

Joint Urgent Appeal

Arbitrary Arrests, Enforced Disappearance, Inhumane Treatment, and Torture of Palestinians by the Israeli Occupying Forces

Submitted by:

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For the attention of:

- The United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Ms. Alice Jill Edwards;
- The United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Mr. Morris Tidball-Binz;
- The United Nations Working Group on arbitrary detention, Ms. Priya Gopalan (Chair Rapporteur);
- The United Nations Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances, Ms. Aua Balde (Chairperson);
- The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Ms. Margaret Satterthwaite;
- The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, Ms. Tlaleng Mofokeng;
- The United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, Ms. Reem Alsalem;
- The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Ms. Mary Lawlor;
- The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Mr. Michael Fakhri;
- The United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, Ms. Ashwini K.P.; and
- The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, Ms. Francesca Albanese.

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1. Introduction

Since Israel started the ongoing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza,¹ our teams have documented and monitored an alarming increase in distressing reports of torture, and other cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment inflicted upon Palestinian prisoners and detainees by the Israeli occupying forces (IOF) and the Israel Prison Service (IPS). Throughout the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), the IOF have engaged in mass arrests and enforced disappearances, leaving the fate of hundreds of Palestinians unknown to their families.

This urgent appeal seeks to bring attention to specific instances of documented torture and ill-treatment, including cases of sexual violence, endured by Palestinians during their time in Israeli detention and custody. It is crucial to emphasise that these selected cases represent only a fraction of the documented incidents, providing a glimpse into the nature and severity of attacks perpetrated. Moreover, despite the diligent efforts of Palestinian civil society and human rights organisations to systematically document all instances of torture and ill-treatment inflicted upon Palestinian prisoners and detainees, our ability is hindered by the restrictions imposed by Israeli authorities. Namely; restrictions on lawyer visits and communications; inability to collect statements from released residents of Gaza, as they are released into the heart of the genocide, and a heightened fear among Palestinians of further reprisals and harassment by the IOF, exacerbated by threats made by the IOF, and the overall absence of guarantees of protection and justice and accountability for Israeli crimes and violations. In addition, since 13 October 2023, our teams in Gaza have not been able to be fully functional and operational, or document all the apparent horrific crimes being perpetrated in Gaza due to the situation on the ground and the inherent risk to their lives in performing their work as human rights defenders.² The inability to document all the arrests throughout the oPt is also due to movement restrictions imposed by Israel in the West Bank, as well as the fact that the numbers are at an all-time high and are beyond the capacity of our organisations.

We acknowledge the concern expressed by the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, that mandate holders are unable to rely on information circulated online via social media, and that it is necessary to receive information through the appropriate channels.³ We remind Ms. Alice Jill Edwards and other relevant Special Procedures mandate holders that Palestinian civil society organisations have consistently submitted detailed information on torture and ill-treatment and extrajudicial killings on multiple occasions over the years,⁴ contextualising Israel's use of force, including

¹ Al-Haq, Al Mezan, and PCHR, "100 Days of Ongoing Genocide in Gaza Amid the International Community's Failure to Protect Palestinians", 14 January 2024, available at: <https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/22509.html>.

² PCHR, "PCHR Condemns the Killing of Nour Abu Nour, PCHR's lawyer, and her Family by an Israeli Airstrike on Rafah", 21 February 2024, available at: <https://pchrghaza.org/en/pchr-condemns-the-killing-of-pchr-lawyer-and-her-family-by-an-israeli-airstrike-on-rafaq/>; and X, @pchrghaza, 24 February 2024, available at: <https://twitter.com/pchrghaza/status/1761474418050511313>.

³ X, @DrAliceJEdwards, 6 January 2024, available at: <https://twitter.com/DrAliceJEdwards/status/1743517825262670155>.

⁴ See, for example, Al-Haq, "Joint Urgent Appeal to the United Nations Special Procedures For the Immediate Release of Palestinian Political Prisoner Walid Daqqa Diagnosed with Bone Marrow Cancer and Facing Imminent Deteriorating Health Conditions due to Israeli Prison Services Policy of Deliberate Medical Neglect", 28 March 2023, available at: https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2023/04/17/phroc-urgent-appeal-on-palestinian-prisoner-walid-daqqa-28-3-23-1681725183.pdf; Al-Haq, "Urgent Appeal to the United Nations Special Procedures on the Extrajudicial Execution and Wilful Killing of Palestinians Mr. Ashraf Mubaslat, Mr. Mohammad Dakhil, and Mr. Adham Mabrukah, by the Israeli Occupying Forces on 8 February 2022 in Nablus, West Bank", 3 March 2022, available at: https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2022/03/13/urgent-appeal-extra-judicial-killings-nablus-1647198805.pdf; Al-Haq, "Urgent Appeal to the United Nations Special Procedures on the Extrajudicial Execution and Wilful Killing of Palestinian Person with Disability Iyad Al-

those that lead to extrajudicial killings, and torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees as two of Israel's policies to oppress and dominate Palestinians and to maintain its settler-colonial apartheid regime.⁵

During the past five months, Palestinian human rights organisations have prepared and submitted at least three urgent appeals to relevant Special Procedures mandates. These include a submission on 11 October 2023, underscoring Israel's total warfare on Gaza's civilian population;⁶ a submission on 13 October 2023, highlighting Israel's targeting and killing of Palestinian journalists in Gaza;⁷ and a submission on 2 November 2023, which comprehensively underlined Israel's escalation of its decades-long, widespread and systematic attacks against Palestinians elsewhere in historic Palestine.⁸ Specifically, the latter urgent appeal addressed, *inter alia*, the excessive use of force by the IOF, leading to wilful and extrajudicial killings; Israel's mass and violent arrests campaign; the dire detention conditions, exacerbated by Israel's implementation of arbitrary and collective punishment measures; and instances of torture and ill-treatment, including of a Palestinian worker from Gaza, threats of rape and murder against a 17-year-old Palestinian, and the announced 'deaths' of two Palestinian prisoners or detainees.

We acknowledge and welcome previous statements issued by a number of Special Procedures mandates, including statements that demanded the immediate release of all Palestinians arbitrarily detained by Israel,⁹ urged Israel to "fulfill its duty to prevent and protect women and girls, including women human rights defenders, from arbitrary detention, discrimination and violence and to ensure access to justice and accountability for those responsible",¹⁰ denounced the escalation of "sexual assault and threats of sexual violence against women in the occupied

Hallaq by the Israeli Occupying Forces on 30 May 2020 in East Jerusalem", 8 June 2020, available at: https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2020/06/09/200608-urgent-appeal-to-the-un-special-procedures-on-the-killing-of-iyad-al-hallaq-final-1591703351.pdf; and Al-Haq, "Joint Urgent Appeal to the United Nations Special Procedures on the Extrajudicial Execution and Wilful Killing of Ahmad Erekat by the Israeli Occupying Forces on 23 June 2020", 13 July 2020, available at: https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2020/07/14/joint-urgent-appeal-to-un-special-procedures-on-the-killing-of-ahmad-erekat-final-1594706298.pdf;

⁵ Al-Haq, "Israeli Apartheid: Tool of Zionist Settler Colonialism", November 2022, available at: https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2022/12/22/israeli-apartheid-web-final-1-page-view-1671712165.pdf.

⁶ Al-Haq, Al Mezan and PCHR, "Joint Urgent Appeal to UN Special Procedures on Israel's Total Warfare on Gaza's Civilian Population", 11 October 2023, available at: https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2023/10/12/final-urgent-appeal-to-special-procedures-on-gaza-11-oct-1697135190.pdf.

⁷ Al-Haq, Al Mezan and PCHR, "Joint Urgent Appeal to UN Special Procedures on Journalists Killed While Reporting in Gaza, Israel in Breach of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law", 13 October 2023, available at: https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2023/10/13/urgent-appeal-journalists-1697217941.pdf.

⁸ Al-Haq, "Joint Urgent Appeal: Parallel to its Aggression on Gaza, Israel Escalates its Oppression of Palestinians in Every Part of Historic Palestine", 2 November 2023, available at: https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2023/11/03/231102-joint-urgent-appeal-parallel-to-its-aggression-on-gaza-israel-escalates-its-oppression-of-palestinians-in-every-part-of-historic-palestine-1699003276.pdf.

⁹ OHCHR, "UN experts urge States to unite for peace and push for ceasefire in Gaza", 8 December 2023, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/12/un-experts-urge-states-unite-peace-and-push-ceasefire-gaza>; and OHCHR "Gaza: UN experts call on international community to prevent genocide against the Palestinian people", 16 November 2023, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/gaza-un-experts-call-international-community-prevent-genocide-against>.

¹⁰ OHCHR, "Occupied Palestinian territory and Israel: UN experts call for permanent ceasefire to protect rights and futures of women and girls", 14 December 2023, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/12/occupied-palestinian-territory-and-israel-un-experts-call-permanent>.

Palestinian territory”,¹¹ and addressed reports that “Palestinian women and girls in detention have also been subjected to multiple forms of sexual assault, such as being stripped naked and searched by male Israeli army officer”, adding that “[a]t least two female Palestinian detainees were reportedly raped while others were reportedly threatened with rape and sexual violence”.¹²

Moreover, we reiterate the demand made by the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, that “[i]ndependent investigators must be given the necessary resources, support and access required to conduct prompt, thorough and impartial investigations”,¹³ as we stress on the imperative need for accountability and justice, which has been denied for the Palestinian people for over 75 years. We further commend their demand for full cooperation with investigations, considering the fact that Israel has systematically refused to cooperate with UN mechanisms and experts,¹⁴ and rather routinely resorts to attack and smear their work.¹⁵ This is also especially crucial at a time when recent reports indicate that Israel has instructed members of its healthcare system not to cooperate with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel.¹⁶

That being said, the Special Rapporteur on torture and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, have, as of yet, failed to address and contextualise the escalating instances of torture and ill-treatment endured by Palestinians, including those that involved sexual violence and those that have culminated to killings, demanding a more urgent and robust response, amid an ongoing genocide. Moreover, according to the information available online, the aforementioned mandate holders did not join the official communication sent to Israel on 22 November 2023, inquiring about, *inter alia*, instances of torture and extra-judicial killings,¹⁷ nor have they sent a communication to Israel, inquiring about the whereabouts and wellbeing of Palestinian detainees and prisoners and the circumstances of their detention. This is of utmost importance, especially at a time when Israel is limiting and restricting lawyers’ visitations and the International Committee of

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² OHCHR, “Israel/oPt: UN experts appalled by reported human rights violations against Palestinian women and girls”, 19 February 2024, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/02/israelopt-un-experts-appalled-reported-human-rights-violations-against>.

¹³ OHCHR, “UN experts call for full and independent investigations into all crimes committed in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory”, 27 November 2023, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/un-experts-call-full-and-independent-investigations-all-crimes-committed>.

¹⁴ *See, for example*, Al-Haq, “Israel’s Refusal to Grant/Renew Visas to the UN OHCHR Highlights the Urgent Need to End Israel’s Impunity”, 19 October 2020, available at: <https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/17456.html>; Al-Haq, “Israel’s Deliberate Denial of Entry to United Nations Special Rapporteur Mr. Michael Lynk Intended to Frustrate United Nations Human Rights Monitoring”, 3 June 2018, available at:

<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/6191.html>; and Al-Haq, “Denial of entry to UN Special Rapporteur demonstrates once again Israel’s duplicity in its relations with the UN”, 17 December 2008, available at: <https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/7238.html>.

¹⁵ *See, for example*, Al-Haq, “Joint Statement: 115 Human Rights and Civil Society Organisations, Academic Institutions, and Groups Condemn Israel’s Targeted Smear Campaign Against Respected UN Special Rapporteur, Francesca Albanese”, 16 January 2023, available at: <https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/21060.html>; and Al-Haq, “Civil Society Organizations Stand with the Commission of Inquiry against Rising Attacks”, 12 August 2022, available at: <https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/20418.html>.

¹⁶ The Times of Israel, “Israel forbids doctors from speaking to UN group investigating Oct. 7 atrocities”, 16 January 2024, available at: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/government-forbids-doctors-from-speaking-to-un-group-investigating-oct-7-atrocities/>.

¹⁷ OHCHR, Communication sent to Israel, Ref.: UA ISR 9/2023.

the Red Cross (ICRC) “has not been able to visit any Palestinian detainees held in Israeli places of detention since 7 October 2023”.¹⁸

The apparent lack of action by the aforementioned mandate holders is of concern, especially with the deteriorating situation. Since 7 October 2023, at least 31,819 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip,¹⁹ and 423 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank and four Palestinians have been killed inside the Green Line, by the IOF and Israeli settlers.²⁰ Moreover, 7,670 Palestinians have been detained by the IOF in the West Bank since 7 October 2023,²¹ whereas the number of Palestinians detained from the Gaza Strip remains unknown, but is estimated to be in the thousands.²² Our documentation, which includes affidavits from released detainees or eyewitness, along with the announced and reported ‘deaths’ of 40 Palestinian prisoners or detainees since 7 October 2023, confirms a distressing increase in Israel’s systematic torture, and other cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment against Palestinians.

In light of the above, we address this urgent appeal to the relevant UN Special Procedures mandates, specifically the Special Rapporteur on torture and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, whose silence amid the ongoing genocide have been deafening, urging them to publicly condemn the egregious escalation of Israel’s long-established and systematic policies of mass arrests, and genocidal act of torture and ill-treatment of Palestinians; to demand an immediate and unconditional halt to these inhumane Israeli practices, including Israel’s decision to deny Palestinian prisoners access to lawyers; to conduct an urgent, official visit to the oPt and Israeli prisons and detention centres to comprehensively investigate and address the grave concerns surrounding the reported violations, including the announced and reported ‘deaths’ of 40 Palestinian prisoners and detainees, ensuring transparency and accountability;²³ and to send Israel an official communication, inquiring about its enforced disappearance, mass arrests, and torture and ill-treatment against Palestinians.

¹⁸ ICRC, “Debunking harmful narratives about our work in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory”, 20 December 2023, available at: <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/debunking-harmful-narratives-about-our-work-israel-and-palestinian-occupied-territories>.

¹⁹ OCHA, “Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #142”, 19 March 2024, available at: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-142>.

²⁰ According to Al-Haq’s documentation, reporting period 7 October 2023 until 18 March 2024.

²¹ Palestinian Prisoner’s Society, Facebook post, 19 March 2024, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/ppsmo.p/posts/pfbid02CiHR6ZoaZfLyLPNtD3tKQKajW8CAFxFXVZt9Vruzvn7Ym5Kj6vRxe1Hw311Z5hHgl>.

²² Reuters, “Israeli military chief says more than 1,000 captives taken in Gaza”, 17 December 2023, available at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israeli-military-chief-says-more-than-1000-captives-taken-gaza-2023-12-17/>.

²³ Based on the data and precedents from prior years and cases handled by various organisations, it could be observed that 99 out of 100 initiated cases investigated by the Israeli court are ultimately closed citing insufficient evidence. Unfortunately, this trend indicates a lack of accountability, as there are no repercussions or punitive measures imposed on the alleged perpetrators. Finding the same conclusion, B’tselem, noted, “Years of experience have shown that Palestinian victims stand a slim chance of seeing justice done and that the chance that Israelis be held to account for their actions is similarly slim”. B’tselem, “No Accountability”, 11 November 2017, available at: www.btselem.org/accountability.

2. Violent Detention *en masse* and Torture of Palestinian Residents of the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, Since 7 October 2023

Israel has persistently employed mass and arbitrary imprisonment of Palestinians, not only as a means of collective punishment but also to intimidate Palestinians, and suppress any opposition to its settler-colonial and apartheid regime.²⁴ From 1967, the start of Israel's occupation of the oPt, to 2014,²⁵ over 800,000 Palestinians were detained and arrested under Israeli military orders in the oPt, making up a staggering 20% of the Palestinian residents of the oPt, and a 40% of the male Palestinian population therein.²⁶

Arbitrary arrests have become more frequent since 7 October 2023, with an increase in the use of force during late-night raids characterised by forceful entries, often involving the explosive breaking of household doors. Additionally, Addameer further documented the IOF's heightened utilisation of excessive force during arrests, including physical assaults causing injuries to the arrested Palestinians as well as their family members.²⁷

Since 7 October 2023, the IOF have detained over 7,670 Palestinian residents of the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem. Currently, over 9,100 Palestinians are held in Israeli prisons and detention centres, including around 200 children and 52 women, as well as over 3,558 Palestinians held under administrative detention. Alarming, 80% of arbitrary arrests following 7 October 2023 resulted in administrative detention of detainees.

- **The killing of Mohammad Manasra, a 25-year-old Palestinian, due to the explosive breaking of household**

On 5 December 2023, at dawn, the IOF carried out an incursion into a three-story residential building located in Qalandiya Refugee Camp, north of Ramallah city, as part of their mass-arrest campaign. The IOF booby-trapped the doors of all five apartments in the aforementioned residential building, **killing 25-year-old Mohammad Yousef Hasan Manasra when the door to his family's apartment exploded.**

At the time of the incident, Mohammad Manasra was awake, seated alongside his mother in the living room, which was in close proximity to the main, wooden door. The door was positioned three to four metres away from Mohammad, with airborne debris directly impacting him due to the explosive force. Consequently, he was forcefully propelled approximately four metres from his initial sitting position.

Al-Haq's field examination revealed that fragments of the upper section of the door, including the iron lock, were propelled by the explosion, resulting in a direct impact on Mohammad's

²⁴ Al-Haq, "Israeli Apartheid: Tool of Zionist Settler Colonialism", November 2022, available at: https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2022/12/22/israeli-apartheid-web-final-1-page-view-1671712165.pdf.

²⁵ In the 10 years that have passed the number has increased drastically with the ongoing oppression based on the cases we have been able to document alongside those that we have not been able to fully document due to Israel's tactic of enforced disappearances of Palestinians.

²⁶ Addameer, "General Briefing: Palestinian Political Prisoners in Israeli Prisons", 20 January 2014, available at: [https://www.addameer.org/ar/node/578#:~:text=Since%20the%20Israeli%20occupation%20of,occupied%20Palestinian%20territory%20\(oPt\)](https://www.addameer.org/ar/node/578#:~:text=Since%20the%20Israeli%20occupation%20of,occupied%20Palestinian%20territory%20(oPt)).

²⁷ Addameer, "Escalating Oppression: Israel's Systematic Violations Intensify in Palestine Post-October 7, 2023", 23 January 2024, available at: <https://www.addameer.org/sites/default/files/publications/Full%20Report%20on%20the%20situation%20after%20October%207th.pdf>.

neck. According to the family's account, as no medical report had been issued during the preparation of Al-Haq's field report, this impact caused a deep and lacerating wound in his neck. This is reinforced by the statement of the paramedic who first saw Mohammad, who told Al-Haq, "neck was almost severed, specifically from the right side and from the back. His head was connected to his body by a portion of skin, a few tendons, and muscles on the left side of the neck".²⁸



A picture showing the damage caused by the Israeli explosion

- Al-Haq's field researcher

The blast from the door also inflicted injuries and contusions on the face and head of Mohammad's mother, who was seated nearest to the door on its left side. Additionally, she suffered injuries to her right foot. Moreover, Mohammad's 21-year-old brother, Islam, who was seated next to Mohammad, sustained a broken nose and injuries to his chest and neck.

Following the explosion of the apartment's door, the occupying soldiers failed to administer first aid to Mohammad after his injury and obstructed any attempts by his family members to aid or transport him for medical treatment. Instead, the occupying soldiers left him to bleed for approximately 45 minutes – until they withdrew, despite being fully aware of his critical condition and his mother's demands to help him. Mohammad's family members were forcibly confined to various rooms within the house, separated from the living room, during this crucial period of about 45 minutes until the soldiers finally withdrew.

²⁸ Al-Haq Field Report 2023-12-1532-JE-K-R-IL-NTG.

Upon the IOF's departure, the family discovered Mohammad in a prone position, drenched in his own blood. Subsequently, he was transported by a private vehicle to the adjacent Kafr Aqab street, where he was then transferred to an ambulance for medical attention. Upon his arrival to Ramallah Medical Complex, his death was announced by the doctors at around 6:30 am.

- **The arrest of A.A., a 27-year-old Palestinian resident of Hebron Governorate**

On 16 November 2023, at around 3:30 am, A.A., who was spending the night at his in-laws, received a phone call from his father, informing him that the IOF had raided his and his parents' homes, and urging him to come to his parents' home. **While his father was talking to him, an Israeli occupying soldier took the phone, and threatened A.A., in Arabic, saying, "[name omitted], there's a war. You have five minutes to be here, or I will arrest your father and mother".** A.A. told the occupying soldier not to touch his parents and that he would be there in ten minutes. Immediately, A.A. left his in-laws' house and headed to his parents' house. **After about five minutes, an Israeli occupying soldier called A.A. and threatened him again, saying "you have three minutes, or we will arrest your father and mother".** Upon his arrival, A.A. called the Israeli occupying soldier, who, in turn, told A.A. to 'surrender' himself to the Israeli occupying soldiers near the house, which he did. The IOF detained A.A., confiscated his phone and ID, and made him sit under a tree on the street in front of the house.²⁹

During his eight-day-long detention, A.A. was beaten and ill-treated, as he witnessed the ill-treatment of other detainees by Israeli occupying soldiers. In his affidavit to Al-Haq, A.A. recounted the following:

[When I was held under a tree,] an Israeli occupying soldier arrived, introduced himself as the new captain of the area, and asked me if I had done anything. I firmly told him no. He told me, [name omitted], we are at war, and I'll see you in Ofer in two weeks.' After that, a soldier tied my hands with a plastic tie, blindfolded me with a piece of cloth, and led me to a military vehicle... As soon as I entered the military vehicle, soldiers began beating me on various parts of my body with their hands and feet, focusing on my abdomen and chest. This was accompanied by continuous and highly offensive verbal abuse in Arabic. This lasted for about five minutes.

Afterwards, one of the soldiers threw me to the ground on my stomach, and several started stepping on my body with their feet. Then, they brought another person, who seemed to be a detainee from the same area, though I did not know who he was. They threw him on top of me while I was lying on the ground. After a few minutes, they made us sit in the vehicle.³⁰

After al-Fajer prayer and the sun had risen, A.A. was transferred to an Israeli military camp. In his affidavit to Al-Haq, A.A. recalled:

*They unloaded all the detainees, and I heard the soldiers calling them by name. However, they did not unload me initially, and I felt that all the detainees had been unloaded except for me. After a few minutes, one of the soldiers came and took me out of the military vehicle and laid me on the ground. **They removed the blindfold, and as soon as it was removed, they photographed me with a phone. I saw about***

²⁹ Al-Haq Affidavit 2023-12-1497-HE-F-A1-IL-NTG, taken from A.A., 27, a resident of Hebron Governorate, on 24 December 2023.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

20 soldiers surrounding me. After that, they placed the blindfold back on my eyes, and I felt one of the soldiers continuously hitting my neck with his hands. This lasted for about 10 minutes, and it was around 7:00 am, according to my estimates. Afterward, they returned me to the same vehicle with another detainee. The vehicle travelled a considerable distance, approximately for an hour.

Then the vehicle stopped, and we were apparently unloaded at one of the camps. I did not know the location, but it seemed to be an Israeli military camp. It was around 8:00 am when they unloaded me and the other detainee, placing us on the ground under the sun for about 20 minutes. During that time, a detainee requested drinking water from the soldier. The soldier brought a water bottle and poured it on the ground in front of us, laughing and mocking.³¹

Then, A.A. and the other detainee – as well as a third detainee that A.A. only knew that he was with them in the vehicle – were transferred by a different vehicle to Gush Etzion interrogation centre. In his affidavit to Al-Haq, A.A. recounted the following:

We were taken to an office, where around five soldiers were present. They removed the plastic tie from my hands and the blindfold over my eyes. They collected personal information, took our belongings, and conducted a thorough search, as I was forced to strip naked. Throughout this ordeal, I endured relentless physical assaults with hands striking my face, accompanied by a barrage of abusive language.

Then, we were taken to a section, consisting of 10 rooms, where many detainees were held. I was placed in a room measuring about 6m x 3m, with around seven-eight other detainees. I slept on a light blanket. We were allowed to go out to the yard three times. The food was brought to the designated area in the yard, and a set of three rooms was taken out to eat at a time. The food was very limited and often of poor quality. Some detainees could not eat either due to the scarcity of food or its poor quality.

On 19 November 2023, A.A. was transferred from Gush Etzion interrogation centre, near Hebron, to Ofer Prison, near Ramallah. The deliberate and harsh transfers employed by Israeli authorities involves subjecting Palestinian prisoners and detainees to extensive journeys in appalling conditions. This includes enduring the entire trip with both hands and legs handcuffed, while being compelled to sit on uncomfortable iron seats. This is known as Al-Busta. In his affidavit to Al-Haq, A.A. recounted the following:

I remained in Gush Etzion interrogation centre for three days... I, along with 25 other detainees, was taken out of that section on the morning of Sunday, 19 November 2023. We were stripped and searched. Our hands were bound in front with iron cuffs, and our legs were restrained with iron cuffs. We were then loaded and taken to what is known as 'Al-Busta', the means used to transport Palestinians between prisons and detention centres. We sat on iron seats. Al-Busta headed towards Ofer Prison near Ramallah. After we arrived to Ofer, we spent approximately two hours inside the Al-Busta before being taken to the prison. When we first entered, there were about seven Israeli jailors who searched us one by one. Afterward, I was taken to a waiting room, and then I was placed in a nearby room

³¹ *Ibid.*

where I was forced to strip naked. I was given the typical prison clothing, consisting of pants, a half-sleeve t-shirt, and plastic slippers.

*During this time, the Israeli jailors showered me with insults and verbal abuse. They transferred the detainees who were with me to their sections, and I remained alone in one of the rooms after all the detainees were taken to the prison sections. Then, one of the jailors came and took me to a nearby room where the captain of the area, who initially arrested me, was present. He interrogated me for about 25 minutes, focusing on previous cases I had been tried for. **In the end, he offered me a deal, suggesting that I work for them in my area as a collaborator for financial compensation and granting me permission to travel abroad. I flatly refused. After the interrogation session, I was taken to Section 24 inside the prison, where I was placed in a room measuring about 6m x 4m with eight other detainees. The conditions in Ofer were extremely difficult, with very scarce food. Within the cells, there were only floor mats and a thin blanket for each prisoner, without a pillow, despite the cold weather, especially at night. Detainees were not allowed to go to the yard. There was no hot water inside the sections. I remained in this room from Sunday, 19 November 2023, until my release late in the evening on Thursday, 23 November 2023.***

*I remember that on the evening of the third day of my detention at Ofer, a unit from the suppression forces affiliated with the IPS stormed the room where I was being held. They dismantled the aluminium windows within the section, one of which faced the yard, and the other overlooked the area behind the room. When we asked them about the reason for removing the windows, they said it was per IPS orders. The purpose was clear: to intensify the cold, especially during the night hours. After they removed the windows, I felt extremely cold, especially as the shirt I was wearing had short sleeves. **In any case, the following day, one of the jailors provided us with four jackets, despite there being nine detainees in the room.***³²

On 23 November 2023, at around 10:00 pm, A.A. was awakened by one of the jailors, and, along with other detainees, transferred and released at Beit-Sira checkpoint, near Ramallah. The following day, A.A. returned to his home in Hebron Governorate. At the end of his affidavit to Al-Haq, A.A. noted, **“I had been arrested twice before this one, but this arrest was the worst in terms of treatment, beatings, and continuous verbal abuse by Israeli soldiers and guards in detention centres. What I have recounted is just a part of the daily suffering of prisoners inside the prisons.”**³³

- **H.H., a female resident of Jerusalem Governorate**

On 9 October 2023, at around 2:00 am, the IOF forcibly entered H.H.’s residence by breaking down the door. The incursion occurred while she was asleep, and they immediately surrounded her bed. **Despite her plea to allow her to cover herself and her hair with the hijab and abaya, the IOF denied the request.** H.H., her daughter, along with her two-week-old granddaughter, were alone in the house, completely encircled by male Israeli occupying soldiers, as no female soldiers were present.

³² *Ibid.*

³³ *Ibid.*

The IOF demanded H.H.’s daughter to strip her baby naked in an attempt to search for H.H.’s phone. Furthermore, they insisted on H.H.’s daughter stripping naked for a personal search. Promptly refusing, H.H.’s daughter insisted on the presence of female soldiers for such procedures. In response, the IOF threatened her with a taser. Throughout these deplorable actions, **H.H. endured verbal abuse and repeated spitting on her face by the IOF. One soldier, in particular, got face to face with her and spat a large amount that covered her entire face and glasses with his saliva. H.H. recalls that the scent was very bad and asked to wash her face to which they refused.**

The IOF persistently harassed H.H., including by desecrating the Holy Quran by tearing out its pages. They invaded her personal space, going through her belongings, including her undergarments, and passed them around while laughing. Subsequently, an occupying soldier whispered explicit threats of sexual harassment in Arabic into her ear. Subjected to physical assault on various parts of her body, especially her face, while restrained with tied hands and feet, H.H. was then transferred to an interrogation centre. **In the interrogation room, an occupying soldier threatened her with rape from “the front and the back”.**³⁴

3. Enforced Disappearance, Detention *en masse* and Torture of Palestinian Residents of Gaza Since 7 October 2023

Palestinians have been detained en masse, during the Israeli ground invasion or the coerced displacement of Palestinians from northern Gaza to the south, in what might amount to enforced disappearance.³⁵ Testimonies from released Palestinian residents of Gaza reveal that they were forced to undress, stand in lines half-naked, ill-treated, tortured, humiliated, and taken to undisclosed locations.³⁶ To date, the fate – well-being and whereabouts – of Palestinian residents of Gaza who were detained by the Israeli military remains unknown.

Journalists, medical personnel, and human rights defenders were among those detained and subjected to torture and degrading and inhumane treatment at the hand of the IOF. According to the Government Information Office (GOI) in Gaza, the IOF have arrested at least 10 journalists³⁷ and 269 medical workers,³⁸ including the directors of Gaza’s three main hospitals – Al-Shifa Hospital, Kamal Adwan Hospital, and Al-Awda Hospital –, who remain as of the date submitting this submission in Israeli detention without any information on their conditions and whereabouts.

We have documented a number of testimonies of released Palestinians detainees from Gaza, including workers detained Israel, who all recounted ill-treatment and torture by the IOF, including being beaten, sleep deprived, electrocuted, forced to remain in stress positions, as well as being stripped naked and searched, sexually assaulted, humiliated, or threatened with

³⁴ Addameer Affidavit, taken from H.H., a resident of Jerusalem Governorate, on 18 December 2023.

³⁵ Al-Haq, PCHR and Al Mezan, “Urgent Call for Independent Investigation Amidst Persistent Reports of Torture, Enforced Disappearance, and Another Palestinian “Death” in Israeli Custody”, 4 January 2024, available at: <https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/22468.html>.

³⁶ *Ibid*; and Al-Haq, PCHR and Al Mezan, “After receiving harrowing testimonies from released Palestinian detainees: Our organisations condemn Israel’s acts of torture and abuse against hundreds of arbitrarily detained Palestinians from Gaza”, 12 December 2023, available at: <https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/22337.html>.

³⁷ The Palestinian Information Centre, “Injury of Al Jazeera Journalists in Direct Israeli Shelling, Government Media Condemns”, 13 February 2024, available in Arabic at: <https://palinfo.com/news/2024/02/13/876392/>.

³⁸ Anadolu Ajansı, “86 more Palestinians killed in Gaza by Israel, bringing tally since Oct. 7 to 30,717”, 6 March 2024, available at: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/86-more-palestinians-killed-in-gaza-by-israel-bringing-tally-since-oct-7-to-30-717/3156841>.

rape. PCHR has documented at least thirty cases of torture and ill-treatment from those released from detention, over ten of which has so far been published on PCHR's website, including of children, women, journalists, and people with disabilities.³⁹

- **Walid Yousif Al-Khalili, a 35-year-old paramedic at the Palestine Medical Relief Society**

On 13 November 2023, Walid Yousif Al-Khalili was on his way back to the Palestine Medical Relief Society (PMRS) office in Gaza city when IOF opened fire at a pharmacist, Dr. Marwan al-Refati, who was accompanying him to provide medical treatment to wounded civilians in Tal Al Hawa neighbourhood. Walid, who was wearing the PMRS paramedic uniform, witnessed the killing of Dr. Marwan, who was shot first in the abdomen and a few seconds later was shot in the forehead by Israeli snipers. The IOF were also shooting him so he decided to hide and kept moving from one place to the other fearing for his life. On 15 November 2023, two days later, at approximately 3:30 pm, IOF stormed the house he was staying in and arrested him. In his testimony to the PCHR, Walid recounted that he was ordered to take his clothes off and was handcuffed and blindfolded. While they were moving him from one detention location to the other and while being interrogated, he was subjected to constant beating, humiliation, threats, and other forms of torture and inhumane treatment, including electrical shocks, Shabeh positions, and water torture, to the extent that he wished die to be relieved of the pain and agony. According to Walid, two Palestinian detainees died from torture, one of them was staying with him in the same cell.⁴⁰

- **Ayman Lubbad, a human rights defender and staff at the Palestinian Center for Human Rights**

Among those arrested by the IOF in northern Gaza is Ayman Lubbad, a human rights defender and researcher in the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Unit at the PCHR, who was staying at his family home in the city of Beit Lahia. He was detained on 7 December 2023, and was subjected to different forms of torture and ill-treatment. He was released at the Kerem Shalom crossing, in southern Gaza, on 14 December 2023. For almost a week, no one had any information on Ayman's whereabouts or well-being. As of time of writing, he finds himself in the city of Rafah, separated from his wife and three children. In his testimony, he recounted the following:

On 7 December 2023, at approximately 10:00 am, we heard the IOF ordering people, through loudspeakers, to leave their houses and 'surrender' themselves. Women and elderly were instructed to go to Kamal Adwan Hospital, while men and boys as young as 14 were instructed to strip and kneel in the street.

Israeli soldiers shot our neighbour, Mohammed Al-Kahlout, injuring his hand. They inappropriately photographed us while we were half-naked and forced some of us to dance. They also burned the houses belonging to Al-Muqayd, Mahdi, Al-Kahlout, and Sorour families in front of us.

³⁹ PCHR, "Israel's War on Gaza 2023: Testimonies from the Way", available at:

<https://pchrgaza.org/en/category/israels-war-on-gaza-2023/testimonies-from-the-war/>.

⁴⁰ For the full testimony taken by the PCHR, see, PCHR, "Scourage of Torture Under Detention", 13 January 2024, available at: <https://pchrgaza.org/en/scourage-of-torture-under-detention/>.

*On the same day at noon, we were taken to the Zikim area by the sea, where we remained until late at night. I learned later that some detainees were released. They took the rest of us to Ofekim military base, handcuffed and blindfolded. As soon as we arrived there, I was given the number 059775 and brought before an interrogator to provide my personal information. **Upon learning that I work for a human rights organisation, the interrogator threateningly said: 'I will teach you your rights very well in prison.'***

Later, we were taken to a detention facility designated for Gaza detainees. It was surrounded by barbed wires and had two high places for the emplacement of soldiers. There were 500-700 detainees with one bathroom for each place.

The IOF were abusing us on a daily basis from around 5:00 am until midnight. We were only allowed to sit on our knees. Any attempt to change the position or remove the blindfold was faced with a severe punishment, including standing with hands raised above the head for over three hours. I, along with a group of detainees, was transferred to a similar place about which we had no information. We could hear the drones taking off and landing. During my transfer, I was beaten by Israeli soldiers several times for no reason. They hit me continuously on my rib cage. I could not sleep for two nights from the severity of the pain.

On Monday, 11 December, I was transferred to a new detention facility, it was better than the previous two places. We were held inside the detention facility without being handcuffed or blindfolded, able to move, and sleep without much disturbance from the soldiers. I later learned from some detainees that we were in a place located in Jabal Al Mukaber, in Jerusalem.

At noon of the same day, I underwent an interrogation that lasted until 10 pm, a continuous interrogation session. The interrogator took my personal data and began the interrogation by saying that he was mentally ill and off medication. He insisted that his questions were accurate and demanded that I tell him all the information I have about members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. He delved into the nature of my work at PCHR and sought my opinion about what happened on 7 October. He said that they will start to treat the people of Gaza like 'dogs.'

The interrogator questioned and pressed me on extended relatives and their alleged relationship with Hamas. I tried to explain to him that I do not have answers to his questions due to the weak and limited social interaction I have with these distant family members. He threatened me, cursed me, and hit me in the face. As he became angrier he kept on repeating the same questions. He demanded that I try to remember. He kept on coming in and going out of the room. Each time he left the room, he covered my eyes with a blindfold.

*The last time he returned, I repeated to him that I do not have any information or details. **At the end of the interrogation, he got up, angrily, blindfolded me, and violently took me out of the building. I stayed for about an hour in the open air sitting on my knees blindfolded. I could not bear the extreme cold, several soldiers came and beat me, and told me 'every dog has its day'.***

I could hear other detainees screaming as they were getting apparently beaten in a way that was worse than the beating I had to endure. Around an hour later, I was taken back to the detention area. Most of those detained with me were workers from

Gaza who were arrested in Israel after the 7th of October and Palestinians arrested from the so-called 'humanitarian corridor' on Salah-Al-Din Street, which Israel opened for civilians moving from the north to the south of Gaza. Most of the detainees have been detained for about 30-40 days.

Late on Wednesday night, 13 December 2023, they woke us up while sleeping to count the number of detainees. We noticed that they had brought several handcuffs along with other boxes which turned out to be containing the detainees' belongings. Civilian buses appeared, so we knew that they would release us. When we got on the bus, the soldiers put cuffs on our hands and legs. Every two detainees were tied together.

On Thursday, 14 December 2023, at approximately 12:00 am, the buses started moving from the detention facility until we reached the Karem Abu Salem crossing, east of Rafah, at approximately 05:00 am. They removed the cuffs from our hands and legs. We got out of the bus and started walking towards the Palestinian side. I had nothing in my possession except my ID card. I contacted my family members who remained in the Beit Lahia area to inform them that I got out and went to look for my displaced relatives in the city of Rafah.⁴¹

- Nadia Nayef Hasan al-Helou, a 44-year-old resident of al-Sheikh Redwan neighbourhood in Gaza City

Nadia Nayef Hasan al-Helou, is a 44-year-old Palestinian mother of three children, the eldest is 13-year-old Maria and the youngest is 7-year-old Mohammad. Nadia is a resident of al-Sheikh Redwan neighbourhood in Gaza City, and now displaced to Rafah. On 28 December 2023, she was detained by the IOF. In her testimony, she recalled the following:

At 10:00, on 28 December 2023, IOF completely besieged the school with their military vehicles and bulldozers and razed the area surrounding it. They then called via loudspeakers all men 16 years old and above inside the school and ordered them to come out naked except for the underwear and holding their IDs.

At 15:00, on that painful day, the Israeli soldiers called again saying: "to all women, take your bags and leave through the safe corridor to the south." At that moment, I thought we had survived and I would safely go with my children to a safe area in the south, but that was the biggest trick. I decided to leave this time without packing our clothes and only taking some canned food and wheat flour that I had grinded to feed my children. The soldiers then stopped us and there were cameras ahead. The soldiers were distributing potable water to women, who were allowed to pass. I told my children: now they will give us water and we will leave. The soldiers dug a large hole to put women, whom they did not want, in it. Just when I was crossing, a soldier called me: "you, who wear an imprinted hijab, come here." At that time, my little child held me tight, but I was not paying attention to him out of fear. However, the soldier had no mercy on me ignoring my little son's fears and called me again: "You, who wear a blue mask pulling below your chin, come here." I told my children not to worry as they only wanted to give me water and I would

⁴¹ For the full testimony taken by PCHR, see, PCHR, "Human rights defender Ayman Lubbad speaks of his detention by Israeli occupying forces in Gaza", 28 December 2023, available at: <https://pchrgaza.org/en/human-rights-defender-ayman-lubbad-speaks-of-his-detention-by-israeli-occupying-forces-in-gaza/>.

come back. They took me and forced me to sit on a sand berm, leaving my children alone not knowing anyone there. Meanwhile, there was an Israeli soldier shooting at the street poles and another mocking us by saying “hasbunallah wanikmal wakil” [which translated to “please Allah help us”].

Afterwards, I asked one of the soldiers where and why they were taking me, and he replied while pushing my back with his weapon’s muzzle: “walk, just keep walking.” I asked him again and again, “Where are you taking me?”, and he finally answered, “to the doctor for a checkup.”

There was a tent set up 10 meters away from the school with a female Israeli soldier inside. She searched me and then ordered me to unbutton my abaya, lift up my blouse, pull my pants down, and take off my hijab. I had money, but the soldier took them, searched them and then threw them back to me.

After the female soldier finished searching me, I told myself that they would now let me go to my children. However, I was surprised by an Israeli soldier from outside the tent telling me to come with him while pushing my back with his weapon. When I asked him where we were going, he told me to shut up in Hebrew.

The soldier then pushed me into an open truck, where there were young men wearing only their underwear along with other women who were arrested with me. When I was getting into the truck, I looked back to find my little daughter on the top of the sand berm waving to me, so I thought that she was waiting for me to come through. **Right in front of my daughter, the soldiers tied my hands and feet with cuffs and blindfolded me while one of the soldiers pushed my back with his weapon forcing me to sit in the truck. The soldier then put my ID card in my hands, and because the cuffs were so tight, I could not hold my ID, so it fell off. Thus, the soldier beat me again with his weapon on my shoulder, shouting, “Hold your ID.”**

From 15:00 to 19:00, we were left in the truck that later drove us. While on our way, I was begging the soldiers to give me some water because I have hypertension and diabetes, but in vain, as the soldier was only telling me to shut up. When we arrived, an Israeli soldier violently pulled me from my hands while blindfolded, so I fell on another soldier, who removed my blindfold. I then asked him, “Where am I?” and He said: “Welcome to Israel.” The place they took us to was spacious and looked like a military site. I broke down and cried a lot fearing for my children who had no one to take care of them.

We stayed for half an hour, during which female soldiers searched my clothes tightly, squeezing my body and threw away everything I had, including tissues and biscuits. They then took us to another truck packed with young men who had been severely beaten as I could see their faces and bodies covered in blood while wearing transparent clothes that could not protect them from the cold weather. Before the truck moved, the soldiers had thrown 10 blankets for the women inside the truck, but we gave them for the men, who were in extremely difficult conditions wearing very light clothes, to keep them warm. The Israeli soldier then said, “It’s over, you will go back home.” As soon as we were extremely happy to hear that news, we became sad again knowing that the soldier was talking to detainees in another truck. At that moment, we realized that our journey with them had just begun.

On 29 December 2023, we were searched by female soldiers again while we were wearing our clothes and then taken into a windowless armored bus. At that time, I asked the Israeli female soldiers to bring me some water because I was so thirsty, but they did not respond. And whenever I raised my head, the Israeli female soldier would beat me with her hand or her weapon on my head and sometimes severely kick my back while insulting me.

After spending 3 to 4 hours in the bus, they dropped us off and searched us again before taking us into another bus. Before getting into that bus, an Israeli soldier came with a bottle of water and asked if we wanted to drink, and each of us drank a little; about a quarter cup of water. Out of fatigue and after drinking a little water, I slept in the bus. They then woke me up to drop me off in a place with an asphalt floor that I felt while walking on it. We sat for half an hour in an open area, and I was then transferred to a closed room, where there were 4 female soldiers; two were armed while the other two were there to search me. We were in 'Antot [military camp/centre, near] Jerusalem. Inside the closed room, the female soldiers pushed me, kicked me, and stripped off my clothes. I was subjected to strip search and ill-treatment.

I was left in my underwear and they then gave me a pajama to wear. After desperately begging them to give my hijab back, they gave it to me. Afterwards, they gave me three pieces of paper for my belongings placed in "safe custody". I wrote down all what I had including money, gold earrings, and clothes, and then signed the papers back.

After that, they tied my hands and feet with chains and put a black tag around my wrist with number 644. I was then taken down to a yard while being blindfolded, pulled from the chains by an Israeli soldier and another soldier pushing my back with his weapon. They forced me to kneel on a gravel floor in a fenced area. At that time, I heard a girl calling, "Mama, Mama," and I unconsciously thought it was my daughter, so I called out loud, "Mimi," but I got disappointed after realizing that she was a young girl in her twenties.

The soldiers then dragged me all the way to a clinic while blindfolded. When I arrived, the doctor asked if I had any complaints or suffered from any diseases and I told him that I had pain in my ear and needed a medicine, but he refused to give me any. I also told him that I have hypertension and diabetes, but he responded that he was not a specialist and was there only to fill out data.

I was then taken to a spacious place, forcing me to squat. I was very tired and slept on the floor when suddenly an Israeli soldier beat me with his feet and weapon and said: "You are not allowed to sleep, get up."

It was very cold, so they put a jacket on me while I was tied with chains and then took us to another place, which was about 15 minutes away from where I was. They then removed the chains, replaced them with plastic zip ties, tying them so tight around my wrists. I was then held in a cage-like cell surrounded by surveillance cameras in the so-called 'Antot [military camp/centre]. I stayed there handcuffed for 11 days with only a jacket on my shoulders. We could not pray and had no clean potable water, which was milky white and full of chlorine. For food, each detainee had her share of two packs of labneh and two loaves of bread. Throughout my detention for 11 days, male and female soldiers were cursing and

spitting on us while playing music out loud and bringing delicious food and eating it in front of us in addition to drinking clean mineral water, which we were deprived of in prison.

Moreover, during detention, I was taken twice to the interrogation room and asked about my brothers and if I participated in the Great March of Return protests. They had all my personal data and my family and brothers' too. They blackmailed me saying: "if you change your statements, we will release you very soon, but if you do not, then you will rot in prison ... just say the truth and you will get back to your children."

At around 06:00, on 02 January 2024, they told us that we would go back home, but we were taken to an unidentified place full of large cages and it was too far. There, I was interrogated amid threats to harm my children, and being beaten with soldiers' weapon on my back. I was seated on an interrogation chair with cuffs holding my feet tight.

I was then taken and photographed with an Israeli flag behind me. They made me a card, wrote down my personal data and the diseases I suffer, and searched me again. I was then transferred in a bus driving for 3 hours, during which, the female soldiers were eating chocolate and nuts and drinking coke in front of us while we were subjected to beating with their weapons and insults. The bus dropped us off in another prison called Damon in Haifa. I felt unwell and nauseous and threw up feeling suffocated by being placed in a closed place, but no one cared. We were then taken to another place that looked like a school, where we were held in one room. One by one we were taken for strip search. After that, an Israeli female soldier tied my hands with chains and took me to another room for interrogation. In front of a camera, she interrogated me asking why I evacuated to the south, where I lived in Gaza and where I was staying in al-Bureij. I was then taken to another room where I was interrogated about my accounts on social media and my cell phone numbers; she was writing everything down.

They took me back to the first room. At the time, I felt so drained and weak needing some sugary food to eat because I have diabetes, so one of the detainees called out a doctor who responded and came with a chocolate pudding and a fork. I shared it with the 10 female detainees who were with me and starving. We called the doctor again to give us more food, but he told us that there are only leftovers in the trash, and we agreed because we were very hungry.

The soldiers then took us while handcuffed to a room in Damon prison, where we were held for 30 days. The food was a pack of yoghurt for breakfast, rice or pasta for lunch, and an egg for dinner. The water tasted like chlorine. In the morning, we were given an hour to take a shower and the Israeli male and female soldiers gave us ointments to remove the traces left by plastic-zip ties and chains on our wrists.

For the last 11 days in Damon Prison, I was held with 10 other female detainees in another closed room, where there was no water, and the bathroom was dirty and full of bugs. They only gave us 25 minutes for a break and shower, allowing every four female prisoners to go out together. Staying in that room was like a punishment for us as it had only a food tray slot in the door, thereby reducing food quantities.

On 06 February 2024, the Israeli soldiers came and told us: “you all will go home.” Once again, I was strip-searched in a closed room and then taken to a small cage, where there were other female detainees. They tied my hands and feet with chains and then took us in a vehicle that looked like an ambulance, where they sat every four detainees together in a very limited area in the closed vehicle in extreme darkness. We stayed there for 3 hours, so I had shortness of breath and was sweating. I called out the soldiers telling them I could not breathe, but they cursed me.

They dropped us in a large hall in Zikim, where there were a lot of naked women. When I entered the hall, a female soldier ordered me to take off my clothes and sit with the rest of the women. When I refused to take off my pants, she violently kicked me. There was another Israeli soldier at the hall door to allow women entering and leaving the hall while seeing all the women inside wearing only their underwear. I put my clothes on and was then taken along with other detainees to be held in a cage. They gave each of us a mattress and a blanket, and a soldier then came and gave us two packs of labneh two, baguettes and two oranges for every 10 women, and an apple for every four women. The food given to us was not enough for the 24 women in the cage.

At 03:00, female soldiers came, insulted us and took us to another place, where we were searched, our hands were tied behind our backs with a bag, not knowing what was inside it. I later learned that my ID and my gold earrings were inside the bag while the money and clothes were confiscated.

Before I was taken to Gaza, an Israeli soldier took a video of me and he said, “We will record a video to ask you what your name is and how you are feeling and you tell me you are doing fine”. I did what he wanted and after we finished recording, a female soldier severely beat me on my back and violently tied my hands behind my back. They took me into a bus at around 03:00 on 08 February 2024.

Our eyes were blindfolded and our hands and feet were tied behind the back. At 08:00, we arrived at the Rafah border crossing, where there were many Israeli soldiers who had us untied and ordered us to run and not look back. We then arrived at a tent for the International Committee of the Red Cross and they gave us clothes, personal hygiene kits, food and water.

We were asked if we had relatives in Rafah or they would take us to al-Taif School in Rafah. I finally reached out my children and learned that their stepbrothers took them from al-Bureij refugee camp to Khirbet al-‘Adas area, where they are staying in a tent. I went there and took my children to al-Taif School.

At the school shelter, we have limited access to water amid poor sanitation conditions. My children and I only have one mattress and one blanket to sleep. After 16 days of my release and due to lack of water, I could finally have [a] shower while lack of hygiene at school caused lice in my hair.⁴²

⁴² For the full testimony taken by PCHR, see, PCHR, ““I had been detained for 43 days and separated from my children””, 16 March 2024, available at: <https://pchrgaza.org/en/i-had-been-detained-for-43-days-and-separated-from-my-children/>.

- **Jalal Salem Mohammed Abu ‘Aabdah, a 34-year-old resident of al-Bureij refugee**

Jalal Salem Mohammad Abu ‘Aabdah, a 34-year-old Palestinian father of four children, who was detained by the IOF on 28 December 2023 for 34 days. In his testimony to the PCHR, he recalled the following:

*At around 06:00 on 28 December 2023, IOF heavily conducted airstrikes and fire belts as well as artillery shelling all around the area until we could hear the Israeli vehicles approaching the southern wall of the school. **They raided the school while ordering via loudspeakers all those inside to get down to the school yard raising their hands and ID cards. Men, women and children went down, and we, men, were forced to take off our clothes and then taken out of school to an agricultural land. We were taken 5 by 5, and when it was my turn along with 4 other relatives, they returned all of them except me. I was arrested and loaded into a truck like sheep along with other detainees while we were all handcuffed, blindfolded and naked amid the very cold weather. The truck drove us to an unknown destination and then stopped to force us down cruelly amid insults and beating with rifles’ butts.***

*I was taken for interrogation and asked about where I was on October 7th and if I knew any of those who participated in the attack, accusing me of working with the resistance groups. **During the interrogation, I was severely beaten and insulted while handcuffed and naked.** We were then loaded into a truck and were told that we would be taken back to the shelter.*

*On the way, I found my 2 sisters-in-law and 2 other women from the family with us. I knew they were lying to us as **they dropped us at a place with a gravel floor and forced us to kneel on the ground all the day while the soldiers were stepping on our heads with their military boots. We were then given a see-through jumpsuit, which would not protect us from the cold and rainy weather. I wore it and was then walked to a doctor who asked me If I suffered from any chronic diseases, and I told him I was suffering from breath shortness. We were then taken into a barrack and given a pajama, a blanket and a very light mattress. We were all the time blindfolded and handcuffed and were being taken to [the] bathroom like that. I stayed there for one day and was then taken for interrogation that lasted for 5 hours. They asked me the same questions amid constant insults, mocking and threatening to kill my children and rape me if I did not respond to them.***

I was then taken to another place with an asphalt flooring, where I was forced to kneel amid insults and beating. They then returned me to the barrack, where I stayed for 4 days.

At the beginning, they gave me a number and were calling us in numbers. We ate 3 meals daily but were too little to satisfy our hunger, using starvation as a torture method. I was then walked to a room, where they played music out loud and turned fans and AC on the cool mode, forcing us to kneel on a gravel floor for hours. I was then taken into a room, where there was an interrogator, forcing me to sit on a very small chair while tying my hand with my leg. I was interrogated for 12 consecutive hours and more than one interrogator mocked and insulted me all through the interrogation.

I was then taken back to the music room for 4 hours and then put with other detainees on a bus, where I was severely beaten and insulted, and drove us back to the barrack, spending there my whole detention period.

During my detention, the Shin Bet offered me to collaborate with them and in exchange they would secure my children's future, but I refused to.

*When I was in the barrack, I was subject to indescribable degrading treatment; I was not allowed to speak or sit, but only while sleeping. Whoever disobeyed the orders, he would be cruelly punished. **They woke us by hitting the barrack's walls and sometimes the anti-riot units unleashed their mad dogs on us to terrify us. We were forced to kneel on the ground for 17 hours, and they took our eye prints and saliva samples.***

For 34 days, I endured all horrors of prison and different forms of torture, including beating, insults and humiliation. I was released on 29 January 2024 when they loaded us, including women, on a bus and dropped us after 4 hours of travel at Kerem Shalom crossing, eastern Rafah. We were untied and ordered to run towards the Palestinian side of the crossing, where UNRWA employees received us and wrote down our personal data. I then went to the shelter in al-Bureij refugee camp, from which I was arrested, in order to stay with my family and children. Finally, I call on all relevant organizations to reveal the fate of my sisters-in-law whom we so far know nothing about.⁴³

- **R. RA., a 31-year-old Palestinian resident of North Gaza**

On 2 December 2023, R.RA. was detained by the IOF while walking through the so-called 'safe corridor' route. In her testimony to PCHR, she recalled the following:

On 07 October 2023, the Israeli warplanes started bombing in our area [in northern Gaza], including houses, enticing fear among us. Later, they dropped leaflets to evacuate the area, so my brother, his wife and I left the house at 13:00 on 18 October 2023. We went to al-Fakhourah School and stayed there until mid-November.

During that time, the Israeli tanks fired artillery shells at the school while we were inside, so we evacuated to Hafsa School in Jabalia refugee camp near Abu Rashed pool... [The IOF] heavily fired [white smoke] bombs between us, causing smoke plumes. We could not see anything and tents were set on fire at the school.

The next day, at around 08:00, we walked to Netzarim checkpoint via the so-called "safe corridor." When we arrived, IOF ordered all those evacuating via loudspeakers to sit on the ground in order to wait for the rest to come. We waited for half an hour and they then ordered us to move while raising the ID cards and keeping a distance between each of us. Meanwhile, IOF called me to come with my ID and my belongings, including my [backpack] that had my clothes inside along with a snake-bracelet, a light necklace, 2 rings, a pair of earrings, Note 9 cell phone, mini cell phone and 2000 shekels. One of the soldiers ordered me to throw all the belongings I had on the ground and enter a tent, where there was a female

⁴³ For the full testimony taken by PCHR, see, PCHR, "34 Days of Torture in Detention", 24 February 2024, available at: <https://pchrgaza.org/en/34-days-of-torture-in-detention/>.

soldier. The tent was all closed but a small part like a door was open. I threw all what I had and entered the tent.

The female soldier was talking to me in Hebrew while she was 2 meters away and there was a soldier outside translating for me at the tent's door. **She then ordered me via a loudspeaker to take off all of my clothes, including my underwear, shake each piece and my shoes and then throw it on the ground. After taking off all of my clothes, she shouted out loud at me and ordered me to put on my clothes quickly but without the scarf. She then had my hands tied with plastic zip ties, blindfolded me with a piece of cloth and sat me on a sand berm.** Few minutes later, she took me to a tent, where there was a chair and an interrogator. He asked me about my siblings and their work claiming that my brother is affiliated with al-Qassam Brigades. When I told him that I knew nothing, he started shouting at me saying, "liar... you are all liars" and slamming his fist on the table. During the interrogation, which continued for 5 minutes, the interrogator blackmailed me to answer each question and collaborate with them in order to secure my release. He then ordered the soldiers to take me away. They threw me on the ground and left me under the sun until 18:00. I could see through the blindfold women detained, including a nursing mother who was released at 14:30. **The soldiers were constantly cursing us with the nastiest words and when I asked for water or to go to the bathroom, they would refuse and insult me. I sat with my head between my knees upon the female soldier's orders...**

At around 19:00, I was taken to a gravel-floored room blindfolded and with my hands tied. After an hour, I was taken to an SUV that drove me to Zikim detention center, where female soldiers ordered me to take off all my clothes and gave me a grey pajama that I wore without neither my underwear nor my hijab. They tied my hands, blindfolded me and then took me to a doctor, who examined me and asked if I had any disease. Afterwards, I was taken to a barrack and was given a blanket and very light mattress that was too small for my size. I slept while blindfolded and with my hands tied. After half an hour, the female soldiers came and woke us and whenever we closed our eyes to sleep, they would wake us again and order us to kneel while the female and male soldiers kept cursing us with the worst swears. They pointed their guns at us while moving the red laser lights and said, "who wants to be shot first?"

The next day at 08:00, they took all women for interrogation and my turn was at 18:00. They put me in a small container, where there were a soldier writing behind a computer and a female soldier interrogating me... In the end, she blackmailed me to collaborate with them and gave me time to think. The interrogation continued for half an hour.

The next day at around 08:00, they took me again for interrogation and the female soldier asked me, "did you think about working with us? I am sure my offer is way better than Gaza." She added, "you are smart and you can play your cards right, believe me it would be way better than your Gaza". I told her, "I do not want to work with you. I just want to go back to Gaza." She then asked me about my brothers-in-law and I told her they were just farmers, but she shouted and hit my head on the table accusing me of being a liar. She started threatening to refer me the next day to the intelligence services, where I would be tortured way worse than here. She added, "I am only playing with you now and it would never be like this

with the Intelligence services.” I told her to take me wherever she wanted and I would have nothing else to say. **She then threatened to bomb my house, and I told her that there were innocent people inside. She told me, “we would bomb them all and wipe off Gaza; we would bomb the innocents and non-innocents.”** A senior interrogator in a green uniform then came in and unblindfolded me. He had a piece of paper and started asking me about October 7th and taking part in it. A female soldier then came and threw the paper in my face as she did not like my answers. She said, “you are all liars.” “Just wait for tomorrow and watch what I can do to you,” she added.

I was then taken to a barrack lined with barbed wires and roofed with tinplate. We were 5 women and stayed there for 5 days. **One of the detained women was from Jabalia and appointed by the soldiers to do all the work. I had my period, so I asked her to bring pads and she brought me only one, so I used toilet paper instead. We went to the bathroom while our hands were tied with plastic zip ties and she helped me whenever I asked her. Meanwhile, for food, we only ate labneh and two loaves of bread that was too little food and we should finish eating in a specific[period of] time otherwise they would throw it in the trash.**

Five days later, female soldiers came and ordered us to go to the bathroom because they would take us to a far place and we were all tied. When they took us out of the barrack, a female soldier pushed me to the barbed door and had my hands tied with metal cuffs. She then blindfolded me and had my foot tied to another detainee’s foot. They put us on a bus which drove us 5 hours away. When I tried to look up while on the bus, a soldier attacked me and hit me on the head that he almost killed me, but another soldier intervened and stopped him.

We were taken to Damon Prison in Haifa. **They started pulling us and we fell on each other. We could not walk or get off the bus because we were blindfolded. My foot was tied with another detainee’s foot.** A soldier then arrived and unblindfolded us to get off the bus and I was held in a small room.

We were taken in turns to be interrogated by a senior interrogator wearing beige pants and a grey t-shirt while there was a soldier behind a computer. The officer started asking me questions about electing al-Senwar and about my brothers. He also asked me if I was affiliated with any faction or posted on Facebook about October 7th. The interrogation continued for 5 minutes, and then 2 female soldiers took me to a small room, where she asked me to take off all my clothes. **While naked, she started stepping on my body while they were all laughing and speaking in Hebrew.** They then ordered me to wear my clothes and took me to the doctor’s room. Afterwards, I was taken to a room with 12 female detainees from Gaza. They gave me a very light mattress and a blanket and then pushed me into a room with 5 beds. **There was also a bathroom without water and with one tissue. Moreover, there was a tap with non-potable water to drink from. Food was too little and unhealthy; they gave us labneh and bread for breakfast and very old rice or lentil for lunch while for dinner they brought a burnt egg and a piece of bread. While sleeping, they would come and count us. They did the inmate count 4 times a day as I had a plastic bracelet in my hand with my detention number, which I do not remember. We were searched every other day; they took us out in the cold and searched us. We had a break daily only for 15 minutes in a yard lined with barbed**

wires and surveillance cameras watching us all the time. In the break, we were allowed to take a shower.

Four days before my release, they took me for interrogation while my hands were tied with metal cuffs. I was interrogated for half an hour and then they took my fingerprints and toeprints in addition to inserting a stick in my throat (I think they took a saliva sample.) I asked the female detainees from the West Bank about what happened with me and they said it was part of the release procedures. At around 13:00 on Thursday, 18 January 2024, we were taken one by one to a small room, where a female soldier ordered me to take off all my clothes and strip-searched me. She ordered me to wear them again and walked me to another room, where they again took my fingerprints and toeprints. They then tied my hands and feet and put me on a microbus, which was a steel box with barbed wires that I could not see through as it only had small holes so we could breath. The microbus drove us [for] 4 hours and stopped in a detention facility, where I slept on a very light mattress with a light blanket...

*At around 05:00 on Friday, 19 January 2024, male and female soldiers came in and woke us, ordering us to get ready. After half an hour, I had my hands tied in front, blindfolded and walked to a big bus, where there were male and female detainees. The bus drove us for 3 hours and then stopped at Kerem Shalom crossing as the detainees told me. We were forced out of the bus, unblindfolded and unhandcuffed. **They only gave me my ID and ordered us to walk. We ran 200 meters away and took the wrong way when suddenly the soldiers shot in the air, so we came back and walked 100 meters into the other way.** We found 2 UNRWA vehicles that took us to a tent 200 meters away to the west. There were employees from the International Committee of the Red Cross, who gave us food, water and 300 shekels. They sent us to al-Ta'ef Preparatory School for Boys, a shelter in the Saudi neighborhood in Rafah, where I am staying now with 5 other women; some of them were detained, in the stairwell. There is no lighting and we only eat canned food once a day. With cash assistance and money collected from each other, we could buy a bag of flour. There is also no bathroom so I go to the men's bathroom; the situation is catastrophic.⁴⁴*

4. Palestinian residents of Gaza holding permits issued by Israel

On 7 October 2023, thousands of Palestinian residents of Gaza, holding permits issued by Israel for work or medical purposes, were present in Israel or the West Bank. Israeli authorities detained a considerable number of them *en masse*, without legal authority and grounds. The exact count of permit holders present in these areas remains unknown, but amounts to thousands of Palestinians. Among the detention facilities identified for holding the Gaza permit holders were Ofer and Anatot, both Israeli military bases located in the occupied West Bank.

Several Gaza workers, having crossed into the West Bank through Israeli-controlled checkpoints to escape the mass arrest campaign, reported prolonged detentions, confiscation of personal belongings, including cell phones and cash, and enduring violent and humiliating interrogations and harassment by soldiers. Many remain stranded in the West Bank. Alongside the arbitrary revocation of work permits, those Palestinians 'fortunate' enough to be released,

⁴⁴ For the full testimony taken by the PCHR, see, PCHR, "They repeatedly forced me to strip naked", 19 February 2024, available at: <https://pchrgaza.org/en/they-repeatedly-forced-me-to-strip-naked/>.

or those who were forced into the West Bank have shared harrowing accounts of the inhumane treatment and physical violence they endured at the hands of the Israeli police. More information on this can be found in a previous urgent appeal sent to a number of Special Procedures, dated 2 November 2023.⁴⁵

On 10 November 2023, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that a group of 982 Palestinian workers was returned to Gaza via Karm Abu Salem Crossing on the night of 9-10 November.⁴⁶ The circumstances of their previous detention by Israel remain unclear. Subsequently, on 15 November 2023, an additional 2,500 workers and other Gaza residents, lacking permits, were returned to Gaza via Karm Abu Salem as reported by Gisha.⁴⁷ On 28 November 2023, a further 300 Palestinian workers were returned to Gaza, according to OCHA.⁴⁸ We alarmingly note that the number of Palestinian residents of Gaza holding Israeli-issued permits that remain detained in Israeli prisons or are currently in Israeli custody remains undisclosed.

- **The imprisonment of Emad Al-Din Abu Wardeh, a 35-year-old Palestinian worker**

On 7 October 2023, Emad Al-Din Monthir Mohammad Abu Wardeh, a 35-year-old Palestinian resident of Gaza with a heart condition was inside the Green Line. As he used to work in the construction sector in the city of Haifa, Emad Al-Din was staying in a workers' accommodation in the city of Nazareth. He would visit his family in Jabalia every few months. On 9 October 2023, at around 1:00 am, his accommodation where he resided, along with another seven Palestinian workers was invaded by the Israeli authorities. In his affidavit to Addameer, Emad Al-Din recounted the following:

On 9 October 2023, at around 1:00 am, the accommodation was invaded by a group dressed in military attire, olive-green in colour. They were masked and armed, numbering approximately 15 individuals. After they forced the door open, they attacked us. We told them that we were workers and we had permits, but they threw us to the ground. They started hitting us with rifles, batons, and their fists, and they stomped on our heads with their feet. The focus of the beating was on my chest, and afterwards, I felt that I had fractures in my chest because it became difficult for me to breathe. The beating was concentrated on the head and chest, along with spitting and using very offensive language towards us.

*They stayed in the accommodation for about an hour, conducting searches and causing destruction in the house. They smashed and broke things in the house, and they were constantly hitting us. After that, they blindfolded us, and I, along with others, had a scarf placed over my entire head. **It was difficult for me to breathe***

⁴⁵ Al-Haq, "Joint Urgent Appeal: Parallel to its Aggression on Gaza, Israel Escalates its Oppression of Palestinians in Every Part of Historic Palestine", 2 November 2023, available at: https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2023/11/03/231102-joint-urgent-appeal-parallel-to-its-aggression-on-gaza-israel-escalates-its-oppression-of-palestinians-in-every-part-of-historic-palestine-1699003276.pdf.

⁴⁶ OCHA, "Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #35", 10 November 2023, available at: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-35>.

⁴⁷ Gisha, "Secretly and unlawfully, Israel detained thousands of Palestinians from Gaza", 24 December 2023, available at: <https://gisha.org/en/secretly-and-unlawfully-israel-detained-thousands-of-palestinians-from-gaza/>.

⁴⁸ OCHA, "Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #53", 28 November 2023, available at: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-53>.

normally because my entire head was covered. I also have heart problems, and I asked them to remove the scarf. They refused, and one of them put his weapon to my head and threatened to kill me. They arrested me with zip ties and without shoes.

I remained in this state for 20 days without clothes or shoes. Afterward, we were transferred to the police station in Nazareth, where they put us in a room and threw us on the floor. The assault on us continued after they tied us with plastic restraints from behind. They used all the tools they had to beat us. Of course, I was in and out of consciousness, and I couldn't recognize anyone or their faces or clothing. One of them started jumping forcefully on my back and hit me with a baton on my chest and with a shotgun on my head, along with banging and spitting. They also used something like a stick to beat us on our backs. One of them rubbed my face on the ground with the baton. Our hands were tied behind our backs, and we were lying face down. We remained in this continuous state of assault until around 7-8 in the morning, when they finally took us to an interrogating policewoman. She asked about working in Israel without a permit, and we confirmed that we had permits. This was what she inquired about. After that, we were taken to a cell in the same police station in Nazareth, and we stayed there for three days. On the third day, we were presented before a judge via video call. There was a state-appointed lawyer with us whose name I do not know. The judge decided to release us, but at the police station, they informed us that they would not release us until the end of the war.

This centre was just a room without drinking water. There was no change of clothes, no soap, and no bathing facilities. The cell's dimensions were 3×2 metres, and there were 14 of us in it. We slept on the floor/tiles. They would give us a small sandwich in the morning and another one at night, very small and not filling. There was only one bathroom in the cell, without curtains or mats. For three days, we slept on the floor without any covering. I remained barefoot and in handcuffs, and they did not give me a change of clothes.

We did not tell the interrogator and the judge that we had been assaulted. All of us needed medical treatment, and I needed it the most because I felt that my chest fractures were moving. We were never presented to any doctor or given any treatment. The other guys also, one named T.A. [name omitted], had been severely beaten on his face, and his eyes were swollen. They did not treat him either, and they rejected our request for treatment.

After the third day, they transferred us with our hands tied behind our backs, our legs bound, and our eyes blindfolded. They gathered us from more than one police station because there were many workers in other police stations. They transported us in a prisoner transport bus, and of course, during the transport, there was beating, assault, and humiliation of me and all the workers. During the transport, we were blindfolded and unconscious the entire way. Then they took us to a prison with courtyards. In the middle of each courtyard, there was a large tent with an area of about 150 square metres inside, and the courtyard was approximately 500 square metres. They placed about 230-250 people in the tent I was in.

Later on, we learned that this prison was Ofer Prison. Each courtyard was surrounded by a large iron fence, approximately 5 metres tall. Between the

*courtyards and the fence, there was a metal mesh, and there were guards for surveillance between the fence and the mesh. We did not know what was in the other tents because they were separated from each other, but sometimes we could hear prisoners in the other tents. **The tent and courtyards were made of sandy ground with a layer of gravel. They gave us blankets and mattresses, but not enough for everyone. Of course, there were no pillows. The tent could not accommodate everyone, so some slept outside in the outer courtyard. It was very cold, and there were prisoners without mattresses or blankets. It rained on us more than once, so we entered the tent and stood on our feet because there was no space to sleep inside. The tents did not have anything, so we would cover ourselves with the same blanket in groups of four.***

In the last five days before our release, and due to our request and the severe cold, they gave us sleeping bags, jackets, extra blankets, and they gave me shoes. They would enter and exit prisoners on a daily basis. The tents were not clean. We received a small sandwich in the morning or at around 2 PM, and another one in the evening. They were very small sandwiches and not filling.

*In the last five days before we were released, they started providing us with meals only: a sandwich for breakfast and a meal for lunch or dinner. The food was bad and not filling at all. **Also, in the last five days, they gave us a bar of soap and a bucket. The showers were available in the courtyard, but the water was very cold, and there was no hot water at all. They did not give us change of clothes, only jackets, so I did not shower throughout the period.***

*In some cases where individuals suffered from chronic illnesses, they would take them to the clinic, whether they had diabetes or heart conditions. **After much delay and numerous requests, they would take them, but most of them were subjected to beatings when they went out. I did not request it out of fear of being beaten. I have heart problems and use an inhaler, but I refused to ask because they would blindfold and tie up those who went, and they would assault them. This happened in front of our eyes sometimes. Occasionally, I would take painkillers from the guys who went to the clinic just to ease the pain. In Ofer, we drank water from the bathroom. The electricity was on day and night, with bright and large floodlights.** There were about 8 guards who monitored us throughout the day. We did not go to any court after arriving at Ofer. The officers would say, "You are the enemy, and we are in a state of war, there is no release". We did not know anything about Majed Zaqqout, the martyr, and we did not meet him. I heard about a worker from Dar Al-Ataar through the guys, and they said he was martyred due to torture.*

On Friday, 3 November 2023, at 12:00 am, we were awakened, and they asked us to arrange the tents. They brought about 20 regular buses. Before leaving, we organised all the belongings: blankets and mattresses. Every two of us were subjected to a search, with blindfolding and handcuffing from behind, which was very painful. They put us on the buses, and we did not know where we were going from 1:00 am until 7:00 am. Throughout this time, I was in pain and kept telling them, "I'm in pain", but every time they shouted at me to be quiet, I stayed silent, fearing more beatings.

We arrived at the Karm Abu Salem crossing at 7:00 am. A masked soldier came out and said, "You can walk 1 kilometre to reach the Gaza Strip". We were happy and

said, “Of course”. However, we ended up walking about 3 kilometres. The soldiers at the crossing told us that those who live in the central and southern regions can go, but those in the north cannot because it’s a war zone. My family is in the north, and I am currently with someone I know in the southern region. Only on Friday, the first day [on which I was released], did I find out about my family and what happened to them. Thank God they are all fine, but the shelling is close to them. Until today, I am in one place and they are in another. Of course, the occupation stole everything I had, including money, ID, belongings, and the phone, from the beginning of the arrest and the raid, and they did not give us anything. **I wrote my name on my hands so they would know who I was in case I became a martyr. I have an uncle named Mohamed Abu Samra who was arrested, and until today, nothing is known about him.** Approximately, more than 2000 workers were released, but there are young people we lost, and they were not with us upon release.⁴⁹

5. The Dire Situation Inside Prisons Since 7 October 2023

Since 7 October 2023, relentless and brutal attacks on Palestinian prisoners within their cells have persisted and intensified, marked by, *inter alia*, daily severe beatings. The specialised repression unit ‘Metsada’ has initiated a campaign of assaults and room raids, subjecting prisoners to oppression and resulting in numerous injuries, regardless of age or health condition. Many detainees have reported that, periodically since 7 October 2023 at 9 pm, garbage is deliberately burned between sections inside the prison, producing a strong unpleasant odour and dense smoke. This intentional act causes discomfort and suffocation for the prisoners, while the soldiers within the prison wear masks. Furthermore, prisoners from various sections have reported that the IPS entered rooms under the pretext of conducting fire extinguisher training for soldiers. This resulted in prisoners being sprayed with water, leaving them and their sleeping areas and mattresses wet.

Moreover, a consistent policy employed by the IPS within prisons is the deliberate practice of medical neglect towards Palestinian detainees and prisoners. While this policy has been a recurring issue over the years, since 7 October 2023, with the increased assaults on prisoners, including beatings and frequent intrusions into their rooms by special forces, injuries and suffering within the prisons have intensified, along with the growing neglect.

Medical neglect encompasses preventing sick prisoners from accessing clinics, consulting with doctors, or receiving their prescribed medications. This neglect also extends to individuals with psychological disorders. During a visit to the 40-year-old prisoner M.S., it was confirmed that he suffers from Behcet disease and high blood pressure. Despite his continuous requests for medication, he has not been provided with the necessary treatment. Additionally, cancer patient and prisoner Asif al-Rifai stated that while undergoing chemotherapy, the dosage was inappropriate for his body, leading to loss of consciousness. Furthermore, there is a shortage of food for patients, aggravating their already deteriorating health conditions.

The IPS further removed window glass within the cells; exposing Palestinian detainees and prisoners to the harsh winter air and allowing rainwater into the cells, while further failing to provide Palestinian prisoners and detainees with sufficient warm clothing or blankets. Heated water in the showers is only turned on for one hour per day. This is particularly concerning as

⁴⁹ Addameer Affidavit, taken from Emad Al-Din Monthir Mohammad Abu Wardeh, 35, a resident of Jabalia, on 7 November 2023.

many sick prisoners require medical attention and basic living necessities like warm clothing and blankets to endure the winter weather.

Furthermore, the IPS initiated a starvation policy, reducing the standard three daily meals for each prisoner to only two. These reduced meals are not only little in quantity but also of poor quality. Water refrigerators inside the prisons were halted since 7 October 2023, forcing prisoners to drink tap water, which they have reported as not entirely clean and displaying a yellowish colour. The emergence of fungi on a prisoner in Ofer Prison's Section 18 Room 6 raises concerns about a potential deterioration in prisoners' medical health attributed to the poor quality of food and water, as well as the unhygienic living environment. Moreover, prisoners have shared accounts of rare instances when they were provided with meat or chicken instead of sausages with rice; however, the quality was deemed substandard, rendering it inedible due to insufficient cooking. Furthermore, with the confiscation of all tools, kitchen utensils, and personal belongings by the IPS, prisoners are left unable to even attempt to cook the undercooked food they are served, to be able to consume it.

- **M.N., an 18-year-old Palestinian resident of Jenin Governorate**

On 24 August 2023, at around 4:00 am, the IOF, accompanied by a military dog, raided the house of the M.N., an 18-year-old Palestinian resident of Jenin Governorate, blindfolded and restrained his hands, and arrested him. Upon being taken to the military vehicle, an additional plastic restraint was tied around M.N.'s hands and secured to one of the rear seats, and the military dog alternated between sitting next to M.N. and on top of him throughout this ordeal. M.N. was placed under administrative detention for six months, and he was still detained on 7 October 2023, experiencing the deteriorating situation inside prisons and detention centres. In his affidavit to Al-Haq, M.N. recalled the following:

On 7 October 2023, with the outbreak of the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip, the conditions of imprisonment and detention began to change. On that day, unexpectedly, a group of IPS officers entered the room where I was detained, carrying plastic shields. They started shouting at us. Some detainees protested against this treatment. One of the detainees was subjected to mistreatment and later placed in solitary confinement.

The IPS officers confiscated the television, kitchen utensils, kettle, and anything else that could be seized from the detainees during the raid. They deliberately provoked the detainees, subjecting them to harsh conditions almost daily. Then, on 13 November 2023, I was transferred from Megiddo Prison to the Negev Prison along with other detainees.

Upon arrival at Negev Prison, I was held in a waiting room and during that time, I was beaten by one of the IPS officers who delivered several blows to my face. During that, I could hear the sounds of other detainees being beaten, and they were in pain from the severity of the blows.

During my transfer to the sections of Negev Prison, IPS officers demanded that I kiss the Israeli flag, and I refused outright. At this point, I, along with another detainee, was beaten by several IPS officers all over my body. The beatings were brutal and harsh, to the extent that I witnessed one detainee lose consciousness due to the severity of the beating. Throughout the beating, I tried to protect my head, and this continued for several minutes.

Afterward, I was transferred to one of the sections in Negev Prison, where upon entering, another IPS officer assaulted us, delivering several blows with a wooden stick all over my body. The blows were strong and painful. Throughout all of the above, I could hear the screams of other detainees in different parts of the section as they were subjected to brutal beatings. My detention in Negev Prison continued under harsh and difficult conditions.

On 18 November 2023, during my presence in the detention room, in the evening hours of that day, myself and others began to hear the sounds of beatings suffered by detainees in a nearby holding room. The screams were extremely loud as the detainees there were being brutally beaten by IPS officers. This continued for about four-five minutes. Afterwards, a large number of IPS officers entered the room where I was located.

Immediately, one of them approached me, threw my body onto one of the beds, and began to beat me violently all over my body. He used a metal stick to deliver consecutive blows to my body. While attempting to fend him off, he tried to hit me on my head so I raised my hands to protect my head from the blows. At this point, I endured several consecutive and strong blows to both of my hands with the metal stick. This caused intense pain and I felt that my fingers were fractured. I and other detainees who were also being subjected to brutal beatings were screaming and shouting in pain. IPS officers also threw food on our bodies, cursed us, and mistreated us. This continued for about five-six minutes.

Both of my hands became swollen from the severity of the beatings, and I couldn't move my fingers, which made me realise that they're fractured. I was unable to shout or speak, experiencing great pain. On the next day, 19 November 2023, a fellow detainee from the adjacent room was transferred to the room where I was held. From him, I learned that that another detainee, named Thaer Abu Asab, had been subjected to severe beatings the previous day and lost consciousness, and it seems that he was martyred due to the severe beatings. I do not have additional information about the details of the incident or the manner in which the assault occurred. However, this news caused extreme distress among myself and others upon learning of the death of a detainee due to severe beatings.

Overall, I received minimal medical attention. The following morning, a doctor visited the holding room and examined me. She observed the signs of beatings covering my body, back, and hands. However, all she did was wrap my hand in medical gauze. I continued to experience persistent dizziness and severe pain in my hands, which impeded my ability to use them. I had to depend on assistance from other detainees for activities such as eating, using the restroom, and drinking water.

On Monday, 27 November 2023, while I was still in the detention room, some prison jailors called my name, pulled me out of the room with my hands tied behind my back, and transported me to another room where I was asked to sign papers of unknown content. After this, both myself and others were given new clothes, cotton garments, and were instructed to wear them. I realised that my release was imminent, especially given our awareness in recent days that many detainees were being released as part of exchange agreements with Hamas in the Gaza Strip. I was relocated to a room where an individual identifying himself as an Israeli

*intelligence officer questioned me. He asked, "What will you do if you leave?" I replied, "I want to live my life." He told me, "Don't make a fuss about you leaving; I don't want to arrest you again."*⁵⁰

M.N. was released that day and taken by a Palestinian ambulance to the Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah. After X-rays, it was confirmed that he had fractures in his fingers. He received treatment, including the adjustment of the position of his fingers, causing intense pain. After the position of his fingers was adjusted, they were placed in medical casts. As of the time this affidavit was taken, M.N. was still in his medical casts.

- **A.K., a 17-year-old Palestinian resident of Jenin Governorate**

A.K., a Palestinian resident of Jenin Governorate who had not yet turned 16 years old at the time, was detained on 10 September 2022, at around 1:30 am, when the IOF raided his home. Following a search and identity verification, A.K. was handcuffed, blindfolded, beaten, and transported to an Israeli military camp near Ya'bad village, south of Jenin city. There, A.K. was beaten by several Israeli occupying soldiers who took turns hitting his face and various parts of his body amid the soldiers' laughter. After about two hours of this treatment, A.K. was transferred to Al-Jalameh Interrogation Center inside the Green Line. Placed in solitary confinement, A.K. underwent daily interrogations for almost 20 days – two to three sessions each day, each lasting between one to two hours – without appearing before a military court. Ten days after the interrogation had ended, A.K. was transferred to Megiddo Prison, and a day later, he appeared before a military court for the first time. On 8 August 2023, an Israeli military court sentenced A.K. to a 30-month imprisonment and imposed a financial fine of NIS 30,000 (around USD 8,100).

In his affidavit to Al-Haq, A.K. described the deteriorating conditions of imprisonment after 7 October 2023, recounting the following:

*The conditions of detention were somewhat good until 7 October 2023, which marked the beginning of the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip, the first day of the war. At that time, the prison and detention rooms were invaded by the IPS officers. Myself and the other juvenile detainees were forced to sit on the ground, hands placed above our heads, and photographs were taken of us. **The next day, the IPS officers raided the rooms again, confiscated all its contents and belongings, including TVs, cooking utensils, and food supplies. They also took away the watches we had. Nothing was left for us.** On the fourth day of the war, a large group of IPS officers and suppression units began throwing sound bombs in front of the rooms, at around 11 pm, according to my estimate. **When the detainees started screaming, they released gas into the rooms, causing us to lose the ability to move. The IPS officers entered the rooms, tied our hands with metal ties, removed all our clothes except our underwear, and transported us outside to an open area where we were held until around 7 am the next day. Then we were returned to the detention rooms.***

Upon re-entering the rooms, we were surprised to see that they had confiscated all the blankets and clothes, and cut off water to the rooms. This continued until the next morning, when they brought us dirty mattresses with a foul smell. We

⁵⁰ Al-Haq Affidavit 2023-12-1309-GL-F-A1-IL-CLD, taken from M.N., 18, a resident of Jenin Governorate, on 4 December 2023.

endured these conditions for four days, which imposed harsh and difficult circumstances on us. Like other detainees, I protested by chanting and demanding the return of our confiscated belongings and improvement of the detention conditions. This led to further beatings and suppression by the IPS officers. We were transferred to solitary cells, and I, along with five other detainees, was placed in a small cell without a bathroom, and we were given a plastic bottle to use. We lived in extremely harsh conditions. Meals were served to us only once a day, and this continued for four days, which felt like four years. Some detainees resorted to urinating on themselves, and we were not even allowed to shower.

The days were extremely difficult, and we suffered from the harsh detention conditions that words cannot describe. In that cramped cell, I, along with other detainees, stood next to each other with our bodies close together. After four days, we were returned to the sections, but the detention conditions there were not any better. Each eight detainees were grouped together, and only one meal, which was not sufficient for one person, was provided [to each group of eight people]. This forced us to undergo a three-day hunger strike. After that, the conditions and food quantities were slightly improved, as each room was provided with a bundle of bread and one plate of rice.

This situation continued until 30 October 2023, when we expressed, once again, our protest against the poor food and the confiscation of our belongings. As a result, we were subjected to isolation in the same solitary cells. This continued until 7 November 2023, and then we were returned to the sections. We protested again after several days against the continuing described detention conditions. On 14 November 2023, we were once again brutally beaten by the IPS officers. The beatings involved wooden sticks, hands, and feet, and were viciously administered all over the body. Several detainees, including myself, sustained injuries, and we bled without any notable medical treatment.

On Saturday, 25 November 2023, in the early hours of dawn, IPS officers entered the room, called my name, and asked me to prepare myself for isolation and interrogation, claiming that I had caused many problems in recent days. They tied my hands, took me outside the detention room, and placed me in an interrogation room. There, an Israeli intelligence officer identified himself and asked me, "What will you do when you leave?" I replied, "I just want to go back to work." Then, he told me that I would be released.⁵¹

Then, A.K., along with other detainees, was transferred from Megiddo Prison to Ofer Prison. There, they were held in a room, and they were forced to undress, keeping only their underwear and undershirts. Upon arrival at Ofer Prison, A.K. and the other released detainees were given clothes. At around 10:00 pm of the same day, 25 November 2023, they were transported by an ICRC bus to Beitunia near Ramallah, and from there, A.K. returned to his home to reunite with his family in Jenin Governorate.

⁵¹ Al-Haq Affidavit 2023-12-1308-GL-F-A1-IL-CLD, taken from A.K., 17, a resident of Jenin Governorate, on 7 December 2023.

- **J.K., an 18-year-old Palestinian resident of Jenin Governorate**

On 28 December 2022, J.K., an 18-year-old Palestinian, was arrested from Jenin at the age of 17 and was placed under administrative detention.

Following 7 October 2023, while J.K. was held at Naqab prison, **he endured a distressing incident wherein he was subjected to a strip search and photographed naked.** Throughout this degrading process, the Israeli occupying soldiers overseeing the search were audibly amused. J.K., feeling terrified, felt compelled to comply with the intrusive photos as the Israeli occupying soldiers wielded metal batons and menacingly threatened physical harm. Regrettably, the threats materialised as they later beat him. **The assault included strikes and kicks to his private parts, and whenever J.K. attempted to shield his genitals or close his legs, the soldiers forcibly opened his legs, accompanied by repeated aggressive commands.**⁵²

- **O.J., a 33-year-old Palestinian resident of Jerusalem Governorate**

On 11 December 2023, at around 2:00 am, the IOF raided the home of O.J., a 33-year-old resident of Jerusalem Governorate. The soldiers began trashing and destroying different parts of the house and demanded O.J. to hand over his mobile. When he denied the demand, they began to beat him and smack him repeatedly on his face. Once the phone was given to them, they took pictures of O.J. and proceeded with detaining him. In his affidavit to Addameer, O.J. recounted the following:

*They tied me up with a plastic cord, pulled it tight, and covered my eyes first. Then they untied me and walked about 2 kilometres at night towards the mountain. On the way, they repeatedly hit me with fists and punches on the waist and head, about 10-20 times within the 2 kilometres. **When they reached the mountain, they covered my eyes again and grabbed me violently. One of them put the rifle on my back and said, "Now you will die" in Arabic, and I felt the threat was serious.** They continued walking and beating me. It might have lasted for about two hours, but I lost consciousness. Midway, they said they needed to rest. There, one of them asked the other if I was with Hamas or Jihad, and the other replied that I was with the PFLP. Then they hit me with fists on the head, and one hit me once on my leg that led me to fall to the ground (I told them that I had a heart condition when I was at home). When I fell, they kicked me in the waist and back 3-4 times, and then one of them stopped them. After 5 minutes, we resumed walking until we reached a military checkpoint [possibly Khirbet Umm al-Lahim Qatnah].*

Before reaching their destination, one of the soldiers asked me to hurry up, so they pushed me to move faster. At that moment, I collided with an iron pole, possibly an electricity pole, and hit my face. I felt like I was going to pass out and fell. The soldier then dragged me, but I managed to get up afterward and continued walking. At the military checkpoint, I was lying on the ground for about an hour, it was very cold, and I was bound and unconscious. They fired sound grenades and were laughing. Some of them were taking pictures.

Afterward, they took me in a military jeep to Ofer. I waited for hours near a staircase at the intelligence department for interrogation. Then they took me in a

⁵² Addameer Affidavit, taken from J.K., 18, resident of Jenin Governorate, on 30 November 2023.

private car along with other detainees to Qalandia checkpoint. After that, they took me, along with another person, from Qalandia to Al-Maskubiyeh and kept us in the car for two hours there. They dropped off the other guy in Al-Maskubiyeh, then the soldiers went somewhere and left me in the car. They stopped to eat falafel because they smelled falafel. Afterward, they took me to Etzion and kept me on the ground. Several times they beat me, kicking me once with their legs and hitting me on the head 5-6 times within 45 minutes while I was in the cold.

*Afterwards, there were medical questions, and I told them the soldiers beat me. Then there was an almost naked inspection, and then to the rooms in Etzion. **There it's extremely cold because the windows are open, and there are no towels, and they refused to let us shower. There's little toilet paper and no soap.***

*They provide a light blanket sometimes, and occasionally a mattress or a thin foam pad. **I didn't eat there for four days except once; a cucumber.** After four days, they transferred me to Ofer, and the treatment by the guards was bad; they tightened the handcuffs, and if anyone asked for a bathroom break, there would be shouting and cursing. The journey continued from 10 in the morning until 9 at night, and here there was waiting for hours before getting into the car, and then two hours in the waiting room.*

The naked inspection was almost like harassment when they touched the genital organs under the pretext of inspection, and they demanded that we stand and sit multiple times.

- **S.A., a 49-year-old Palestinian resident of Bethlehem**

On 16 October 2023 at around 2:00 am, the IOF raided S.A.'s house, waking everyone up, and began ransacking the kitchen cabinets, throwing kitchen items and breaking glassware. Without affording him the opportunity to bid farewell to his family, the IOF immediately took S.A., a 49-year-old Palestinian father of 6 children, outside the house, tying his hands in front with zip ties. They confiscated phones from the house, including his and the children's.

S.A. is currently held under administrative detention for a period of six months. Prior to his arrest, S.A. had a kidney cyst measuring 1.8 centimetres and a kidney stone, for which he was taking medication. Moreover, he has high blood pressure. Since the beginning of his arrest, he has not been provided with any medication, until around 1 January 2024, when they started giving him blood pressure medication. Notably, he had initially brought his own medication, which was discarded on the first day of his arrest. Throughout his detention, spanning Megiddo prison and Shatta prison, all requests to visit the clinic have been consistently denied. He suffers from chronic back pain. He suffers from psoriasis and requests the nurse to bring him the necessary creams, but he has not received them to date. He suffers from asthma and uses an inhaler available at the prison.

Following his arrest from the house, S.A. was transported to the military jeep, blindfolded, and subsequently restrained on the floor of the vehicle. The soldiers proceeded to press the barrel of a rifle against his side while he assumed a seated position resembling the final prayer posture. Facing him, the Israeli occupying soldiers delivered blows to his head and face, resulting in an injury to his right eye, which displayed a bruise for a duration of two weeks following the assault.

Upon arrival at the Fureidis camp, a standard search over his clothes was conducted, after which he was taken to see a doctor. The restraints had caused swelling in his hands, prompting the doctor to attempt cutting them, an action that led to his hand bleeding. Despite sustaining an injury while using scissors, no medical attention was provided, and only tissues were applied. The doctor was informed of his existing medical conditions but did not administer any treatment. Subsequently, he was returned to the military jeep with his hands tied behind his back. A military officer instructed him to lower his head while the eye blindfold was adjusted for a photograph taken with a phone. Following this, he was transferred to the Etzion camp.

On 7 November 2023, within the confines of Megiddo prison, the IPS conducted searches in seven rooms of a section. Overall, in a room intended for six individuals, a total of 14 detainees were present. Subsequently, they were escorted by guards for showers away from surveillance cameras. During this process, the detainees were subjected to severe beatings, thrown onto the wet ground, and beaten with both sticks and the soldiers' hands. Notably, the soldiers wore gloves equipped with iron finger cuffs. The physical assaults, including kicks, persisted for almost 15 minutes. Following the ordeal, the detainees were returned to their rooms amid a barrage of insults and curses. Routine inspections characterised most days, and sometimes, detainees would return to their rooms only to discover that shampoo and water had been poured onto their mattresses and blankets.

On 17 December 2023, Israeli guards carried out a "prison inspection" in a room where seven detainees were held, including S.A.. They were individually restrained and taken to the outdoor courtyard, where they were made to sit on the ground with their heads bowed in a kneeling position, enduring this for about an hour. Subsequently, they were returned to the room and brought out individually to the in-room toilet, where their hands were shackled. **During this process, S.A. had his pants and underwear pulled down while shackled, and a full-body search was conducted using a magnetometer device, accompanied by hits to his back.**

Following the search, S.A. was dragged back into the room and thrown to the ground, still undressed, with his face down. Another detainee underwent the same procedure and was tossed on top of the first prisoner, while the guard said to him, "Come on, do it", in reference to the action of performing sex. All seven prisoners experienced this distressing scenario.

The guard then climbed onto the bunk, approximately 50 centimetres high, where the seven naked prisoners were lying on top of each other in the lower section of their bodies and he pressed down on them with his foot. Subsequently, they were lifted from the handcuffs tied behind their backs, made to sit on the floor with knees kneeling, and the guards exited the room. Each prisoner then approached the door for the removal of their restraints by the Israeli guards.⁵³

- **Hanan Saleh Al-Barghouti, a 59-year-old Palestinian resident of Ramallah Governorate**

Hanan Saleh Al-Barghouti, a resident of Kober village near Ramallah, is the mother of four sons who are incarcerated, and the sister of the prisoner Nael Al-Barghouti, who has spent 43 years in Israeli prisons and remains detained. Prior to her arrest, she received multiple threatening phone calls from the IOF, purportedly identifying themselves as Captain Namer and Captain Diyab. These threats materialised, culminating in her arrest on 4 September 2023,

⁵³ Addameer Affidavit, taken from S.A., 49, a resident of Bethlehem, on 15 January 2024.

at 3:00 am, marking her 59th birthday while in detention. In her testimony to WCLAC, Hanan recounted the following:

They surrounded the house from all directions, blew up the main door, confiscated my husband's car, and informed me that I was under arrest. The officer shouted at my husband, telling him that he would remain in the house alone, and all of our four children would die in prison. My husband laughed and replied, "Don't forget that I have 16 grandchildren; I will spend the rest of my life with them". After hearing my husband's words, they forcefully dragged me out of the house, and I was taken by a military patrol with my eyes blindfolded.

The journey was very long, and I didn't know where I was going. Throughout the time, they used extremely offensive language and insults that touched on religion, honour (sexual in nature), and my family. Upon arrival at the interrogation centre, I sat on a chair due to exhaustion, and a soldier hit me painfully on my head with the butt of his rifle violently and asked me to stand and not to sit, and although I suffered a lot of pain, I didn't show this pain to them.

Later, the officer informed me that my file was ready, and they didn't want to interrogate me, sentencing me to 6 months of administrative detention. I was placed in a very small, cold cell without water or food. I remained in this condition until the evening when they provided me with bread, water, and some jam. I told the soldier that I was sick and suffering from high blood pressure and diabetes, and they were responsible for my deteriorating health because they did not allow me to take my medication.

I spent two days in the cell without medicine or a change of clothes. In the afternoon, I was taken to Damon Prison, where I found many detainees, most of them young girls. Due to fear for my daughters, I imagined that they might be brought here, and I fell to the ground crying in extreme fear, unable to bear the thought.

My conditions during the first month of detention were somewhat "normal", but on 7 October 2023, at around 10:00 am, after the events in Gaza, everything turned upside down in our room. The soldiers, including female soldiers, attacked all the sections, throwing tear gas, and beating us from all directions. This continued for more than an hour, filled with spitting, cursing, and insults in all languages. The situation didn't stop there; they confiscated all the belongings of the female prisoners, including clothes, food, cleaning supplies, dishes, shoes, water, electricity, books, sanitary pads, television, mattresses, and blankets, leaving only a very small number of mattresses and blankets in the section, about one-third of the original number.

We were prevented from going out to the yard for the daily break. These were difficult days in every sense of the word, and what we suffered most was hunger. They confiscated all our belongings, including [everything we had bought from the] commissary [small store] with our money. They only provided very little bread and jam, and we were forced to drink from the bathroom tap.

As the number of female prisoners increased, the situation became more difficult, especially when a detainee who had suffered severe beatings arrived. The scene was very painful.

After about a week of these very harsh measures, the [Palestinian] section manager approached the officer and requested the provision of basic needs for the female prisoners, especially sanitary napkins and cleaning materials. At first, he refused, but we all decided to return the meals and threatened a collective hunger strike if we didn't get this important feminine request. Indeed, the collective threat made the section administration fulfil this request, the only one we managed to obtain.

However, all the mentioned punishments remained until the day of my release, [on 24 November 2023]. I was among the first batch released as part of the exchange deal. I cried a lot bidding farewell to elderly female prisoners, young girls, and patients. All of them were left in very difficult conditions.⁵⁴

Notably, on 5 March 2024, Hanan was arrested again by the IOF. Currently, she is held at Damon Prison, under administrative detention.

- **Soheir Al-Barghouti, a 46-year-old Palestinian resident of Ramallah Governorate**

On 26 October 2023, Soheir Ismail Musa Al-Barghouti, a 46-year-old Palestinian resident of Kober village, near Ramallah, was detained and arrested from her home, where she lives alone following the detention of her two sons; Mohammed and Aasim, and the killing of her husband, Omar, and son, Saleh.⁵⁵ Notably, this constitutes her third arrest. In her testimony to WCLAC, Soheir recalled the following:

[Since the arrest and killing of my family,] I dedicated all my days as a women's rights activist and the leader of the campaign to reclaim the bodies of our sons from the Israeli occupation's morgues.

On 26 October 2023, at around 3 am, I was sleeping when I woke up to the sound of a strong knock on the internal door of the house. I quickly went and opened the door, only to be shocked that over twenty Israeli occupying soldiers forcibly entered my house, accompanied by someone who identified himself as Captain Diyab, the area commander. They searched all the rooms and broke and destroyed the furniture, including the pictures hanging on the wall of my husband and sons. The search was more about causing destruction than actual inspection. After confirming that there was no one else in the house, they tied my hands and forced me to stand aside.

My shock deepened when the army brought my sister's sons, my cousins, and my brothers' children, about 15 young men from my family, all handcuffed and blindfolded. I couldn't bear the sight, especially seeing signs of beatings and blood on their clothes. I didn't understand why they detained the young men from my family in my house, turning it into a military barracks with soldiers and detainees.

They stayed in my house for about two hours, and afterward, they arrested everyone, including me. Captain Diyab kept shouting at me the whole time, saying, "You are under arrest because you are a terrorist". I was blindfolded and disoriented, not knowing where I was. I spent more than two hours in the military

⁵⁴ WCLAC testimony, taken from Hanan Saleh Al-Barghouti, a resident of Kober village, on 29 November 2023.

⁵⁵ Al-Haq, "Al-Haq Sends Urgent Appeal to UN Special Procedures on the Enforced Disappearance of Saleh Omar Barghouti", 27 december 2018, available at: <https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/6119.html>.

jeep. Of course, I cannot repeat the insults and degrading words that the soldiers constantly used during that time, even blaspheming in a provocative manner. They intended to provoke me, but I remained silent, seeking refuge in God.

I was taken to Damon Prison, charged with “incitement to terrorism”, and given a six-month administrative detention sentence. When I entered the section, I was exhausted from over 18 hours of detention without food and my diabetes medication. My shock was immense when I sat with the female prisoners and learned about the conditions of their detention. Most of the prisoners were subjected to beatings, insults, and humiliation. Some of the prisoners still suffered from the effects of beatings, and the section, which housed 12 female prisoners, was almost empty of any belongings. There were no life necessities, as the IPS confiscated everything the prisoners owned in the section after the events in Gaza, leaving them with only a few mattresses and blankets that were insufficient.

I felt that my humanitarian responsibility was evident with these prisoners, most of whom were around the age of my daughters and granddaughters. I tried to be a comforting mother figure, sitting with each prisoner, helping her talk about facing challenges and enduring pain because we are all entitled to rights. Some prisoners, especially those still suffering from illness and exhaustion due to beatings, faced very difficult psychological conditions. There was fear and anxiety, and I felt the need to intensify efforts to support them. I focused on group discussions, and each girl spoke about herself and her family, creating a sense of unity and family among us all. I truly felt that God had destined my arrest at this stage to be a support and aid to all of them.

The most significant hardship during my detention was the scarcity of water. As a diabetic, I needed to drink water frequently, but the only available water was from the bathroom, and it was boiling hot. They prevented me from taking my medication for three days, and I became very weak. After examination, it was revealed that the reason was my diabetes and irregular medication intake.

I was summoned multiple times by the prison captain, threatened not to lead group prayers for the female prisoners, considering it an inflammatory act. Even the break was only for half an hour each day, and I cannot forget the extreme cold, especially since I had no clothes other than those I had during the detention.

We tried to obtain warm clothes, and after a long wait, we were given oversized pyjamas. The conditions of detention were very challenging, but after about a month, I was released in a surprising and swift manner [as part of prisoner exchange deal]. Upon leaving the section, I requested a pair of shoes from the soldier, but he forcefully dragged me outside, saying, “You can go out barefoot; that suits you”.⁵⁶

- **K.A., a 30-year-old Palestinian resident of Nablus Governorate**

On 18 November 2023, K.A., a 30-year-old mother of four children; ranging from eight years old to a new-born, was detained during an Israeli military raid on Balata Refugee Camp in Nablus. Late in September, almost two months prior to her arrest, K.A. underwent a caesarean

⁵⁶ WCLAC testimony, taken from Soheir Al-Barghouti, a resident of Kober village, on 30 November 2023.

section. Having faced significant postpartum complications, including uterine bleeding, necessitating surgery at the Women's Union Hospital in Nablus, K.A. returned to her family's residence to recuperate with the assistance of her relatives, particularly given her fragile health condition. Reflecting on her arrest, K.A. provided the following account to WCLAC:

On 18 November 2023, a large force of IOF stormed Balata Refugee Camp. The situation was extremely difficult; they opened fire on anyone moving, attacked many houses, and threw gas canisters extensively, causing chaos for more than five hours. My family, including my husband and children, and I huddled in one room out of fear of the raids. My children were crying intensely from fear, and I, being very ill, suffered from fever due to continuous bleeding.

Overwhelmed by exhaustion and drowsiness, I fell asleep next to my children. At around 7:00 am, I woke up to the screams of my husband and father as they prevented the Israeli occupying soldiers from entering my bedroom. I quickly put on prayer clothes as more than ten soldiers entered the room. Out of fear for my new-born daughter, I held her in my arms. They gathered us all in one room, arrested my husband, and then Captain Hakim introduced himself as the area commander. He asked about K.A.; me. Unable to stand due to fear, a soldier forcibly took my daughter from me, handed her to my mother, and then brutally arrested me. They tied my hands with plastic handcuffs, causing severe pain, blindfolded me, and subjected me to continuous beating and verbal abuse, accusing me of being a " Hamas [member] and a terrorist".

I was transported to Huwwara camp, where I remained lying on the cell floor for five hours with my hands tied. Due to the severe beating and exhaustion, I felt intense bleeding, and I even saw blood on the cell floor. Israeli officer interrogated me more than four times, each time taking me to the interrogation room, beating me, and returning me to the cell, with the bleeding intensifying, and my clothes soaked in blood. They accused me of attempting to kill a soldier and possessing a weapon stained with blood. I denied all these charges, explaining that I was arrested from my bedroom with my two-month-old daughter, and I had undergone multiple surgeries. They did not believe me, and the beating continued, directed at my back, while continuously saying, "You are a liar, you are Hamas, you are a terrorist".

Late at night [on the same day], I was transferred to Hasharon prison. I was taken to a room with more than one soldier, one of whom spat on my face and hit me on the head. As a result, I completely lost consciousness. I woke up in the prison clinic, where a dehydration treatment solution was hanging on my hand, tied to the bed. I was exhausted, and up until that point, I neither had anything to eat or drink. My clothes were all bloodstained. I spent more than four hours like this; then, they took me to Damon prison.

In the women's section, I was in a deplorable state. Due to the severe cold, I suffered from respiratory tract infections, leading to the loss of my voice. I started experiencing intense fever, severe chest pain due to the retraction of breast milk, and continuous bleeding that didn't stop. I lost my voice completely due to the inflammation.

On 28 November 2023, she was released as part of the Palestinian prisoners exchange agreement. Even following her release, K.A. continues to face harassment and threats by the IOF. In her affidavit to WCLAC, she recalled the following:

Recently, two days ago [on 2 December 2023], [someone who identified himself as] Captain Hakim called my phone and informed me that I am under surveillance. The charges have not been dropped, and any activity or television statement will result in the renewal of my detention. I am very afraid, to the point that I don't leave the house except for medical appointments. I refuse any TV interviews. I don't deny that I am afraid to even sleep or contact anyone outside my family. My experience with detention is all pain, suffering, oppression, and injustice. Finally, I want to add that during my arrest in Hawara camp, they confiscated my gold necklace, and I have not been able to retrieve it until now.⁵⁷

6. The Announced and Reported 'Deaths' of 40 Palestinian Prisoners or Detainees Since 7 October 2023

Between 1967 and 2022, 233 Palestinians were killed and have died inside Israeli prisons and detention centres. Since then, the number has risen to 251.⁵⁸

Since 7 October 2023, the Israeli authorities have announced the 'death' of thirteen Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons, including four residents of the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, it was recently reported that 27 Palestinian residents of Gaza have 'died', while in custody in Israeli military camps, while further noting that Palestinian detainees were abused, deprived of sleep, medically neglected, and held without trial.⁵⁹ While we have not been able to comprehensively and fully investigate and document these 'deaths', notably due to the heavily restricted access to lawyers, we alarmingly and crucially acknowledge Israel's extensive record of subjecting Palestinian prisoners to torture and ill-treatment, and its decade-long policy of medical negligence. Such long-established policies are further compounded by the punitive actions taken against all Palestinian detainees, along with and reports of torture from those who have been released since 7 October 2023.

The identities of the 27 Palestinians whose 'deaths' have been reported remain unknown. Moreover, the identity of one Palestinian out of the thirteen Palestinian prisoners and detainees whose 'deaths' have been announced by the Israeli authorities is also yet to be disclosed, as the only available information indicates that he is a resident of Gaza. The remaining twelve are:

1. **Omar Daraghme**, 58, detained at Megiddo Prison and died on 23 October 2023;
2. **Arafat Hamdan**, 25, died on 24 October 2023, just two days after being arrested and detained at Megiddo Prison;
3. **Majed Zaqool**, 32, detained at Ofar Prison, died on 6 November 2023;
4. **Abdul Rahman Mar'ii**, 33, father of four, detained at Megiddo Prison and passed away on 14 November 2023;

⁵⁷ WCLAC testimony, taken from K.A., a resident of Nablus Governorate, on 4 December 2023.

⁵⁸ According to Addameer's documentation, and not including the reported 'deaths' of 27 Palestinian residents of Gaza.

⁵⁹ Shezaf, Hagar, "27 Gaza Detainees Died in Custody at Israeli Army Facilities since the Start of the War", Haaretz, 7 March 2024, available at: www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2024-03-07/ty-article/.premium/27-gaza-detainees-died-in-custody-at-israeli-army-facilities-since-the-start-of-the-war/0000018e-1322-d950-a18e-f3bbaa370000.

5. **Thaier Abu Asab**, 38, detained at Al Naqab prison and passed away on 19 November 2023;
6. **Abdul Rahman Al-Bahsh**, 23, passed away on 1 January 2024 while detained at Megiddo Prison;
7. **Ezz al-Din Ziyad Abdul-Banna**, 40, a Palestinian from Gaza who was detained at Al-Ramlah Prison, passed away 20 February 2024;
8. **Mohammad Ahmad Ratib Al-Sabar**, 21, who died on 8 February 2024 , while held at Ofer Prison;
9. **Khalid Musa Jamal al-Shawish**, 53, held at Nafha Prison and passed away on 21 February 2024,
10. **Asif Rifaii**, 21, who was sick with cancer and held at Al-Ramlah prison, died on 29 February 2024,
11. **Ahmad Qadeh**, 78, a Palestinian from Gaza who was held at an unknown military camp and passed away 1 March 2024; and
12. **Jumaa Abu Ghneim**, 26, detained at Eshel prison and died on 16 March 2024.

Palestinian prisoners and detainees are medically neglected, tortured and subjected to ill-treatment. Prisoners and detainees with pre-existing health conditions such as cancer or diabetes are not receiving their prescribed medications or are administered doses that are either too high or too low. Moreover, injuries resulting from torture are not being adequately addressed. In many instances, these injuries have caused internal organ damage, including collapsed lungs or intestinal harm. Medical staff in Israeli prisons, including doctors and nurses, are disregarding and ignoring the needs of the prisoners, even resorting to ordering the prison guards to further attack and assault a prisoner who speaks truthfully about being beaten.

The Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs Commission and the Palestinian Prisoner's Society reported that the Israeli court decided to open an immediate investigation into the case of 'deaths' of the four prisoners and detainees; Abed El Rahman Mar'ii,⁶⁰ Thaier Abu Asab, Abdul Rahman Al-Bahsh,⁶¹ and Omar Daraghmeh. Notably, the Commission and the Society emphasised that seeking an investigation into the circumstances of their 'deaths' does not mean that they expect any justice from the Israeli courts. Similarly, we emphasise that the Israeli judicial system is itself a tool by which the pervasive impunity imposed by Israel is maintained and entrenched.⁶² As such, we reiterate the imperative necessity for an independent, impartial, prompt, thorough and effective investigation into not only the 'deaths' of the four mentioned prisoners and detainees, but also into all 39 Palestinians reported to have passed away while in detention since 7 October 2023.

- **The 'death' of Thaier Abu Asab**

Thaier Abu Asab from Qalqilya is one of many Palestinian prisoners who spent his youth inside an Israeli prison. He was held at Al Naqab prison and sentenced to 25 years since his arrest in 2005. Thaier has now passed away in the prison he spent 19 years in.

⁶⁰ Wafa News Agency, "Israeli court to open investigation into death of Palestinian detainee in Israeli jails after finding that he had been severely beaten and tortured", 11 December 2023, available at: <https://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/140017>.

⁶¹ Wafa News Agency, "Israeli court to open investigation to look into circumstances behind the death of Palestinian detainee in Israeli jails", 2 January 2024, available at: <https://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/140442>.

⁶² Al-Haq, "Palestinian, Regional, and International Human Rights Organisations Submit Joint Report on Accountability to UN Special Rapporteur", 3 June 2020, available at: <https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/16931.html>.

Mahmoud Qatanani, a 19-year-old, who was held in Al Naqab prison, stands as a witness to the torture and beating of fellow prisoner Thaier Abu Asab. In his testimony to Addameer, Mahmoud recalled:

*On either the 18th or 19th of November 2023, at around 6 o'clock in the evening, while we were 10 prisoners in Room 10 (Sector 27), the guards stormed the room and assaulted all of us. Then, the Ketir special unit entered, numbering approximately 20 individuals, including guards and unit members. The Ketir unit was armed and used iron rods to beat and suppress the prisoners. **After about 5 minutes of beating and assaulting us, they left, leaving all of us covered in blood, lying on the ground.***

After their withdrawal, Tha'er Abu Asab was lying on the ground, bleeding, motionless, and without any signs of a pulse in his body. Despite our calls to the guards, they disregarded us. Only a nurse arrived after 10 minutes and said, "If he dies, we'll take him". Approximately two hours later, as estimated during the guard's room check at 8 o'clock in the evening, Tha'er was moved by units and guards. Moments later, we were informed that he had passed away.

*A day after Tha'er's martyrdom, all the young men in the room, including myself, were individually interrogated by the intelligence. Initially, the officer asked me, "Did you see the guard who beat him?" I replied, "No, because they were wearing masks". **Then, they asked me, along with everyone else in the room, to adopt a narrative stating that the prisoner Tha'er Abu Asab died due to an issue among us inside the room, implying that we were responsible for his death. All of us refused, and I stated that this was impossible and would not happen.***

*On 30 November 2023, around 8:00 in the morning, a guard came to the room, called my name, and informed me that I would be transferred without specifying the destination. He then tied my hands in front of me, took me out of the section, and handed me over to the Ketir unit. The Ketir unit tightened the handcuffs severely, and one of them twisted my hand, causing me pain. **When I informed them about the pain, one of the members of the Ketir unit hit me twice on my face in a [blind] spot of the room; where there were no cameras.***

*Then, they escorted me to the waiting room, where there were three other detainees, and none of us knew where we were being transferred. **Afterward, they individually took us into an inspection room without a camera, but it had no door; it was wide open. The inspection was done while we were naked, where I was ordered to remove all my clothes. They repeatedly ordered me to stand and sit and open my legs, while one of them hit sensitive areas with a handheld inspection device. Additionally, during the naked inspection, the inspector held a stick with a mirror at its end, and when he demanded the "gesture" from me, he placed it beneath me, all done to humiliate me.***

After that, they handed us over to the Nahshon unit and escorted us to the Bosta.⁶³ They put me and three other young men in a very cramped small room at the Bosta and turned on the air conditioning, causing us to freeze from the cold. We stayed

⁶³ "Bosta" is a vehicle cell made out of metal with narrow double seats and disproportionate measurements, forcing prisoners into an angled seating position for lack of appropriate space. Palestinian prisoners and detainees face degrading conditions during transport, as well as, physical strain.

there for about 4 hours, and the air conditioning was on. Throughout the journey, they intentionally made it narrower for us by opening the door's vent and spraying perfume, along with verbally abusing us. When we arrived at Ofer prison, before being taken out of the Bosta, members of the Nahshon unit entered the Bosta and started hitting us on the head and using very offensive language.

The Nahshon unit stayed with us until they confirmed our names, then handed us over to the guards at Ofer. There, they took our fingerprints again, and I was taken to an officer who introduced himself as an officer from the Gaza region. As soon as I entered, he said to me, "You're going to Gaza", indicating that I would be deported to Gaza. He threatened me, saying, "You'll be gone; I promise you'll be gone if you do anything". At the end of the meeting, he asked me to sign a paper written in three languages: Hebrew, Arabic, and English. I refused to sign, but he signed on my behalf with his handwriting. They kept me and 30 other young men with me in a very cold waiting room with a wet floor, keeping us there until they handed us over to Red Cross staff late at night, releasing us at around 12:00 midnight.⁶⁴

7. Conclusion and Recommendations

The urgency of this appeal is underscored by the immediate need to address the suffering of Palestinian detainees, prisoners and those forcibly disappeared and the anguish of their families. Our organisations stand ready to provide you with more documented instances of torture and ill-treatment as we continue to obtain testimonies from released detainees. Your intervention is crucial in ensuring justice, upholding human rights, and preventing further violations. **Specifically, we urgently call on the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, and other relevant mandate-holders to:**

- i. Demand Israel to cease its ongoing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, and to immediately and unconditionally allow the unimpeded access of fuel, water, food and humanitarian aid, including medical supplies, into the Gaza Strip, as mandated by the International Court of Justice;
- ii. Publicly condemn Israel's torture and inhumane and degrading treatment by Israeli authorities against Palestinians and urge them to immediately cease with such practices; in line with its obligations under international law, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- iii. Recognise the detention, arrest, enforced disappearance, ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian residents of Gaza, as the genocidal act of "causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group";
- iv. Demand Israel to release all Palestinian political prisoners, and to end its widespread and systematic use of arbitrary detention, including administrative detention, and the commission of torture and other ill-treatment against Palestinian detainees and prisoners;
- v. Demand Israel and the IPS to ensure and uphold Palestinian political prisoners' right to life and the highest attainable standard of health and mental health, and to avoid and

⁶⁴ Addameer affidavit, taken from Mahmoud Qatanani, on 6 December 2023.

end all forms of arbitrary, retaliatory, and collective punishment imposed against Palestinian political prisoners;

- vi. Demand Israel to disclose the names, locations, and details of detention of Palestinian residents of Gaza, ensure their rights are respected, including their right to legal representation, and refrain from ill-treatment and torture against them;
- vii. Publicly denounce and condemn Israel's collective punishment against Palestinian workers from Gaza, and call on the Israeli authorities to release all detained workers;
- viii. Condemn Israel's designation of Palestinian detainees of Gaza as 'unlawful combatants' in accordance with the 'Unlawful Combatants Law' enacted in 2002 and call on Israel to repeal the aforementioned law;
- ix. Recognise the institutionalised impunity towards Israel's widespread and systematic human rights violations against Palestinians, from within Israeli judicial mechanisms, forming part and parcel of Israel's apartheid regime of systematic racial oppression and domination over the Palestinian people as a whole;
- x. Exert pressure on Israeli authorities to grant access to legal representation or visits by the ICRC for detained Palestinians, to assess the condition of Palestinian prisoners and detainees, after the violations they have endured and to investigate and disclose the conditions and whereabouts of the detained individuals to alleviate the distress of their families and ensure transparency; and
- xi. Carry out a country visit to investigate the crimes committed against Palestinians in Israeli detention and custody, and to examine the circumstances surrounding reported 'deaths' among Palestinian detainees and prisoners, due to concerns that they are attributed to torture, ill-treatment, and medical neglect, and provide a comprehensive account.