager amount of water inside, while the rest drenched my face and chest."⁵⁰

Interrogation sessions conducted in the disco room are compounded by a range of severe conditions that heighten their challenge and intensity. Detainees are given food that lacks both nutrition and satisfaction, while they are also subjected to intentional sleep deprivation and the frigid temperatures that surround them.

Prisoner (N. A.) endured an exhausting 13 days of interrogation, restrained and blindfolded throughout the ordeal. In his account, he recounted the brutal conditions he faced. "The interrogation environment was incredibly severe. We were forced to sleep on wooden surfaces for the entire duration. The noise from loud music was incessant, and despite the absence of proper bedding, a fan was constantly blowing. The food provided was minimal and of poor quality. Mornings consisted of a meager loaf of bread accompanied by a cucumber or half of one, with the same meager portion served again in the afternoon. After this torment, I was taken to the barracks, only to be brought back for another four days of interrogation a month later. The treatment I received during this time was harsh, with relentless beatings that resulted in a shoulder injury I still suffer from today."⁵¹

Prisoners endured horrifying torture, with some having their fingernails forcibly removed. One prisoner, (H. A.), recounted his harrowing experience, stating, "I was interrogated for six days, during which they not only pulled out my fingernails but also struck my genitals with sticks. The brutality was unimaginable; they dehumanized us completely. My face was bloodied multiple times from the relentless beatings, and I feared I had fractured my ribs. There was no medical care provided."⁵²

Furthermore, detainees faced intense psychological torment, including verbal abuse directed at them and their families. In the case of prisoner (A. A.), an officer went so far as to insult his wife. When (A. A.) dared to respond, the officer retaliated by striking him on the right cheek, resulting in a broken molar. The abuse escalated when the officer inserted a metal rod into (A. A.)'s right ear, causing him to lose all hearing in that ear.⁵³

In 2024, lawyers visiting prisoners in Israeli facilities uncovered alarming practices, revealing that many detainees were interrogated in a designated disco room. A staggering 40% of those taken for interrogation reported being subjected to blaring music during their confinement, with some enduring this torment for as long as 11 consecutive days.

Violations against prisoners extend beyond the confines of this room; they also take place during their transfers to and from it. Prisoners are often made to walk barefoot over rough, uneven surfaces, where soldiers deliberately stomp on their feet with heavy boots. In addition to that, a systematic policy of starvation is enforced, with some detainees reporting that they were denied food for the duration of their confinement. Disturbingly, soldiers coerced detainees into signing documents in Hebrew post-interrogation, threatening severe physical punishment for those who refused.

The impact of loud or distressing sounds on the brain is well-documented, revealing their capacity to exacerbate negative psychological effects. This method aligns closely with other forms of torture, such as sleep deprivation. Such sounds can drown out the prisoners' inner thoughts, occasionally resulting in hallucinations. Research indicates that this "sensory overload," achieved by blasting loud music for extended periods, is a tactic used to break the prisoners' resolve. In some instances, bizarre musical tones or songs in an unfamiliar language are utilized, creating a profound sense of discomfort that equates to psychological torment. Additionally, music can be weaponized against

⁵⁰ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. Z. in Ofer Camp on 6 August 2024.

⁵¹ Lawyer's visit to prisoner N. A. in Ofer Camp on 10 July 2024.

⁵² Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. H. in Naqab Prison on 8 December 2024.

⁵³ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. A. in Naqab Prison on 8 December 2024.

prisoners by playing tracks that are deeply offensive to their beliefs. In these scenarios, the distress caused by the sound transcends mere annoyance, as it directly attacks the core of their convictions.

The practice of employing loud music as an interrogation tactic has been a longstanding method utilized by Israeli occupation forces against Palestinian detainees in interrogation facilities. This approach serves as a form of psychological and physical torture, designed to impair the detainee's cognitive functions and wear them down both mentally and physically before questioning. Such conditions facilitate the extraction of confessions, often leading to false admissions of guilt. Despite a ruling from the Israeli Supreme Court deeming the use of loud music during interrogations illegal and categorizing it as inhumane treatment⁵⁴, the occupying state continues to implement these torturous methods. Many prisoners at Sde Teiman have reported being confined in a disco-like environment for extended periods, sometimes lasting days, before facing interrogation.

At the international level, the case of Ireland v. the United Kingdom highlighted the disturbing use of loud music as an interrogation tactic against Irish detainees. This method was employed to inflict mental exhaustion and psychological strain, significantly heightening the detainees' stress and anxiety levels. The relentless auditory assault led to a state of mental disarray, making individuals more susceptible to compliance or confession. In response, the European Court of Human Rights determined that such use of music amounts to psychological torture, inflicting severe harm on detainees and violating their human dignity, thereby categorizing it as inhuman and degrading treatment.⁵⁵

Various Forms of Sexual Violence

Sexual crimes represent one of the gravest violations of human rights throughout history. Within Israeli prisons, these offenses are alarmingly prevalent, largely due to insufficient oversight in these facilities. This lack of accountability makes it exceedingly challenging to expose such crimes and bring the perpetrators to justice.

All Palestinians held in Israeli prisons, including women and children, face significant risks of sexual abuse, encompassing harassment, rape, and exploitation. These violations are not a recent phenomenon; prisoners have endured such atrocities for many years. The consequences of these crimes are often devastating, leading to long-lasting psychological and physical trauma for the victims.

In 2024, Addameer made significant strides in monitoring and documenting numerous sexual offenses against prisoners. Reports from male detainees at Sde Teiman Camp revealed a disturbing pattern of sexual abuse, including inappropriate touching of the genitals, insertion of wooden/plastic/metal sticks in the anus, applying a magnetometer inappropriately on the genitals, or attempting to insert it into sensitive areas, stripping, and degrading strip searches before entering the camp or interrogation areas. Certain detainees reported that dogs were allowed to approach them while they were unclothed, engaging in behaviors such as nibbling or licking their genitals, alongside making various sexual innuendos.

Prisoner (A. S.) recounted to his lawyer the disturbing violations he endured. "Each time I was taken for questioning, I was strip-searched. A soldier would wave a magnetometer over my body, focusing on sensitive areas, and then force me to open my mouth to insert the device inside."⁵⁶

Prisoner (Kh. F.) detailed the sexual assault he experienced in Sde Teiman. "I was taken to a disco room by four soldiers. They began scanning my body with a metal detector, including my most private areas, and attempted to insert it into my rectum. When I resisted, they pressed the device against me, striking my genitals with it."⁵⁷

⁵⁴ Public Committee Against Torture V. Israel. <https://tinyurl.com/ksknwysz>

⁵⁵ European Court of Human Rights. "Case of Ireland V. The United Kingdom". 18 January 1978 <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#%7B%22itemid%22:%5B%22001-57506%22%7D>

⁵⁶ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. S. in Ofer Camp on 9 July 2024.

⁵⁷ Lawyer's visit to prisoner Kh. F. in Ofer Camp on 22 July 2024.

Soldiers were devising methods to inflict sexual torture on the captives. Prisoner (A. K.) recounted to his lawyer, "There was a moment when I endured a brutal beating from the soldiers, causing me to lose consciousness due to the intensity of the assault. Believing I was pretending, one soldier applied extreme pressure to my genitals. Subsequently, six soldiers lifted me, placed me on a metal panel, and inserted a stick into my rectum, though it was over my clothing. The pain I experienced was excruciating."⁵⁸

Prisoner (Y. H.), 39 years old, recounted the horrific torture he endured during his interrogation at the military base. "A female military officer commanded two soldiers to lift me and force my body against a metal rod anchored to the ground." He added that this rod penetrated him for approximately five seconds, resulting in severe bleeding and excruciating pain. Another detainee, aged 41, shared his ordeal, stating, "The interrogators made me sit on what felt like a scorching metal rod, and I could feel the intense heat."⁵⁹

Prisoner (A. H.) revealed, "We were all blindfolded. They dragged me and four others to the shower area, stripped me of my pants, and mercilessly beat me with sticks. One soldier attempted to insert a rod into my anus, and I screamed in terror. Although he didn't complete the act, he managed to insert it slightly. The others endured similar treatment. The soldiers applied immense pressure to our testicles, taunting us with threats of returning us to Gaza castrated."⁶⁰

The sexual crimes inflicted upon the prisoners were not isolated incidents; many endured these horrific acts multiple times throughout their detention. One prisoner, (A. Z.), recounted, "They inserted a stick into my anus repeatedly while I was held in Sde Teiman. I started to urinate blood due to these assaults, yet they denied me any medical treatment, only offering a painkiller."⁶¹

Similarly, prisoner (R. A.) experienced these violations on more than one occasion. He revealed that soldiers forced a stick into his anus twice during his time at Sde Teiman Camp, leading to severe health issues, including an anal fissure that rendered him unable to use the toilet without medication.⁶²

Crimes against Prisoner (S. A.) in Sde Teiman

The situation surrounding prisoner (S. A.) highlights the disturbing reality of sexual abuse inflicted upon detainees, revealing the deliberate intent of the occupying forces to inflict pain, humiliation, and degradation. On 3 March 2024, at approximately 10 a.m., (S. A.) was apprehended in Hamad City while using a designated safe passage. Soldiers forcibly removed his clothing, leaving him in only his boxer shorts, and provided him with white garments associated with COVID-19. His hands were restrained with plastic ties, and he was blindfolded.

Following this, (S. A.) and other detainees were transported in a truck to Sde Teiman Camp. During the transfer, they endured brutal beatings targeting their backs, necks, and joints, suffering assaults from both sticks and fists. Upon arrival at the camp hours later, the detainees were compelled to change into light grey sportswear before being assigned to different sections of the facility.

(S. A.) was detained in Sde Teiman for approximately 18 days before being moved to another facility near Jerusalem, possibly Anatot Camp. During the transfer from Sde Teiman, the detainees endured brutal beatings, with the violence peaking on the return journey. The soldiers intensified their assaults on the detainees and recorded the abuse. (S. A.) recounted, "One soldier was choking me while filming, striking me with a shoe, and hurling vile insults. They inflated medical gloves and forced us to lick the inflated finger as a degrading sexual act." He added, "They constantly demanded that we say words in Hebrew that I didn't understand. This torment lasted

⁵⁸ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. K. in Ofer Camp on 6 August 2024.

⁵⁹ The New York Times. "Inside the Base where Israel has detained thousands of Gazans". 6 June 2024. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/06/world/middleeast/israel-gaza-detention-base.html>

⁶⁰ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. H. in Ofer Camp on 9 January 2024.

⁶¹ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. Z. in Ofer Camp on 6 August 2024.

⁶² Lawyer's visit to prisoner R. A. in Ofer Camp on 31 July 2024.

about 10 minutes for each prisoner, with one soldier moving among us, striking our necks with his rifle."⁶³



The abuses endured by prisoner (S. A.) extended far beyond mere physical violence and inappropriate gestures; they escalated to horrific sexual assault perpetrated by a group of soldiers within Sde Teiman Camp. In a harrowing account shared with his lawyer, (S. A.) recounted, "One evening, around 6 p.m., after prayers and just before bedtime, soldiers stormed into our section, detonated a stun grenade, and began a search. Upon noticing the code on my plastic bracelet, they blindfolded me and bound my hands and feet, dragging me to the back of the cage. I estimated there were between 7 and 10 soldiers present. They conducted a strip search, forcibly removing my clothing, and began to punch and kick me. They struck me with electric batons on my chest and the back of my head, crushing my skull from behind as if my hair had been shaved. They also hit my face repeatedly. This brutal beating lasted anywhere from half an hour to an hour, though I cannot be certain of the exact duration.

They shocked me with electric batons, placing two on my neck and head, and I felt the electricity coursing through my body. Once the assault concluded, I lay on the ground, utterly exhausted and struggling to breathe, informing the soldiers of my pain. While I was on my stomach, surrounded by soldiers, they continued to administer electric shocks. Then, I felt a soldier inserting a stick from behind as they stripped me of my pants. In that moment, all the soldiers were assaulting me, and I braced myself for the possibility of them shocking my genitals, but instead, they inserted a stick. During the beating, they removed my blindfold, and when I turned to look, I saw a soldier inserting a stick into my anus. The pain was so intense that I nearly lost consciousness.

The soldier took out the stick, attempting to force it into my mouth, but I resolutely kept my lips sealed. I recall the stick being black, crafted from a material that felt like a blend of metal and bone, roughly the length of an arm. They compelled me to lick it in a degrading manner for about a minute. Each breath I took sent sharp pain through my ribs, which felt as if they were fractured. Once the ordeal concluded, they pulled up my pants and laid me back on the mattress. The soldiers sternly warned me against seeking medical assistance, threatening to return and 'mutilate my genitals.' Throughout the assault, they claimed their actions were sanctioned by higher authorities. This horrific event unfolded near the wire netting of the cage.

When the 'captain' passed by, he yelled at the *shawish*, pointing out that blood was seeping from my buttocks. I suspected the blood was also coming from my stomach, as I could hear unsettling sounds emanating from that area, but I couldn't confirm the source of the bleeding. After the

⁶³ Lawyer's visit to prisoner S. A. in Sde Teiman Camp on 25 August 2024.

captain's observation, a female doctor arrived, and the soldiers escorted me to the cage entrance. Following her examination, they returned me to the bed. Shortly after, a small vehicle arrived to transport me to a room that resembled a visiting area, enclosed by a green sheet and surrounded by a courtyard. In this space, a doctor in civilian attire assessed my condition once more, and I remained on the bed for about half an hour before being taken to the hospital by ambulance.

Initially, I was taken to Assuta Civil Hospital. Upon my arrival, I was immediately escorted to the operating room, where the only inquiry made was, "Do you have diabetes?" There was no explanation provided regarding the surgery itself. When I regained consciousness, I was astonished to discover that an operation had been performed on me. Even after waking, there was no clarification about my health status. I spent four days at Assuta Hospital, restrained and blindfolded, sharing a room with several soldiers who abused me. When I requested water, they responded with insults, and I was forced to wear diapers during my hospital stay."⁶⁴

After several days at Assuta Hospital, (S. A.) was moved to a field hospital set up by the occupying state in Sde Teiman to continue his treatment. He remained in the field hospital for over 60 days, enduring severe detention conditions with his hands and feet shackled the entire time. It was not until the 60th day that he was permitted to walk, as he was taken outside once daily to a cage adjacent to the field hospital for a brief stroll. (S. A.) desperately needed a nutritious diet rich in proteins and vitamins for a swift recovery, yet the camp administration provided him with only two pieces of bread, a slice of cheese, and a tomato for breakfast, along with a similar lunch of bread, cheese, and either an apple, cucumber, or tomato. This meager fare constituted his diet throughout his stay, with only a few rare occasions when he received tuna, jam, or potatoes.

The appalling conditions faced by prisoners in Sde Teiman, particularly those who are ill, have severely hindered any chance of recovery for (S. A.) On 19 October 2024, he was once again transferred to a hospital, reportedly Barzilai Civil Hospital. There, he consulted with a doctor and spent the initial two days undergoing various tests and examinations. On October 21, he underwent surgery. Following the procedure, he remained hospitalized for several days before being sent back to Sde Teiman, this time to the detention sections rather than the field hospital. (S. A.) recounted a distressing incident in late October when soldiers raided the sections, forcing prisoners to lie on the ground. This resulted in bleeding from his surgical wound and exacerbated his condition.⁶⁵

Although (S. A.) eventually received treatment, the ongoing violations he endures continue to obstruct any potential improvement in his health. This situation highlights the broader issue of inhumane treatment that all prisoners, especially those with health issues, face in Israeli detention facilities.

Accountability for Sexual Crimes

Recent reports have surfaced revealing disturbing footage and images of sexual crimes against Palestinian prisoners. Israeli Channel 12 aired a video showing Israeli soldiers assaulting a Palestinian detainee at Sde Teiman Camp. The report indicated that the prisoner endured both torture and sexual abuse at the hands of several soldiers, who attempted to conceal their identities, aware of the surveillance cameras in the area.

In response to this incident, nine soldiers have been apprehended, and their detention has been prolonged for further investigation. On 28 July 2024, Israeli military investigators arrived at the camp to question the detained soldiers; however, they chose not to cooperate with the military police. Prominent political figures within the occupying state have publicly supported these soldiers, including National "Security" Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who described the military police's actions as "shameful." Additionally, members of the Knesset from the Religious Zionism Party visited the camp to show their backing for the arrested soldiers, with Minister of Heritage Amichai Eliyahu joining in, reportedly chanting "Death to the terrorists."⁶⁶

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

⁶⁵ Lawyer's visit to prisoner S. A. in Sde Teiman Camp on 10 November 2024.

⁶⁶ Al Jazeera. "Sde Teiman Prison: Israel's Guantanamo in the Negev Desert." 29 July 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/5cnejv7r>

Nine soldiers were arrested, yet the Israeli military spokesperson later revealed that they would be placed under house arrest just two weeks after the military police initiated their investigation. Despite the military prosecution's request for an extension of their detention, the investigation proceeded without any formal charges,⁶⁷ even though the camp's surveillance cameras captured the crime. This situation starkly illustrates the complicity of the Israeli judicial system with the military, highlighting a troubling lack of genuine intent to curb or penalize such offenses, as well as a failure to hold the perpetrators accountable for their actions.

Moreover, the judicial system is not the sole entity aiding the Israeli army in evading consequences. Right-wing activists recently stormed the court in the Beit Lid area, clashing with police in protest against the soldiers' arrest and trial. This incident is not isolated; it underscores a broader pattern where soldiers frequently escape accountability for their actions. The experiences of human rights organizations and legal advocates reveal the futility of complaints lodged by Palestinian prisoners against soldiers. Alarming, less than 1% of reported crimes result in investigations, and the conviction rate for those charges is nearly nonexistent.

Sexual Crimes in International Law

International humanitarian law and human rights law categorically prohibit all forms of sexual violence in conflict scenarios, whether they are international or non-international in nature. Furthermore, international criminal law holds individuals accountable for committing sexual crimes. Despite these clear legal prohibitions and the classification of such acts as crimes against humanity and genocide, the Israeli occupation has persistently engaged in acts of sexual violence and rape against Palestinian prisoners.

Given the ongoing genocide in the Gaza Strip and the prolonged isolation imposed on detainees and civilians, these circumstances have created an environment where the occupation forces can perpetrate sexual crimes with impunity. International reports have documented instances of rape involving two female detainees from Gaza, alongside numerous threats of rape and other sexual offenses faced by women during the war on Gaza.⁶⁸

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court clearly prohibits acts of rape, sexual slavery, and any form of sexual violence that are classified as serious breaches of the Four Geneva Conventions and serious violations of Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions. These acts are recognized as war crimes in both international and non-international armed conflicts, as outlined in Article 8(2)(b)(22) and Article 8(2)(e)(6).⁶⁹ Additionally, the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions, in Article 76, explicitly forbids the assault of women through rape and any indecent acts against them.⁷⁰ Article 27 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War safeguards the dignity of women, prohibiting violations of their sanctity and assaults on their honor, including rape and coercion.⁷¹ Furthermore, Rule 93 of the International Humanitarian Law Database reinforces the prohibition of rape and all forms of sexual violence.⁷²

The Rome Statute also delves deeper into the issue of sexual violence by outlining its key components and providing a clear legal definition. Article 7(1)(g)(6) articulates the concept of sexual violence, stating that it occurs when "The perpetrator committed an act of a sexual nature against one or more persons or caused such person or persons to engage in an act of a sexual nature by force, or by threat of force or coercion, such as that caused by fear of violence, duress, detention,

⁶⁷ Al Jazeera. "Israel releases soldiers who assaulted Palestinian prisoner to house arrest." 13 August 2024.

<https://tinyurl.com/3f9t9amb>

⁶⁸ UN News. "Rights Expert Calls for Probe into Alleged Violations Against Palestinian Women and Girls". 19 February 2024. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/02/1146667>

⁶⁹ International Committee of the Red Cross. Geneva Conventions and their commentaries <https://www.icrc.org/en/law-and-policy/geneva-conventions-and-their-commentaries>

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. 12 August 1949.

https://www.lab.pna.ps/public/files/server/inter_agrees/21.pdf

⁷² International Committee of the Red Cross. Rule 93: Rape and Other Forms of Sexual Violence. https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule93#Fn_6F45536_00001

psychological oppression or abuse of power, against such person or persons or another person, or by taking advantage of a coercive environment or such person or persons incapacity to give genuine consent. Importantly, this conduct must occur as part of a widespread or systematic attack against a civilian population, with the perpetrator intending for their actions to align with this definition."⁷³

The International Criminal Court's decision regarding the sexual crimes committed during the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo between an opposing party and the Patriotic Forces for the Liberation of Congo is a significant milestone in the pursuit of justice. The court brought multiple charges against Bosco Ntaganda, who served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Commander of the Patriotic Forces for the Liberation of Congo. These charges included sexual crimes such as rape, sexual slavery, and sexual torture, as well as the exploitation of children. Ntaganda was found guilty of these acts, which were classified as war crimes and crimes against humanity. The ICC's ruling was supported by a wealth of evidence and testimonies that demonstrated Ntaganda's direct orders to his troops to carry out systematic rapes against both women and men, targeting civilians in conflict zones. The court deemed these offenses among the most egregious committed during the 2002-2003 conflict, resulting in a 30-year prison sentence for Ntaganda.⁷⁴

Electric Shocks

Electric shock devices have become notorious as instruments of torture worldwide. In 1888, American inventor Thomas Edison unveiled the first electric chair to the New York State Commission. Since that time, the global community has become aware of a new form of torture, one that utilizes electricity.

The principle behind electrical torture involves delivering a high-voltage charge with low current to the victim's body. Over the years, various tools and devices have been engineered to administer electrical torture while avoiding fatal outcomes, including specialized sticks and other implements designed for this grim purpose.

Electrical current passing through the body generates heat, which burns and destroys tissues. Burns can affect internal tissues as well as the skin. An electrical shock can short-circuit the body's own electrical systems, causing nerves to stop transmitting impulses or to transmit impulses erratically. Abnormal impulse transmission can cause muscle pain and may trigger mild muscle contractions or startle people, causing a fall. Severe shocks can cause abnormal heart rhythms, ranging from inconsequential to immediately fatal. Severe electrical shocks can trigger powerful muscle contractions sufficient to throw people to the ground or cause joint dislocations, fractures, and other blunt injuries. Electric shocks can lead to cardiac arrest and brain seizures.⁷⁵

Since the start of the year, human rights organizations have intensified their monitoring efforts of the violations against the Palestinian prisoners. Reports have emerged highlighting the alarming use of electric shocks on detainees. Numerous prisoners have come forward, detailing their experiences of this abuse, which often occurred during their transfer to Sde Teiman Camp or while they were held there.

Prisoner (A. S.), who was arrested at the Netzarim checkpoint at the onset of Ramadan, recounted, "While being moved to the barracks, there were about five of us detainees. We endured severe beatings with sticks, in addition to being subjected to electric shocks from a taser during the transfer."⁷⁶ Similarly, prisoner (Y. Z.) corroborated these accounts, stating, "During our transfers between barracks, we frequently faced electric shocks from tasers."⁷⁷ Furthermore, prisoner (Y. H.) shared a harrowing experience: "I was made to sit on an electric chair and was shocked multiple

⁷³ Human Rights Library. "International Criminal Court: Elements of Crime". <http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/arab/iccelements.html>

⁷⁴ United Nations. "ICC Convicts Bosco Ntaganda for War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo." 8 July 2019. <https://news.un.org/ar/story/2019/07/1036431>

⁷⁵ MSD. "Electrical Injuries." <https://tinyurl.com/2c8pnr7a>

⁷⁶ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. S. in Ofer Camp on 9 July 2024.

⁷⁷ Lawyer's visit to prisoner Y. Z. in Ofer Camp on 25 July 2024.

times, which caused me to stop urinating for several days. As a result, I had no choice but to wear diapers to avoid 'soiling the ground'."⁷⁸

The testimonies from prisoners reveal alarming practices by the occupation forces, who have employed various forms of electric torture that are explicitly prohibited by numerous international bodies, including the European Court of Human Rights and the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture. These organizations have voiced strong objections to the use of electric shock devices designed to inflict pain, advocating for a complete ban on their application.⁷⁹ The administration of electric shocks, whether through devices like electric guns, can lead to severe physical and psychological repercussions, which vary based on the prisoner's health, the frequency and duration of the shocks, and the specific areas of the body targeted.

Police Dogs

Israeli occupation soldiers have turned dogs from living creatures into fierce instruments of torture, making them difficult to manage. The Israeli army established a specialized canine unit known as *Oketz*, meaning "sting" in Hebrew, which was officially formed in 1988 after its involvement in military operations in Lebanon. This unit is overseen by soldiers trained to command the dogs, each of which undergoes rigorous training for various purposes, including attack, search and rescue, and locating weapons or prisoners.⁸⁰ The canine unit plays a significant role in arrest operations and is actively present in locations such as the Sde Teiman Camp.

The presence of these dogs poses a significant threat, capable of inflicting serious injuries on prisoners if they bite. Nevertheless, soldiers occasionally introduce these muzzled dogs into the camp as a means of intimidation, aiming to shatter the prisoners' spirit. While handcuffed and blindfolded, prisoners are subjected to attacks from these dogs, which approach them with a menacing intent, causing sheer panic among those who endure such treatment. According to documentation collected by Addameer regarding the assaults by police dogs, prisoner (A. S.) recounted a disturbing incident, stating, "The dog urinated on me."⁸¹ Similarly, prisoner (M. T.) corroborated this, sharing, "The dogs scratched the prisoners and defecated on them."⁸²

Another prisoner, (M. A.), described a harrowing experience: "During one of the crackdowns, soldiers randomly selected me along with three other young men. The dog lunged at me and completely tore off my thumbnail."⁸³ In a related account, prisoner (A. Sh.) revealed, "During the crackdowns, which occurred once or twice a week, they would throw stun grenades and enter with dogs to instill fear and terrorize us. We were also subjected to beatings."⁸⁴

Police dogs have long been utilized in various enforcement operations, not as instruments of torture against prisoners, but as part of standard procedures during arrests and security checks in Israeli central prisons. Over the years, there have been numerous reports of injuries inflicted on prisoners and detainees due to dog attacks. In Sde Teiman Camp, a troubling pattern of abuse has emerged. One prisoner, (B. Sh.), recounted the brutal dog attacks he endured during his time there, particularly during a crackdown. "The crackdowns are undeniably harsh. However, there was a particularly disturbing incident where they chose to wait until a dog relieved itself. A soldier restrained me, and after inserting his fingers in my anus, he lifted me and placed me on the dog's excrement for an entire night."⁸⁵ Addameer's extensive monitoring and documentation of over 373 prisoners in Israeli detention reveal that many have reported experiencing at least one violation involving the canine unit during their time at Sdet Teiman.

⁷⁸ The New York Times. "Inside the Base Where Israel has Detained Thousands of Gazans". 6 June 2024. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/06/world/middleeast/israel-gaza-detention-base.html>

⁷⁹ United Nations General Assembly. "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment". 24 August 2023. <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/249/47/pdf/n2324947.pdf>

⁸⁰ Asharq Al-Awsat. "Only Iron Can Cut Iron: A dog war between Israel and Hamas." 7 February 2024. <https://t.ly/CF29o>

⁸¹ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. S. in Ofer Camp on 25 July 2024.

⁸² Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. T. in Ofer Camp on 29 July 2024.

⁸³ Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. A. in Ofer Camp on 6 August 2024.

⁸⁴ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. Sh. in Ofer Camp on 29 August 2024.

⁸⁵ Lawyer's visit to prisoner B. Sh. in Ofer Camp on 12 September 2024.

The use of excessive and unwarranted force, or methods that instill extreme fear or inflict serious injury during an arrest, constitutes a breach of human rights. The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment unequivocally prohibits torture in any form. The deployment of aggressive police dogs during arrest operations or roll calls can lead to significant physical and psychological trauma for detainees, potentially qualifying as a form of cruel or inhumane treatment. This practice also contravenes Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which clearly states that no individual shall be subjected to torture or any form of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

What is the field hospital in 'Sde Teiman'?

The establishment of the field hospital in Sde Teiman Camp arose from an urgent necessity to care for injured detainees, particularly after numerous Israeli hospitals, including Sheba and Hadassah Ein Kerem, declined to accept any patients from the Gaza Strip, citing "terrorism" as the reason. Instead, these individuals were to be sent to medical facilities linked to the Israel Prison Service (IPS) or the military, without any assurance that these facilities could adequately meet their medical needs.⁸⁶ In light of this situation, the field hospital was created as a crucial alternative to ensure that Gaza detainees receive the medical attention they require, rather than relying on civilian healthcare options. The Israeli Ministry of Health has stipulated that Gaza detainees should only be transferred to civilian hospitals in cases of life-threatening emergencies or if there is a significant risk of irreversible disability⁸⁷, and only if the necessary treatment is unavailable at the prison or camp medical facilities.

The field hospital operates under the leadership of a chief physician, supported by a team of doctors who are enlisted under a military reserve recruitment mandate. These medical professionals conceal their identities,⁸⁸ which includes a strict prohibition against signing any medical documents with their real names, professional license numbers, or personal seals, all justified by the claim that such measures are necessary for their protection. This practice blatantly contravenes legal standards, as it denies patients the right to know who is treating them and obstructs any potential legal recourse, such as filing complaints or initiating investigations into breaches of medical ethics.

Despite being labeled a "field hospital" by Israeli authorities, this facility disregards fundamental ethical medical practices. Surgeries are conducted without anesthesia and without obtaining proper consent from patients or their families, alongside numerous other serious medical infractions committed by the staff.⁸⁹ Furthermore, the conditions under which patients are held are exceptionally harsh. Former detainees have recounted their experiences, revealing that they were kept in shackles during treatment. In addition to that, soldiers blindfolded patients while they received care and forced them to wear "diapers" due to restrictions on bathroom access.

Numerous procedures currently in place contravene both international laws and internal Israeli regulations, which are frequently revised and manipulated to create legal loopholes that facilitate the violation of Palestinian rights and their mistreatment, all while ostensibly adhering to legal frameworks. A doctor from the field hospital in the camp has brought to light the severe torture methods inflicted on Palestinian detainees from Gaza, particularly in field detention centers, in a letter addressed to Israel's "Defense" Minister Yoav Galant, Health Minister, and the government's legal advisor. In this correspondence, the doctor reported, "In early April of this year, two detainees underwent leg amputations due to injuries sustained while their hands were restrained. Regrettably, this has become a common occurrence."

⁸⁶ Ynet. "Following protests: Health Ministry claims hospital being built for October 7th attackers from Gaza." 13 October 2023. <https://www.ynet.co.il/news/article/bjc3m5lba>

⁸⁷ Irreversible disability, as outlined in the guidelines from the Ministry of Health, refers to the permanent loss of function in a vital organ. This includes conditions such as the amputation of a limb, the loss of an eye, or the inability of a crucial organ to perform its essential functions.

⁸⁸ Physicians for Human Rights Israel. "Systematic Violations of Human Rights of Palestinians in Israeli Prisons since 7 October 2023." February 2024. <https://www.phr.org.il/ar/prisoners-violations-report-2024-ar/>

⁸⁹ Physicians for Human Rights Israel. "Medical Ethics and Gazan Detainees Since the Beginning of the War 2023." 14 April 2024. <https://www.phr.org.il/en/shut-down-the-sde-teiman-facility-now/>

Furthermore, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported an incident where a detainee had his hand amputated after suffering an injury caused by prolonged restraint with plastic cuffs. An Israeli military spokesperson indicated that an investigation would take place; however, due to the absence of "criminal suspicion" against those responsible, military police did not initiate a criminal inquiry. The doctor further detailed the treatment of detainees within the field hospital, stating: "Detainees are compelled to use diapers for defecation, their hands remain bound throughout their stay, and they are kept blindfolded. Over half of the patients there are suffering from injuries that arose during their detention, primarily due to the prolonged use of handcuffs, which have led to severe injuries necessitating multiple surgical procedures."

The doctor highlighted the severe health challenges and the intentional policy of medical neglect enforced by the camp administration, which extends to the field hospital. "The hospital is deprived of consistent supplies of medications and medical equipment. Every patient is restrained at all four limbs, irrespective of their threat level, their eyes are blindfolded, and they are subjected to degrading feeding methods. In such dire circumstances, even young and seemingly healthy individuals begin to lose weight within just a week or two of hospitalization."⁹⁰

"Not a single patient has been transferred to the hospital and remained there for more than a few hours. There are instances where individuals who have undergone major surgeries, like abdominal procedures to remove intestines, are sent back after merely an hour. The hospital is primarily staffed by one doctor throughout the day, accompanied by a nursing team, some of whom are only training to be paramedics, rather than providing ongoing care in the surgical unit. The attending physician may be an orthopedist or gynecologist, which can lead to complications and, in some cases, even result in patient fatalities."⁹¹

The Nelson Mandela Rules clearly state that detainees requiring medical care should be transferred to civilian hospitals (Rule 27). However, this essential provision has been obstructed by Israel's Minister of Health, who has blocked treatment for Palestinians in these facilities.⁹² Furthermore, the Mandela Rules mandate that all detainees receive an initial medical examination by a doctor upon their entry into prison (Rule 30). Yet, observations from legal visits to military camps reveal that these examinations are not consistently performed for every prisoner, indicating a significant failure in the medical oversight process. This lack of initial assessments hinders the identification of detainees with chronic illnesses or specific medical requirements, such as necessary diets or ongoing medications. It also obstructs the documentation of instances of torture and ill-treatment that detainees may have experienced during their arrests.⁹³

Medical Crimes in the Field Hospital

On 10 March 2024, (S. H.) found himself among a group of residents at Kuwait Roundabout in the Gaza Strip, seeking essential food supplies. Suddenly, Israeli forces launched an assault on them. During this attack, (S. H.) sustained injuries and was subsequently taken to Al-Shifa Hospital for medical care. He spent approximately eight days in the hospital, recovering from his wounds, until the occupation forces raided Al-Shifa on March 19, targeting both patients and displaced individuals. When the soldiers reached S. H.'s bedside, they assaulted him despite his injuries. Following this brutal encounter, (S. H.) was arrested and taken to Sde Teiman Camp, where he remained for around five months.

⁹⁰ Haaretz. "Doctor at Sde Teiman to Ministers and Attorney General: We All Became Accomplices in Breaking the Law." 4 April 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/kwfdt8fh>

⁹¹ *Ibid.*

⁹² The Time of Israel. "Health Minister Issues Directive Barring Treatment of Gazans in Israeli Hospitals". 19 January 2024 https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/health-minister-issues-directive-barring-treatment-of-gazans-in-israeli-hospitals/

⁹³ Dignity. "Could Doctors and Nurses Really be Complicit in the Potential Ill-treatment and Torture of Detained Palestinians?". 19 June 2024. <https://dignity.dk/en/news/could-doctors-and-nurses-really-be-complicit-in-the-potential-ill-treatment-and-torture-of-detained-palestinians/>

Upon arriving at Sde Teiman, (S. H.) was immediately taken to the field hospital due to severe leg injuries. He spent a week there, during which his bandages were changed, but no significant medical treatment was provided. Given the gravity of his condition, he was subsequently moved to Soroka Hospital, situated within the territory occupied since 1948. There, he received a platinum implant in his leg. However, shortly after the procedure, he was sent back to the field hospital without any observation period to monitor for potential complications or to confirm the surgery's success.

Just five days after his return to the camp, (S. H.) was again transferred to Soroka Hospital, where he underwent an amputation of his right leg. Alarming, he was moved back to the field hospital before fully recovering from anesthesia. The medical negligence he experienced at both the camp and the field hospital, which included a lack of necessary medical tests, ultimately led to the need for a second amputation. During his time in the field hospital, he was denied proper treatment and did not receive antibiotics consistently post-surgery. His wound was left exposed for an astonishing 45 days, becoming infected and emitting a foul odor due to neglect in care and a prohibition on showering that lasted up to 100 days. Additionally, while confined to his bed, (S. H.) endured physical assaults with sticks, despite being restrained and blindfolded.

The ongoing medical crimes perpetrated by prison guards in various detention facilities continue to escalate, as evidenced by the case of prisoner (S. H.) After enduring five months at Sde Teiman Camp, he was transferred to Ofer Camp, where he was abruptly denied all medications previously provided. This systematic oppression faced by detainees forces (S. H.) to endure humiliating positions, such as lying on the ground or kneeling, even with the added challenge of an amputated leg, during head counts or when guards patrol the area. He described the living conditions in Ofer Camp as stifling, lacking necessities like a wheelchair or crutches to assist him with daily activities, including using the bathroom. "I manage by jumping from the bed to the bathroom," (S. H.) recounted.⁹⁴

The medical crimes are just one aspect of the broader ill-treatment of Palestinian detainees at the field hospital in Sde Teiman Camp. The camp administration and medical staff have created an environment that severely hampers the detainees' ability to live with dignity, particularly for those suffering from serious injuries and illnesses that necessitate specialized care. Prisoner (M. N.), who battles psoriasis, has also spoken out about the harsh living conditions that accompany these medical injustices.

"Food was provided to us in the section three times daily. Our meals typically consisted of apples, cucumbers, tomatoes, and around six pieces of bread, along with canned tuna, cheese, and jam. For sleeping arrangements, we had mattresses similar to those used by the Israeli army, resembling camping mattresses. Each prisoner was given a single blanket, which was insufficient given the cold temperatures at night. During my stay in the section, I witnessed some prisoners being beaten on two occasions; the guards would call out a prisoner's number, subjecting them to violent treatment and threats with electric batons.

Whenever the guards conducted searches, all prisoners were required to lie flat on the ground. This process lasted about half an hour during the two crackdowns. Regarding bathroom use and bathing, I was responsible for managing the schedule, as I had been appointed as the *shawish* during my detention in the field hospital. There were only two bathrooms available in the section, and bathing was permitted only on Mondays and Thursdays. Each prisoner received a pair of underwear, a shirt, and pants, while towels were shared among four prisoners."⁹⁵

Israeli Human Rights Groups Demands to Close Sde Teiman

On 23 May 2024, multiple Israeli human rights organizations petitioned Israel's High Court of Justice demanding an end to the torture of detainees in Sde Teiman Detention Center and therefore close the detention facility, after numerous appeals submitted by the organizations to the Israeli

⁹⁴ Lawyer's visit to prisoner S. A. in Ofer Camp on 1 December 2024.

⁹⁵ Phone interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner M. N. on 24 October 2024.

government and the army without receiving a response, and after months of gathering evidence that exposes the appalling conditions and daily abuses faced by prisoners—some of which have escalated to murder.

The petition argued that the declaration of Sde Teiman facility as a "place of detention" is lawful only if there are appropriate conditions of detention for detainees that will not harm their dignity, health and will comply with Israel's obligations to detainees under Israeli and international law. The severe violation of the detainees' rights makes deprivation of liberty unconstitutional.⁹⁶ The legal advisor to the Israeli government, Gali Baharav-Miara, has urgently called for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to take immediate action in shutting down the Sde Teiman detention center. This request is particularly significant as it arises in the context of an ongoing petition.⁹⁷

A hearing on the petition was held on 5 June 2024. That same day, the Israeli government submitted a notice informing that due to the overall high number of detainees, detainees had been held in Sde Teiman for long periods of time, and that it was now intended to operate the site as a facility for absorption, interrogation and initial screening. Accordingly, the Israeli government added that larger numbers of detainees would be transferred to other central prisons.

On 11 June 2024, the Israeli authorities submitted another update announcing that the transfer of the 500 detainees was underway, that 30 of the detainees had been released to Gaza, and that by June 19, the number of detainees in Sde Teiman would stand at about 160. The petitioners filed a notice with the Court, insisting that detainees could not be held in Sde Teman, even for short periods.

On July 18, 2024, after many extension requests, the Israeli authorities finally submitted an update informing that additional positions had been added to the Israel Prison Service and a new tent wing had been built in Negev Prison, to which 140 detainees would be transferred in three phases, so that by July 22, 2024, only 40 detainees would remain in Sde Teiman. A further hearing in the case was held on 7 August 2024. Following violent attempts by ultra-nationalist activists to disrupt the hearing, the Court decided to give the Israeli government until 15 August 2024 to update about the number of detainees held in Sde Teiman.⁹⁸

Israeli forces have been relocating detainees from Sde Teiman to various camps and prisons, effectively designating this facility as a key holding area where Palestinians remain for several days following their arrest in Gaza, prior to being moved to other detention facilities. This was highlighted in the latest court response; however, the ongoing actions of the occupying state indicate a clear intention to maintain Sde Teiman Camp, where detainees endure severe physical and psychological abuse.

Since mid-October, the occupation forces have intensified their presence in North Gaza, conducting indiscriminate arrests that have impacted countless civilians, with many being confined to Sde Teiman Camp, as reported by human rights organizations. In the ongoing search for the missing individuals from North Gaza, the Israeli army has claimed that most are detained at Sde Teiman. Consequently, petitions filed by human rights groups appear futile, mirroring previous efforts, as the Israeli judicial system seems intent on concealing the atrocities committed by its military and citizens, thus becoming complicit in the broader violations against the Palestinian people.

New Rooms in Sde Teiman

⁹⁶ Acri. "Close the Detention Facility at the Sde Teiman Detention Center". 23 May 2024
<https://www.english.acri.org.il/post/close-the-detention-facility-at-the-sde-teiman-detention-center>
Arabic link: <https://www.arabic.acri.org.il/post/475>

⁹⁷ Al-Araby Al-Jadid. "Israeli advisor calls on Netanyahu to close Sde Teiman detention camp immediately." 4 July 2024.
<https://rb.gv/7ke879>

⁹⁸ HaMoked. "Following High Court Petition to Close the Sde Teiman Detention Center: The State Moved Most Detainees to other Facilities". 8 August 2024. <https://hamoked.org.il/document.php?dID=Updates2411>

The situation for detainees from Gaza at Sde Teiman Camp has reached a critical point after enduring months of suffering in cramped, cage-like barracks. They are now confined to concrete detention rooms, with four separate rooms accommodating around 40 to 45 individuals each. Unfortunately, the inhumane conditions persist. Many detainees have reported that their hands are often bound, with some experiencing this restriction from the outset of their confinement, only to have the handcuffs removed later by prison guards. Living conditions remain dire, as detainees are forced to sleep on thin mattresses, which are confiscated from them each morning and not returned until late in the evening. Additionally, blankets are taken away after the sunset prayer, leaving them without adequate warmth during the cold winter months, relying solely on their insufficient clothing for comfort.

While details about these rooms remain scarce, human rights organizations have managed to gather some insights through visits from lawyers. One prisoner, (M. D.), shared, "In the section where I am confined, there are six rooms. Each room features four windows: two adjacent on one wall and two facing each other on the opposite side. The cell door is made of metal, equipped with a net-covered slot at the top and another slot at the bottom for food delivery."⁹⁹

The conditions within the camp remain harsh and inhumane, though there have been slight improvements. Prisoner (W. G.) shared insights into the living quarters where detainees are confined. "In my room, there are 24 beds. The mattresses are taken away each morning at six and returned only after sunset prayers, when we receive blankets. Meals are provided three times daily, typically consisting of jam or tuna paired with either cucumber or tomato, along with 5-6 pieces of bread. We are allowed to shower once a week, and occasionally every three days, but we do not have the opportunity to change our clothes each time we bathe."¹⁰⁰

The cage-like barracks continue to be a part of the camp's infrastructure. These detention rooms, introduced about a year into the genocide, do not serve as a viable alternative to the cages but rather as supplementary spaces for confinement.

⁹⁹ Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. D. in Sde Teiman Camp on 3 December 2024.

¹⁰⁰ Lawyer's visit to prisoner W. G. in Sde Teiman Camp on 3 December 2024.