

# Ofer Camp



## Location

Ofer Camp is located adjacent to Ofer Prison on land linked to Beitunia village, west of Ramallah. The Ofer area encompasses a military court, a detention center, and a central prison operated by the Israel Prison Service (IPS). Established after October 7 to detain Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, the camp marks a significant shift, as prior to this date, Palestinians were not held there. Unlike Ofer Prison, this facility is under the management of the Israeli military and operates outside the regulations governing standard Israeli prisons.

The entrance to Ofer Camp is situated between Ofer Prison and Ofer Military Court. Lawyers awaiting their visits stand at this entrance, where they are promptly picked up by a military police vehicle, which transports them from the main gate directly to the lawyers' visiting room. Upon entering the camp through the gate, lawyers follow a pathway alongside the central prison wall, making a right turn after 500 meters. They then take a left turn to arrive at the military court facility, established in 2002. After several meters, they turn right again, entering Ofer Camp, which opened in 2023.

Navigating through a gate constructed of metal panels, the lawyers proceed into a freshly paved asphalt yard that leads them to the entrance of the designated visiting room. This mobile facility is effectively divided into two sections: one specifically for the lawyer, which has its own door, and another for the prisoners which includes a back door. A partition ensures a clear separation between the lawyer and the prisoner during their visit.<sup>1</sup>

Prisoners have conveyed to their lawyers that they hear the sounds of vehicles, indicating proximity to a main street, along with the *adhan* (call to prayer) echoing from a nearby mosque. The lawyers, who have been granted access to the camp and its surroundings, observed that its location is close to Route 443, a major route linking Jerusalem to the territories occupied in 1948.

## Living Conditions

### **The Rooms**

Ofer Camp is organized into sections: Section A, Section B, and Section C, each comprising multiple rooms that house prisoners. All individuals detained in this facility come exclusively from the Gaza Strip; no prisoners from the West Bank are present. Each room typically accommodates between 17 and 22 prisoners. Most detainees were initially transferred to Sde Teiman Camp, where they endured significant

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<sup>1</sup> Addameer interview with a lawyer visiting prisoners on 10 December 2024.

maltreatment shortly after their arrests. Unfortunately, the abuses perpetrated by the occupying state persisted throughout their stay in Sde Teiman Camp and continued to affect them in Ofer Camp.

The camp facilities consist of rooms with concrete walls and small windows, each equipped with a toilet and a faucet. Some rooms include a showerhead in the toilet area; however, prisoners are denied regular access to showers as the camp administration routinely cuts off the water supply. The rooms contain metal bunk beds, with the number of beds varying based on room size. However, due to the overcrowding policy imposed on the prisoners and mandated by law since October 7<sup>2</sup>, resulting in severe overcrowding inside the rooms, no fewer than two prisoners are forced to sleep on extremely thin mattresses on the floor.

The prison administration has provided blankets and mattresses to the detainees in this camp. However, Addameer's monitoring reveals that the mattresses are alarmingly thin, with a depth of only two centimeters.

"The mattresses in the camp were meant to be inflated, yet they remained deflated and unusable. As M. H., a released prisoner, lamented, "I felt the metal bed frame digging into my back."<sup>3</sup> The suffering caused by these inadequate mattresses went deeper than mere discomfort; 34 prisoners reported that their mattresses were removed each day from dawn until nightfall. Confined to their cells all day, these prisoners had no choice but to sit on the concrete floor or the metal beds, leading to serious health issues such as chronic rheumatism. As prisoner S. A. observed, "The mattresses are there, but they are taken away during the day."<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, prisoner B. N., who was already grappling with a knee injury and shortness of breath, reported that the camp administration forces ill prisoners to sleep on tiles by removing the mattresses during daytime hours, intensifying the suffering of ill prisoners<sup>5</sup>.

The Israeli occupation authorities seize prisoners' mattresses as a method of collective punishment, a practice that is both arbitrary and unjust. This cruel tactic is intended to control prisoners and undermine their physical and moral strength. These actions are compounded by the oppressive living conditions inside the cells, which violate the basic rights of prisoners that international conventions guarantee. Additionally, such punitive measures are a clear violation of international human rights standards, including the Nelson Mandela Rules, which underscore the necessity of maintaining a living environment that upholds prisoners' dignity.

### **Starvation**



Since October 7, the Israel Prison Service has enforced a distressing starvation policy affecting all male and female prisoners in Israeli prisons. This draconian measure extends to prisoners within the army

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<sup>2</sup> For a comprehensive understanding of the legal context, please refer to the 2023 Report on Violations of Prisoners' Rights. <https://www.addameer.org/ar/media/5413>

<sup>3</sup> A phone interview conducted by Addameer with released prisoner M. H. on 23 September 2024.

<sup>4</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner S. A. in Ofer Camp on 28 July 2024.

<sup>5</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner B. N. in Ofer Camp on 14 October 2024.

camps as well. Particularly alarming conditions have been reported in Ofer Camp, where inmates have communicated with human rights organizations about the insufficient and often spoiled and uncooked food provided, which is barely enough to sustain them. Only months into the war did the introduction of cooked meals begin, and even then, they were offered just twice a week. These meals often comprised poorly prepared pasta or potatoes. For an extended period of several months, the main sustenance for those in Ofer Camp consisted of a mere two to four slices of bread, supplemented by minimal amounts of cheese, chocolate, or jam.

The camp administration deliberately aimed to humiliate the prisoners by transforming food into a tool of torture. They denied access to basic eating utensils—plates, cups, spoons, and forks—forcing the prisoners to consume their meals with their bare hands. "The food is extremely inadequate. It is handed to us directly. Each prisoner has to shove his cuffed hands through a small door slot, and they dump pasta, falafel, potatoes, and sausages into our palms. We are left to eat without a plate or fork," explained prisoner A. Sh.<sup>6</sup> Disturbingly, the prisoners discovered traces of spitting and even boot prints in their meals. One prisoner remarked, "The food is not only of poor quality but also insufficient in quantity. We often find spit from the soldiers mixed in, and at times there are boot prints on the cucumbers provided to us, yet we are compelled to eat it."<sup>7</sup> These actions vividly illustrate the Israeli occupation's intent to strip the prisoners of their basic human dignity.

The primary food provided to prisoners is alarmingly high in sugar, with jam and chocolate recurring staples since October 7. Most meals, particularly breakfast and dinner, consist predominantly of these unhealthy ingredients, along with just one or two pieces of bread. "I am suffering from health issues due to the food. Everything we are given is loaded with sugar, which has caused me to develop a rash and experience high temperatures because I have a sugar allergy," explained prisoner B.N.<sup>8</sup> This situation of starvation is exacerbated by other severe violations perpetrated by the camp administration, including the complete absence of toothbrushes or toothpaste. This neglect is particularly damaging; prisoners cannot clean their teeth after consuming a sugary diet. Consequently, dental diseases have proliferated within the camp. Alarmingly, there is no medical treatment available for these conditions, and there has been no improvement in the nutritional quality of the food provided, as the camp administration still refuses to supply basic dental care items like toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Requiring prisoners to subsist on a diet rich in sugar but devoid of proteins, healthy fats, and essential nutrients is not just detrimental; it is a serious violation of their health and well-being. This kind of nutrition severely weakens the immune system and leads to deterioration in the health of bones, muscles, and blood. Consequently, the body begins to break down its muscle tissue for energy due to the lack of protein.<sup>9</sup> Numerous prisoners have reported alarming weight loss. During a lawyer's visit on 25 July 2024, prisoner A. N. reported losing an astounding 50 kilograms since his arrest.

### ***Lack of Hygiene: An Insidious Form of Torture***

At Ofer Camp, prisoners endure more than just physical torture; they also face relentless insults and humiliation that strip away their dignity. A particularly cruel aspect of their experience is the deprivation of basic human needs, which reflects a fundamental violation of their rights. The denial of personal hygiene and bathing being limited to just once a month serves as a deliberate method of both physical and psychological torment.

Documented accounts from Addameer reveal that a staggering majority of over 373 interviewed prisoners experienced similar brutal conditions concerning hygiene. Most are limited to bathing just once a week, while a select few are allowed this basic act of cleanliness only every two weeks. Each detainee is granted a mere 5 minutes or less to wash, and exceeding this time results in harsh penalties, including being forced to stand in the scorching sun for over an hour.

Prisoners are not allowed to change their clothes except on designated days for showering, which also includes changing their underwear, depending on whether they are allowed to shower. However, this does not ensure that they receive clean clothing clothes or that they are allowed to change their clothes at all. Often, when allowed to change, prisoners are given dirty or torn garments, while on other occasions, they may receive clean clothes. Typically, changing clothes includes only underwear and a

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<sup>6</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. Sh. in Ofer Camp on 29 August 2024.

<sup>7</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner Kh. A. in Ofer Camp on 11 July 2024.

<sup>8</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner B. N. in Ofer Camp on 14 October 2024.

<sup>9</sup> Altibbi. "Signs and Symptoms of Protein Deficiency." 15 October 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/4brvn9ns>

shirt, as changing pants is not always permitted. "We change clothes once a week, but they are used and unclean," shared prisoner A. H.<sup>10</sup>

Prisoners have reported that shower days are typically scheduled for Mondays or Thursdays. However, the IPS uses the deprivation of showers as a form of punishment, sometimes denying prisoners showers for periods of up to a month. This lack of basic hygiene leads to several negative effects, including skin irritation due to the buildup of oils and sweat, particularly in areas subject to friction like the armpits and thighs. It can also result in skin infections, increasing the risk of fungal or bacterial issues, as well as dandruff and a dry scalp. One prisoner, S.A., shared his experience, stating, "I have not showered or changed my clothes for a month. I am being punished because I was playing '*Idris*' [a popular Palestinian game] that was drawn on the mattress."<sup>11</sup>

Prisoners' special needs, such as soap and toilet paper, which are essential during detention, were provided only in minimal amounts. All prisoners received only one roll of toilet paper per week, even in rooms where the number of inmates occasionally reached 20. Prisoner M.Z. stated, "One roll of toilet paper is provided per week for 22 prisoners."<sup>12</sup> Additionally, due to strict restrictions on bathing, prisoners were not given soap to wash their hands or faces during the day. Many inmates reported that soap was either not available or provided in very limited quantities. "There is no soap for daily use," noted prisoner H.A.<sup>13</sup>

Personal hygiene items were used as tools of torment for the prisoners. Haircuts and nail clippings were included as punishments designed to harm and retaliate against them. For months, inmates were not allowed to cut their nails or shave. These conditions were made worse by the lack of cleaning supplies, such as scrapers or mops, which prevented prisoners from cleaning their cells. This negligence led to the spread of insects in the prisons and allowed lice to infest several inmates. Prisoner N.J. recounted, "I had insects spreading in my head and beard, so I was forced to shave to zero twice."<sup>14</sup> The absence of hygiene and sterilization tools significantly contributed to the rapid spread of scabies within the prisons, worsening the health conditions of the inmates and making it difficult to control the outbreak of this disease.

### ***Repression and Punishments***

The Israeli occupation forces not only committed serious violations during the arrest of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip and their transfer to detention centers and prisons—actions that qualify as war crimes and crimes against humanity—but also imposed retaliatory punitive measures. These measures reflect a policy of repression and control within various Israeli prisons.

The prisoners incarcerated at Ofer Camp endured severe beatings and harsh punishments, with guards taking numerous photographs of these incidents. Despite the guards administering these punishments from the moment the prisoners arrived at Ofer Camp, the reasons for such actions remain unknown and unjustified to this day. Most detainees were initially transferred to Sde Teiman Camp due to its geographical proximity to the Gaza Strip. After spending varying periods in Sde Teiman, some prisoners were later transferred to Ofer Camp. During their time at Sde Teiman and the transfer to Ofer, they faced ongoing abuse.

One prisoner recounted his experience during the transfer from Sde Teiman to Ofer. He was seated in the back of the bus, where a soldier sitting next to him placed his legs on the prisoner's head and shoulder. When the prisoner asked the soldier to move his legs because he was feeling sick and having difficulty breathing, the soldier instead got up, sat on the prisoner's back, and continued to press down on him. The soldier jumped and applied pressure until the prisoner could no longer breathe.<sup>15</sup>

Basic life essentials, such as socializing among prisoners in the same room, have been exploited by guards as justification for harsh punishments. Prisoners are prohibited from communicating with one another and are penalized for exercising their fundamental rights, including the right to worship. These

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<sup>10</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. H. in Ofer Camp on 7 August 2024.

<sup>11</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner S. A. in Ofer Camp on 14 October 2024.

<sup>12</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. Z. in Ofer Camp on 8 July 2024.

<sup>13</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner H. A. in Ofer Camp on 30 July 2024.

<sup>14</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner N. J. in Ofer Camp on 10 June 2024.

<sup>15</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner N. A. in Ofer Camp on 10 July 2024.

punishments often manifest as collective penalties; when one prisoner attempts to connect with others or engage in religious practices, the entire group suffers consequences. This clearly illustrates the policy of collective punishment imposed by the occupying authorities against the prisoners.

The guards manipulate these basic rights as a pretext to inflict brutal beatings for the slightest infractions, as documented by Addameer. Instances include being punished for lying on the floor during headcounts, making eye contact with the guards, speaking to them, or participating in religious rituals. One prisoner reported that soldiers would drag inmates from their cells and severely beat them for praying at night<sup>16</sup>. Another prisoner shared, "This week, they sprayed pepper gas on us twice during prayer."<sup>17</sup>

Since the opening of Ofer Camp, prisoners have faced a complete denial of visits, including crucial family interactions and oversight from international organizations like the Red Cross. The situation is further compounded by a ban on lawyers' visits, enforced through laws that can prevent their access for up to 180 days. This policy effectively isolates prisoners from the outside world and their loved ones, a distressing reality that has persisted since October 7.

As of this report's date, prisoners remain entirely deprived of family visits and any communication with their loved ones by phone. This inhumane ban also extends to the Red Cross. Fortunately, since early May, lawyers have been permitted to visit prisoners at Ofer Camp. These visits have exposed alarming violations, including forced lying down, prostration, brutal beatings, and an outright ban on basic daily life within the camp.

On 25 July 2024, prisoner A.T. faced severe beating in the camp simply for lying down next to the cell door. When questioned by an officer about his position, he explained that the lack of space in the cell forced him to lay down next to the door. The guards yanked his hands out of the door slot, and one of them struck a blow to his left forearm to the point that the bone was pushed out. Rather than offering the necessary medical care, the guards exacerbated the situation by violently dragging the prisoner from the room and administering two cans of pepper spray directly to his face.

The brutal force of the assault left the prisoner with a significant wound on his head. He reported that he could not identify the number of guards involved or the specific tools used, as they blindfolded him immediately after dragging him from the room. Due to the severity of his injuries, he was permitted to see a doctor within the camp. The doctor highlighted the urgent need for his transfer to a hospital. However, rather than being transported by ambulance, which was warranted given his severe condition, his hands were bound behind his back, and his feet were shackled with chains linking them together. Following this, he was injected with an unknown substance. When he regained consciousness, he discovered he was in a hospital, having received eight stitches in his head as well as multiple stitches in his hand<sup>18</sup>.

Prisoner A.T. shared with the lawyer, "The day after my release from the hospital, around 9:30, I returned to the camp. Even now, I endure severe headaches and a persistent infection that prevents me from resting my head on a pillow. Since my return, I have repeatedly asked for medical treatment, but my pleas have gone unanswered."<sup>19</sup>

The relentless attacks and repression faced by prisoners in Section A have led them to dub it the "Hell Section." They endure daily beatings on their hands through door slots, which have caused fractures for some inmates. Prisoner M.W. elaborated on the situation, saying, "While the beating policy exists throughout the camp, it is particularly rampant in Section A."<sup>20</sup>

Prisoners face severe consequences simply for interacting with prison guards or even posing a question. Prisoner S.A. shared, "I was moved from Room 19 to Room 21 in Section B, and they informed me that this transfer was punishment for inquiring about the reason behind my handcuffing."<sup>21</sup>

### **Colors of Locks**

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<sup>16</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. S. in Ofer Camp on 29 July 2024.

<sup>17</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner S. A. in Ofer Camp on 29 August 2024.

<sup>18</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. T. in Ofer Camp on 13 October 2024.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. W. in Ofer Camp on 14 October 2024.

<sup>21</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner S. A. in Ofer Camp on 14 October 2024.

*"The handcuffs tell a story of their own." – Prisoner A. Sh., Ofer Camp, 13 October 2024*

Outside the detention cells at Ofer Camp, prisoners look at the colored locks on the doors, which may initially appear trivial. However, these locks symbolize deep and enduring suffering. They are not mere tools for securing the cells; they represent the relentless restrictions and abuse imposed on the prisoners, day and night.

Within the cells, the conditions regarding handcuffs differ dramatically. Some prisoners are shackled at all times, while others in nearby cells find themselves uncuffed. Out of those who were visited at Ofer Camp, 86 prisoners reported being handcuffed continuously. Stripped of the ability to rest, they cannot shift positions in their beds and are even limited in their movements. When one detainee inquired about the reason for wearing handcuffs, he was met with severe beatings. The handcuffs have been removed only a few times since the beginning of their detention. As the prisoners wait for the day when they will be released from their unlawful confinement and the anguish that accompanies it, they also long to be freed from the cuffs that not only bind their hands but also weigh heavily on their spirits.

Some prisoners have reported that the locks on their cell doors are painted specific colors, which indicate whether the prisoners are handcuffed or not. Prisoner A.Z. stated, "In my section, there are rooms where prisoners are not handcuffed; these doors have white locks. The locks on the other rooms are black, which means the prisoners in those rooms are handcuffed. Most of the young men in the section are handcuffed. There are 14 rooms in total: one [designated for] punishment, three where inmates are free from handcuffs, and the remainder where shackles are the norm."<sup>22</sup>

The handcuffs imposed on prisoners severely limit their ability to move, resulting in significant discomfort and suffering. A substantial number of inmates have voiced their distress, with many experiencing neck and shoulder pain due to the inability to move their hands freely throughout the day.

The case of prisoner A. H. highlights the harsh realities of continuous handcuffing. He endures debilitating spasms that cause his body to move involuntarily. With his hands permanently cuffed, he loses control during these episodes, leading to forceful and uncontrolled movements. This constant struggle causes his hands to scrape against the metal of the handcuffs, resulting in painful wounds and bleeding. Consequently, he suffers from severe swelling and inflammation in his wrists<sup>23</sup>. Tragically, A. H. is not an isolated case; countless prisoners have shared their experiences of similar injuries, including festering scars and wounds that have resulted in further inflammation, all due to neglect from the camp administration.

### **Headcount**

Headcount is a routine procedure performed by guards in prisons and detention facilities to account for prisoners and inmates. Traditionally, this process occurs three times a day, with guards entering the cells to quickly count those who stand. However, following October 7, significant changes have been implemented in how headcounts are conducted in these facilities, including Ofer Camp. Soldiers now carry out headcounts at least three times a day, requiring prisoners to lie face down on the floor for the duration of the count. They must keep their heads bent toward the ground and remain in this position until the counting is complete. This process can last from one to two hours, or even longer in some cases.

Abuse is evident even during the headcount process in Ofer Camp. A prisoner reported that the guards forced them to extend their hands through a door slot, where they were struck on the hands with a stick. One prisoner, T. A., recounted, "During the count, we stand while the soldiers call out the names of the prisoners. We put our hands out through the door slot and are beaten with a stick, and then we return to kneel on the floor."<sup>24</sup> Another prisoner noted that the blue bracelet, which contained specific identification numbers assigned to them at the beginning of their detention, was still used during the counting process at Ofer Camp. "We lie on the ground four times a day, and the guards stand behind the door, looking through the slot at the plastic bracelet."<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. Z. in Ofer Camp on 6 August 2024.

<sup>23</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. H. in Ofer Camp on 24 September 2024.

<sup>24</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner T. A. in Ofer Camp on 9 July 2024.

<sup>25</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. R. in Ofer Camp on 22 July 2024.



The soldiers' abuse extends far beyond the physical pain inflicted by forcing prisoners into uncomfortable positions, such as prostrating or kneeling for extended periods during the counting process, which applies to the entire section and not just the immediate room. The situation deteriorates even more as soldiers assault prisoners, resorting to beatings during the counting. One prisoner, Kh. T., stated, "During the search, they slammed us against the wall. One of the soldiers hit me on the head."<sup>26</sup> These brutal acts occur even in the presence of multiple prisoners in rooms equipped with cameras, which suggests that there is no intention to hold the soldiers accountable or to question them about their various assaults on the prisoners.

#### ***Conditions of Detention for Prisoner M. S.***

On 16 April 2024, M. S. was arrested at Allenby Bridge while traveling from the West Bank to Jordan. Following his arrest, he was taken to an Israeli army camp in Jericho, where he remained for several hours before being transferred to Anatot Camp. At Anatot, an Israeli officer conducted an interrogation and M. S. disclosed that he suffers from rheumatism. He explained that he is undergoing treatment in the West Bank and cannot walk without therapeutic injections. Despite his critical health needs, M. S. was detained in Anatot for nearly 40 days before being moved to Ofer Camp, where he endured the longest period of detention.

On the day designated for the transfer of M. S. and a group of prisoners from Anatot to Ofer, up to 30 guards in olive green army uniforms, all masked and armored, entered the room and restrained the prisoners by tying their hands behind their backs. Each pair of prisoners had their feet bound together with metal chains. The prisoners were blindfolded and placed in a bus with a capacity of 50 passengers, forced to sit with their heads bent between their legs. During the bus journey, the prisoners were assaulted until they reached Ofer Camp.

Upon their arrival at Ofer Camp, the prisoners were unloaded from the bus and punched. It is important to note that the soldiers were wearing bone gloves during the assault. As the soldiers cursed the prisoners with obscene language, they deliberately made them walk unevenly while their legs were still tied, causing the metal shackles to rub painfully against their feet. Additionally, the soldiers released police dogs to intimidate and howl at the prisoners.

Following the attack, the inmates had to spend almost two hours sitting on their knees on gravel as the soldiers beat them at random. Each prisoner was brought to an inspection room after waiting. M. S. remained blindfolded even after his shackles were taken off. He was carefully searched, and while being searched, he was beaten once again. "They gave me a back slap. They were ridiculing me. I could hear the voices of female soldiers inside the room throughout this period. They gave me a shirt and pants once the search was finished, and they took me to the detention rooms," M. S. recalled.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner Kh. T. in Ofer Camp on 10 September 2024

<sup>27</sup> A phone interview conducted by Addameer with released prisoner M. S. on 21 July 2024.

M. S. was held without any necessities of life in a room made out of concrete cabins that had been assembled. There were only bunk beds and a toilet with a showerhead, and the room was absolutely vacant. To allow the inmates to take a shower, the water was supplied to the shower once every two weeks. Although there were only 10 beds in the cell, M. S. shared it with eighteen other inmates in the seven-room section where he was held. The rooms where M. S. was held had no cuffs, while the inmates in the other rooms were always in handcuffs. However, even the *Shawish*<sup>28</sup> in the section would distribute food while his hands tied in front of his body.

The food at Ofer Camp was of poor quality and insufficient in quantity. There was no yard time at all. As for the toilet, there were no toilet papers or anything else, so we would enter with a bottle of water to wash. Soap was not always available and was sent in extremely small quantities. They brought a scraper once a week, but no cleaning solution. They brought us new underwear every week and pants every two weeks. They were constantly knocking on the doors, simply to disturb us.

M. S. and the other prisoners in the cell were attacked by the guards the day after they arrived at the camp. During the morning headcount, one of the guards expressly instructed the detainees to lie on their stomachs with their heads down. Then a large number of soldiers broke into the room, cuffed the detainees in front of their bodies, dragged them out, and without warning began assaulting them all over their bodies. Some of the soldiers wore masks. Following the assault, the soldiers moved the detainees to an unoccupied room in the same section, where they were detained for around two hours. The detainees discovered that the soldiers had completely dispersed their possessions when they returned to their quarters.

Ofer Camp conducts headcounts three to five times every day, forcing prisoners to lie on their stomachs. This stance is not limited to the headcount; prisoners are forced to lie whenever any camp staff passes by, including the doctor. M. S. mentioned that they occasionally remained in the lying position for half an hour.

Prisoner M. S. was kept in Ofer Camp for nearly a month, and he and the other detainees there were attacked by prison guards roughly every two days. The beatings were sometimes done within the room during the headcount, and other times outdoors. "About a week after I was transported to Ofer, a repression unit arrived in the morning and yelled out my name and the names of four others. They bound us in front of our bodies and blindfolded us. They chained the legs of every two inmates together with metal shackles. They then took us out on foot to a yard and confined us within a net enclosure approximately 3x4 meters in size under the sun. The floor was constructed from gravel. They had us kneel with our heads bowed (in a position of submission). "While being led to the cage, we were punched and kicked all over our bodies," M. S. recalled regarding one of the attacks he endured while being held in Ofer.<sup>29</sup> "We were confined in the cage for two to three hours every time. The right side of my ribcage took one of the hits. It was so excruciating that the discomfort persisted for almost five days," added M. S.<sup>30</sup>

M. S. endured not only physical affliction at Ofer Camp but also considerable psychological distress. In one particular instance of oppression, M. S. recounted that the guards escorted the inmates from their cells to the yard. Among this group was an individual approximately 55 years of age. One of the guards directed the senior individual to emit a howl. "Due to his advanced age, I apprised the soldier that I would vocalize on his behalf. Following my howl, the soldier instructed him to replicate the action. This constituted the utmost humiliation, compounded by the verbal assaults."<sup>31</sup>

The detention conditions and abuse recounted by former inmate M. S. encapsulate the experiences of prisoners in Ofer Camp. They are held in cruel circumstances that disregard the necessities of human existence. They are persistently attacked by the guards and all personnel associated with the facility, such as doctors and nurses.

### ***Health as an Instrument of Suppression: Medical Atrocities in Military Camps***

The Israeli authorities infringe upon the right to life and health of Palestinian inmates across different detention facilities. This did not start on October 7, but medical crimes have consistently been a regular and systematic approach in Israeli prisons to slowly eliminate prisoners.

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<sup>28</sup> A prisoner chosen by the prison administration to carry out specific tasks, such as distributing food, helping sick prisoners, etc.

<sup>29</sup> A phone interview conducted by Addameer with released prisoner M. S. on 21 July 2024.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*



This policy has significantly deteriorated since October 7, with the Israeli occupation authorities intentionally disregarding the healthcare of prisoners across all military facilities, particularly Ofer Camp. Due to the widespread arrests conducted by the Israeli occupation forces, numerous Palestinians with chronic illnesses, including heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, kidney and liver diseases, among others, have been detained. Many Palestinians with amputated limbs have also been detained.

Nonetheless, the camp administration regularly engaged in medical offenses in Ofer, as detainees were barred from the camp clinic, along with the complete refusal to administer any treatment for any illness, irrespective of the illness's seriousness or its effect on essential bodily functions. Among the types of lethal medical crimes with obvious impacts on inmates was the complete denial of treatment in civilian hospitals under the guise of a state of emergency, along with obstructing their access to even the basic health care that existed prior to October 7 within the prisons, which included access to the prison's internal clinic. This resulted in a severe decline in the health of ill inmates, inflicted greater pain and suffering upon them, and subjected them to the risk of lethal outcomes.

These breaches of the right to essential healthcare in Israeli prisons arise from a disregard for the sanctity of life and the dignity of inmates. The commission of these offenses is enabled by the authority given to prison staff and military personnel overseeing inmates, lacking oversight or responsibility, in an environment of impunity for torture and various other ill-treatments and violations against detainees.

### ***Case Study: Prisoner A. Sh.***

In the context of the ongoing genocidal acts carried out by Israeli occupation forces in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian residences have been intentionally targeted from the air even while civilians were present. A staggering number of individuals have been killed and wounded as a consequence. Among the targeted homes was that of A. Sh., who was present when the bombardment commenced. As a result, he suffered severe injuries and was taken to Nasser Hospital for medical care. Regrettably, his injuries necessitated the amputation of both legs, and he was arrested while recovering in the hospital after the surgical procedures.<sup>32</sup>

During the arrest, A. Sh., who was injured, was brutally assaulted by the Israeli soldiers who broke into the hospital. He was taken to Sde Teiman Camp in a truck along with other civilians who were there. The soldiers not only attacked the civilians inside the hospital, but they also abused them during the transport, even though many of them were arrested straight from their hospital beds.

The Israeli soldiers showed no regard for the serious medical condition that A. Sh. was facing. Upon his arrival at the camp, A. Sh. was placed in an interrogation room, commonly referred to as the disco room, where he remained for approximately a week. During this time, he endured severe beatings all over his body, including on his amputated legs, which still had stitches because he could not complete his treatment or have them removed due to his arrest. Given the continuous assaults that A. Sh. faced from the moment he was detained, through his time at Sde Teiman Camp and subsequently at Ofer Camp, the Israeli authorities ignored his challenging health circumstances and failed to provide any medical treatment or follow-up care, such as examinations and other necessary medical procedures that any injured person would require at any point during arrest and detention.

Prisoner A. Sh. is presently held at Ofer Camp in a shared detention cell with several other inmates, three of whom have lost their legs due to serious injuries suffered during the war. However, the necessary tools to assist them in moving and traveling, like crutches or wheelchairs, have not been provided. As a result, the healthier inmates are left to take on the responsibility of looking after them and helping with even the most basic daily activities, such as navigating the room and using the toilet.

Israeli occupation forces subject ill prisoners to the same forms of oppression, violence, and humiliation as other inmates. During unexpected inspections of the cells or roll calls, the prison guards compel them to lie face down and maintain that position for extended durations, disregarding their injuries, amputated limbs, and limited mobility.

A. Sh. is among the many injured detainees who were taken from their hospital beds in the Gaza Strip, or who were apprehended while in good health but later suffered injuries ranging from moderate to severe due to the intense attacks which they faced from the Israeli occupation forces, resulted in the

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<sup>32</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. Sh. in Ofer Camp on 26 September 2024.

deaths of many prisoners. Even with the high number of fatalities among injured inmates, the camp officials persisted in their strategy of intentional medical neglect, maintaining their total refusal to offer any care to prisoners, including those with ongoing health issues.

The Israeli soldiers not only decline to offer medical care to ill prisoners, but they also deride and make fun of them. In one instance, when a prisoner was close to dying from the severity of his ailment, the other prisoners in the room called for an emergency physician, but the soldiers taunted them, saying, "Just give him water, and he will recover."<sup>33</sup>

Through Addameer's follow-ups, a pattern has been identified in the medical negligence towards inmates. Many prisoners are afflicted with various health issues, including high blood pressure, diabetes, heart conditions, intestinal disorders, irritable bowel syndrome, and other concerns related to neurological and psychological health. The administration at Ofer camp entirely neglects these health concerns and fails to provide consistent treatment, offering only insulin for diabetic patients and a few other medications for chronic conditions like heart disease and hypertension. However, these medications are not administered to all affected individuals, but only to those whose situations are deemed to be critical.

A different aspect of the medical neglect policy emerged through the provision of care at Sde Teiman Camp for certain ill detainees suffering from infections, psychological disorders, and other ailments. Once the detainees are moved to Ofer Camp, their access to medications is permanently discontinued. Most detainees have stated that the only medication offered at Ofer is a pain reliever (Acamol), which the guards dispense only after numerous requests and insistence from the detainees to alleviate their suffering from various illnesses and pain. None of this addresses the anguish caused by the harsh methods employed by the occupation soldiers, including the extreme shackling that inflicted wounds and scars on the prisoners' hands and feet, which remained untreated.

### ***Physical Discomfort Coupled with Emotional Distress –Prisoner T. Sh.***

Since October 7, the Israeli random targeting of all life facilities in the Gaza Strip has included medical centers and healthcare teams. The Israeli occupation forces have struck many hospitals, medical facilities, and clinics, rendering them non-operational, alongside the arrest and torturing of numerous medical personnel. A significant number of medical teams have faced arrests.

Paramedic T. Sh. was one of the medical personnel who were detained. He was apprehended while he was inside an ambulance at a military checkpoint within Gaza, despite being in his paramedic uniform, which is supposed to provide him international protection. Following his arrest, he was transported to Sde Teiman Camp, where he was held temporarily before being transferred to Ofer Camp.

Prisoners indicated that for a prisoner to receive medical attention, they must be critically ill, at risk of dying, and experiencing extreme pain. Nevertheless, prisoner T. Sh. had multiple consultations with a doctor due to various illnesses, including both physical and mental health issues. In April, he discovered lumps on the right side of his chest. After seeking medical attention, a doctor confirmed the presence of lumps in that area. The doctor mentioned that these lumps could potentially be cancerous. Furthermore, he noted that if they were confirmed as cancerous, there would be no treatment available for him while incarcerated. Due to the conditions of his confinement, T. Sh. indicated that he had begun experiencing health issues, including intense shortness of breath, particularly at night, along with a scabies infection that was left untreated. Subsequently, he also faced inflammation in his left leg and significant swelling.

Between April and September, T. Sh. experienced a significant weight loss, dropping approximately 35 kilograms. His misfortune continued as he also encountered kidney colic. When he visited the doctor, he was informed that he had inflammation and was prescribed just six painkillers (Acamol) for pain relief, with no additional treatment provided. Furthermore, he experiences severe shortness of breath at night and struggles with his vision due to a considerable decline in eyesight.

In the past eight months, prisoner T. Sh. has been experiencing a psychological disorder as a consequence of the Israeli aggression on Gaza, leading him to take a sleeping pill each night to help him sleep. His medication was discontinued while he was in Ofer Camp, but they resumed providing him with a sleeping aid in July. T. Sh. remarked on the medication, "About two and a half months ago,

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<sup>33</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. A. in Ofer Camp on 22 December 2024.

they began giving me a sleeping aid, and I take one pill daily, but it stopped being effective, so I started to gather two pills together and take them all at once; now, I sleep one day and not the next."<sup>34</sup>

In addition to prisoner T. Sh., prisoner M. Sh. also endures psychological disorders and physical ailments. He experiences psychological issues and hallucinations that lead to frequent fainting spells. His mental health deteriorated further as a result of the traumatic events he witnessed during his arrest. He was taken into custody at Al-Shifa Hospital while he was still on his sickbed, awaiting a cartilage surgery appointment, which was scheduled for the day after his arrest, preventing him from receiving the procedure. Additionally, he endured physical abuse during his arrest. He was apprehended alongside his injured son, and the separation between them in prison significantly heightened his psychological distress.

Upon his arrival at Ofer Camp, M. Sh. was examined by a physician who inquired about his general health, as he has high blood pressure and diabetes. He was moved to the wards, despite his severe anxiety, which leads him to experience hallucinations and occasional fainting spells. "After I got to Ofer, I fainted twice, but the doctor didn't come, and they didn't provide me with the medications I need to help alleviate my mental state. I am anxious and feel like someone is trying to choke me," M. Sh. recounted to his lawyer.<sup>35</sup> Arrested on 18 January 2024, M. Sh. continues to ponder a question shared by numerous other inmates, "At 62 years old, why am I being treated this way?"<sup>36</sup>

Psychological injuries are often unseen and can be easily disregarded, yet they pose significant risks. These injuries impact individuals both mentally and physically. Consequently, similar to other transgressions and violations perpetrated by the occupying state, these must cease, and the occupying state needs to comply with international law and agreements by offering specialized psychological services to detainees, which include psychological treatment and psychosocial support, to assist them in coping with the mental strain caused by incarceration.

### ***Dual Hardship for Neurological Patients in Ofer Camp – Prisoners A. S. and A. H.***

Prisoner A. S. has epilepsy, resulting in frequent seizures. Epilepsy is characterized by recurrent seizures, which are brief episodes of involuntary movement that may involve a part of the body (partial) or the entire body (generalized) and are sometimes accompanied by loss of consciousness and control of bowel or bladder function. People with epilepsy tend to have more physical problems, such as fractures and bruising from injuries related to seizures, as well as higher rates of psychological conditions, including anxiety and depression. Similarly, the risk of premature death in people with epilepsy is up to three times higher than in the general population. Given the characteristics of this illness, it necessitates particular attention to both physical and mental aspects.<sup>37</sup>

People with epilepsy require anti-seizure medications, and abruptly stopping these treatments can result in life-threatening outcomes, such as persistent epilepsy, characterized by seizures lasting more than 30 minutes or occurring without the individual recovering in between. Consequently, epilepsy medications must be consistently accessible to prevent any interruption in their administration.<sup>38</sup> This stands in stark contrast to the actions of the Ofer Camp administration, which denied prisoner A. S. access to his epilepsy medications, despite having received them during his initial detention in Sde Teiman. Even with his ongoing requests for treatment, the administration continued to refuse, claiming there was no doctor available with expertise in neurological conditions within the camp.<sup>39</sup> This action breaches the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, which stipulate that a medical professional must be present in every prison.<sup>40</sup> It also endangers the life of the prisoner mentioned above.

Psychological issues like depression and anxiety contribute to a higher occurrence of epileptic seizures, necessitating special psychological support for patients to alleviate stress and fatigue. The camp administration intentionally subjects prisoners to harsh psychological conditions; this exacerbates the

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<sup>34</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner T. Sh. in Ofer Camp on 23 September 2024.

<sup>35</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. Sh. in Ofer Camp on 24 July 2024.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> WHO. "Epilepsy". 7 February 2024. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/epilepsy>

<sup>38</sup> WHO. "Epilepsy Control". 2019. <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/325440/WHO-MSD-MER-19.2-eng.pdf?ua=1>

<sup>39</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. S. in Ofer Camp on 21 October 2024.

<sup>40</sup> Article 22/1 of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners: "Each prison shall provide at least one qualified medical officer who has some understanding of psychiatry. The medical services shall be coordinated closely with the local or national public health authorities and must also feature a psychiatric department for the assessment and treatment of mental disorders when required."

psychological strain on inmates, particularly those who are unwell. The intense psychological and physical stress that prisoners endure during interrogations, along with the camp administration's arbitrary practices—such as the removal of mattresses and the denial of yard time and personal hygiene—amplifies this impact. The combination of these factors leads to a decline in the mental health of prisoners, which in turn raises the frequency of seizures in those with epilepsy.

The factors contributing to seizures in inmates differ. Prisoner A. H. has a brain tumor, which causes him to experience daily convulsions, potentially resulting in up to three seizures each day. These seizures pose a risk of him swallowing his tongue and dying. Despite the significant threat to prisoner A. H.'s life, the camp administration persists in its policy of medical neglect, which is not only evident in withholding treatment but also in the delays and sporadic nature of the care provided. This is exemplified in A. H.'s case, as the camp administration delivered his medications inconsistently and in insufficient amounts, contrary to his needs. A. H. reported to his lawyer, "Two days ago, they told me I couldn't have my medicine because they had none left. Today, they gave it to me. Here, I take three pills daily, but prior to my arrest, I used to take five pills a day."<sup>41</sup>

### ***Medical Crimes in International Law***

The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, particularly in Articles 22-26, cover the medical services that should be available to inmates. These regulations also emphasized the need for specialized care for women and children, as well as outlining important steps to safeguard prisoners. This includes conducting medical exams prior to their admission to prisons, ensuring that those with illnesses do not mix with healthy inmates, consulting doctors when necessary, supplying regular medical reports regarding their health status, and implementing measures to deliver essential medical attention.

The Geneva Conventions address the health rights of prisoners and detainees extensively, stipulating that prisoners must receive free medical care,<sup>42</sup> forbidding any actions that could lead to a prisoner's death, and deeming such acts as serious violations requiring rigorous criminal penalties.<sup>43</sup> Additionally, they ban physical mutilation and scientific experiments on prisoners unless they are necessary for the medical treatment of the individual.<sup>44</sup>

The Geneva Conventions mandated the maintenance of a hygienic environment for detainees, the safeguarding of their health, and the provision of essential services, including a clean living environment and all necessary medical facilities and supplies for prisoners. This obligation fell upon the Detaining Power<sup>45</sup>, which aimed to ensure comprehensive medical protection for prisoners of war and was required to cover all medical costs incurred by detainees, irrespective of their nature.<sup>46</sup>

Furthermore, the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions mandates that the mental and physical well-being of prisoners must not be jeopardized, prohibiting any medical intervention that is not necessary for their health and does not adhere to the prescribed medical standards. It also stipulates that all protective measures must be made available to prisoners against medical experimentation, regardless of whether they give their consent.

In conclusion, international agreements have placed significant emphasis on the health rights of prisoners and have detailed their protections. Nonetheless, in spite of these safeguards, the occupying

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<sup>41</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. H. in Ofer Camp on 24 October 2024.

<sup>42</sup> Article 15 of the Third Geneva Convention: "The Power detaining prisoners of war shall be bound to provide free of charge for their maintenance and for the medical attention required by their state of health."

<sup>43</sup> Article 129 of the Third Geneva Convention: "The High Contracting Parties undertake to enact any legislation necessary to provide effective penal sanctions for persons committing, or ordering to be committed, any of the grave breaches of the present Convention defined in the following Article."

<sup>44</sup> Article 13 of the Third Geneva Convention: "[...] In particular, no prisoner of war may be subjected to physical mutilation or to medical or scientific experiments of any kind which are not justified by the medical, dental or hospital treatment of the prisoner concerned and carried out in his interest."

<sup>45</sup> Article 29 of the Third Geneva Convention: "The Detaining Power shall be bound to take all sanitary measures necessary to ensure the cleanliness and healthfulness of camps, and to prevent epidemics. Prisoners of war shall have for their use, day and night, conveniences that conform to the rules of hygiene and are maintained in a constant state of cleanliness. [...] Also, apart from the baths and showers with which the camps shall be furnished, prisoners of war shall be provided with sufficient water and soap for their personal toilet and for washing their personal laundry."

<sup>46</sup> Article 30 of the Third Geneva Convention, which is equivalent to Article 91 of the Fourth Geneva Convention: "Every camp shall have an adequate infirmary where prisoners of war may have the attention they require. [...] Prisoners of war suffering from serious disease, or whose condition necessitates special treatment, a surgical operation or hospital care, must be admitted to any military or civilian medical unit where such treatment can be given. [...] The costs of treatment, including those of any apparatus necessary for the maintenance of prisoners of war in good health, shall be borne by the Detaining Power."

state has disregarded these treaties, transgressed the rights of prisoners—particularly their health rights—and has engaged in egregious violations. The occupying state strips prisoners of the rights guaranteed by international treaties in an effort to diminish their dignity and erode their determination. Since October 7, Israeli actions have been concentrated on infringing upon the health rights of Palestinian prisoners by institutionalizing medical neglect, insufficient healthcare, and torture as a regular punitive measure driven by vindictive and discriminatory motives. This situation demands urgent action to address these practices and to ensure accountability for those responsible.

### ***Psychological Violence***

Psychological violence in prisons serves as a controlling and repressive tool to dominate inmates and diminish their resolve by impacting their mental and emotional well-being. While the occupying state has long employed psychological violence against Palestinian detainees on a large scale, this form of violence has escalated significantly since October 7, as the occupation authorities intensified their use of psychological tactics to demean prisoners and undermine their determination.

Solitary confinement was one of the methods of violence experienced by all Palestinian prisoners, including those from the Gaza Strip since October 7. Numerous prisoners were subjected to solitary confinement without any legal basis. Others faced a collective isolation policy within their cells, leading to a complete lack of contact or communication with their families, whether through visits or phone calls. This situation also extended to the denial of any contact or visits from lawyers for several months, including those from the Red Cross. Furthermore, Israeli camp authorities isolated the prisoners from the outside world, stripping them of their right to access radios or newspapers to stay informed about external events. These restrictions on the prisoners' rights remain in place as of the date this report was written.

The expressions of this violence differed across the various prisons and camps, involving actions by soldiers and jailers that included humiliating behaviors, compelling prisoners to insult themselves and bark like dogs, taking their pictures with the Israeli flag, making them chant phrases like "Israel is alive," or requiring them to kiss the Israeli flag. Any prisoner who protested against performing these actions faced severe physical violence.

The psychological violence continued beyond that point. The Israeli occupation forces aimed to instill a sense of superiority among the guards in relation to the prisoners. The prisoners were not allowed to make eye contact with the guards, were required to lower their heads whenever they encountered any camp personnel, and were ordered to lie on the floor in their rooms when a guard walked by. During visits from lawyers who met with several prisoners, those prisoners recounted the emotional distress caused by these degrading actions. Prisoner M. Q. remarked, "We are compelled to insult ourselves and bark."<sup>47</sup> Prisoner A. H. explained, "Before the guards come in, everyone in the room must lie on their stomachs, and it is strictly prohibited to look at or speak to them. Anyone who does not comply faces severe beatings and brutal attacks."<sup>48</sup>

During the lawyers' meetings with the prisoners at Ofer Camp, all of them indicated that psychological violence is far more challenging than the physical violence they experience almost every day. Some expressed sentiments that revealed a diminished zest for life and their desire for the ongoing psychological torment they endure to cease. The psychological violence profoundly affects their inner being, aims to degrade them and deprive them of their humanity, and fosters an atmosphere of fear and humiliation among all prisoners, while also intensifying their feelings of powerlessness and seclusion within the harsh environment they inhabit. They all conveyed that the treatment they receive is worse than how animals are treated. "Death is preferable to the treatment we undergo in detention," stated prisoner A. M.<sup>49</sup>

### ***Torture during Lawyer Meetings***

The Israeli occupation authorities have not only engaged in the crime of enforced disappearance against Palestinian prisoners for several months, and continue to do so up to the present moment, but they are also in blatant violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law. They persist in the policy of completely severing prisoners' contact with the outside world by barring them from

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<sup>47</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. Q. in Ofer Camp on 16 May 2024.

<sup>48</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. H. in Ofer Camp on 16 May 2024.

<sup>49</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. M. in Ofer Camp on 29 August 2024.

communicating with their families. These actions go beyond simply cutting off external communication; they also limit interaction among detainees within the prison itself, which breaches the principle of collective life as protected by international conventions.

"I endured torment to reach you. I collapsed on the ground twice. They took us out [from the detention facility] at dawn for the visit but made us wait in a cage, blindfolded and restrained," recounted prisoner J. R. regarding the ordeal of lawyer visits.<sup>50</sup> Several months into the genocide, the Israeli occupation authorities implemented further punitive actions when they permitted certain prisoners to consult with lawyers. A batch of prisoners is transported out, with hands and feet shackled, during the early morning period, specifically between 6 and 7 a.m. Subsequently, they are moved outside the prison sections to an area adjacent to the visiting room, where they are confined in a cage and compelled to lie on their stomachs for extended periods, sometimes lasting up to seven hours, under the harsh sun. This treatment is classified as cruel and inhumane, violating the Convention against Torture (CAT).

"The situation is challenging during the visit, as we are required to lie face down the entire time while waiting, with our hands shackled behind us and our eyes covered," remarked prisoner A. Sh.<sup>51</sup> "They transfer us from the [detention] area to a confined space where we lie on our stomachs. We are not allowed to converse with one another. Then, they bring us in one at a time," described prisoner M. W.<sup>52</sup>

The punitive actions extend beyond what has been mentioned. During this period, prisoners are restricted from having breakfast and, in some instances, even lunch, and they are denied access to sanitary facilities throughout the waiting duration. If a visit coincides with the scheduled yard time, prisoners are excluded from that as well. All these situations signify an unwarranted violation of the fundamental rights provided to prisoners under international standards for treatment. For several months, prisoners were not permitted outside to the yard. This situation escalated with additional punitive measures implemented after October 7. After a few months, prisoners were allowed brief yard access, limited to half an hour at most. While in the yard, guards keep prisoners shackled and refuse to remove their restraints. They are also compelled to walk with their heads down, and in many instances, yard time is entirely denied; this results in prisoners being confined to their cells for 24 hours straight.

The occupying authorities implement these punitive actions towards the detainees to hinder communication between the inmates and their legal representatives. When prison guards escort prisoners out of their cells, they make them wait in the sun for extended periods while denying them food, water, and access to sanitation. As a result, prisoners reach the visitation area completely worn out and incapable of speaking.

Following the observations made by lawyers who visited prisoners from Gaza, they noticed several prisoners arriving in the visiting areas with blood-stained hands or feet due to the extreme tightening of restraints during transport. This includes keeping inmates shackled while signing legal or medical documents, along with restraining them while they remain in their cells. Some prisoners enter the visiting area after being assaulted during their transfer from the cells, dressed in torn clothing stained with blood as a result. This was the case for inmate M. M., who appeared on 4 November 2024, to meet with his lawyer but was brought in a wheelchair, unable to speak, with his face badly beaten and displaying marks and injuries all over his body.<sup>53</sup> These actions are intended to humiliate the prisoners and instill a sense of dominance and psychological and physical pressure upon them.

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<sup>50</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner J. R. in Ofer Camp on 1 October 2024.

<sup>51</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. Sh. in Ofer Camp on 29 August 2024.

<sup>52</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. W. in Ofer Camp on 30 September 2024.

<sup>53</sup> Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. M. in Ofer Camp on 4 November 2024.