

Genocide through the Body



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Sexual Violence in Israeli Prisons as a Colonial Practice

In tight quarters, where the air is stifling and a putrid smell assaults the senses, clinging to the throat and announcing from the very beginning that this environment is intolerable, an event occurred in a brief moment of history that leaves no record, yet is indelibly marked in bodies and memories.

The prisoner knelt after the soldiers stripped him of his trousers, his head lowered as if his body instinctively knew how to react when all choices were taken away. The metallic sound of the magnetometer approached and then faded, a chilling, familiar tone infiltrating his nerves before making contact with his skin. Then, that sound morphed into action; he was struck with the device on his back and buttocks. The impacts shattered the rhythm, creating a silence that felt heavier than the metal itself. The pain was not the most agonizing part; it was the laughter, a loud, light-hearted sound that suggested what was happening was merely a fleeting game. In that instant, he realized that humiliation transcended the physical; it was a form of gloating, reducing a person to an object of mockery.

He attempted to retreat into himself, to minimize his existence to an invisible and unblemished point. "Oh, how sweet and clean!" the guards jeered at him. He caught their derisive tones and tried to block out their meaning. Sometimes, ignorance serves as a final line of defense. Amidst the clamor of voices, he discerned the voice of a female guard among them. Judging by the fervor of their movements and the range of their tones, he recognized that at least five or six surrounded him, encircling him like a tight knot. This only intensified the feeling of confinement.

Then, without any forewarning, he realized they had crossed a boundary

he never thought possible. He did not grasp what was unfolding at first, but his body comprehended before his mind could catch up. They were attempting to invade the last remnants of his personal space. No explanation was necessary; the shock alone was sufficient.

They started to insert an object into his anus. Eventually, he realized it was a stick. Instinctively, he tensed up, but the tension broke under the weight of the pain, and he could no longer resist. The stick penetrated deeply, and the pain escalated to a level where his body could no longer comprehend or fight back.

They did not stop after just one attempt; they repeated the process with various instruments, including a magnetometer, clearly intending to inflict pain for its own sake. They would not only insert the stick but also move it inside his anus. He sensed that this was not a singular event; it happened multiple times, at least five or six, until he lost track. Although he never saw the stick, he suspected it was a prison guard's stick, as each guard had a pouch with a black rubber stick attached to their back. He later discovered it was rubber because they used it to beat him.

This ordeal lasted around half an hour, filled with rape, beatings, and his confinement in the cell. Throughout this time, he endured continuous beatings and a torrent of insults, as if the words themselves were another form of torture, suffocating the scene and eliminating any chance for silence. "We'll bring your wife and sister and fuck them right in front of you, on your chest, and you'll witness it," they threatened, as if what had already transpired was not sufficient. They escalated the situation further. Without a moment's hesitation, one of them seized his genitals and yanked them hard. He could not determine if it was the same soldier or another one inflicting this painful squeeze, taunting him: "Oh, big, big." He

reached a point where he felt that death was nearer than anything else, and only one question echoed in his mind, repeating endlessly: **When will all of this come to an end?**¹



Such a question continues to haunt all Palestinian prisoners who are subjected to various forms of torture in Israeli prisons and detention facilities. Since 7 October 2023, the ongoing genocide in the Gaza Strip has also affected all prisoners within Israeli detention facilities. Documentation from Addameer and other human rights organizations reveals that these centers have been transformed into sites of systematic physical and psychological abuse, constituting genocide through various means, including direct killings, inflicting severe physical and mental harm on prisoners, and subjecting them to harsh conditions aimed at their destruction.

Sexual violence stands out as one of the most lethal and damaging tools employed in armed conflicts and genocide. In these scenarios, it is no longer perceived as an incidental act or a mere side effect of war; rather, it is now internationally acknowledged as a systematic weapon used to

¹ Affidavit collected by Addameer from prisoner S.S. on 20 July 2025.

achieve military and political goals, subjugate targeted groups, dismantle their social and cultural identities, and assert dominance over their bodies. This has been evidenced in numerous documented cases, such as the mass rapes employed as a tool of genocide in Rwanda in 1994, the systematic sexual practices in detention camps during the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, the torture and sexual humiliation at Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq, and similar documented violations at Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp, where sexual humiliation was utilized as part of psychological and physical interrogation techniques.



Since October 7th, there has been a noticeable increase in this type of violence. Numerous Palestinian prisoners have faced sexual crimes, which include rape, sexual harassment, strip searches, verbal abuse, threats of rape, and targeted beatings in sensitive areas. These actions are not mere isolated incidents or exceptions; they are part of a larger strategy of punishment and domination. It is crucial to recognize that sexual violence in prisons is neither a new nor an abrupt occurrence; it is a deeply entrenched practice that has evolved alongside the very creation of the detention system. This indicates a persistent pattern in the application of violence, especially sexual violence, as a means of control, oppression, and breaking the spirit, rather than being the result of random individual actions.

In this light, the assault on the body within prisons, especially the violation of physical and human dignity, can be interpreted as a form of genocide. This rationale is consistent with the essence of settler colonialism, which aims to dismantle the indigenous community's capacity to endure, not just through acts of killing and displacement, but also through psychological devastation and the conversion of the body into a tool for control and obliteration.

This paper seeks to underscore how the Israeli occupation utilizes sexual crimes as a deliberate tool of oppression and vengeance, set against a larger backdrop of genocide. It achieves this by examining and showcasing documented instances that reveal the systematic character of these violations, their consequences, and their effects on the individuals and communities targeted.

It is crucial to note that the instances of sexual violence far surpass those referenced in this paper, and the actual numbers are likely much greater. This document records only 37 cases, as documented by Addameer, from the hundreds tracked by the organization and other human rights groups. This discrepancy arises from the consistent tactics and methods used to perpetrate these crimes, aimed at preventing their recurrence. Furthermore, the ongoing detention of a significant number of prisoners has obstructed the documentation of the crimes and abuses they have endured. Many detainees also fear revealing their experiences due to stigma, threats, and the severe conditions of their confinement, suggesting that the real scale of these atrocities remains concealed.

The cases reported by Addameer included individuals of all ages: men, women, and children. For children, the sexual abuse they endured was

primarily confined to strip searches. Women faced this invasive procedure repeatedly, first at the detention site, then at Hasharon Prison, and subsequently at Damon Prison, in addition to experiencing both sexual and verbal harassment. Men, on the other hand, were not only subjected to forced nudity but also faced rape and targeted violence against sensitive areas through beatings, restraints, and burning, particularly during interrogations and crackdowns executed by the repression units at the Sde Teiman Detention Camp and in interrogation centers.

In a related development, the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry released a report on 13 March 2025, which confirmed that the occupying power has systematically employed sexual and gender-based violence as a tactic of war against Palestinians since October 7th. The report underscores that these acts are not mere isolated events but rather a deliberate policy designed to humiliate and oppress the Palestinian people.²



Sexual Crimes under International Law

Sexual crimes represent serious breaches of human dignity and fundamental human rights. International agreements, such as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the ad hoc international

² The United Nations. "More than a human can bear": Israel's systematic use of sexual, reproductive, and other forms of gender-based violence since October 2023. 13 May 2025. <https://tinyurl.com/5d3jz5u2>

tribunals for Yugoslavia and Rwanda (ICTY and ICTR), have established that these offenses may be categorized as war crimes, crimes against humanity, or elements of genocide, depending on the circumstances of their commission and the underlying intent.

As stated in Article 6 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, sexual crimes may qualify as genocide if they are perpetrated with the aim of annihilating, either fully or partially, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. The international legal precedents set by ICTY and ICTR acknowledge that acts of rape and other types of sexual violence can play a crucial role in the destruction process, specifically targeting particular groups due to the profound physical and psychological damage, humiliation, and catastrophic effects they have on victims and their communities. Consequently, when sufficient evidence exists, these acts can be regarded as elements of genocide.³

Article 7(1)(g) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court outlines sexual crimes that qualify as crimes against humanity when they occur as part of a widespread or systematic attack. This category encompasses acts such as rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, and any other form of sexual violence of similar severity. It is important to note that it is the attack itself, rather than the individual actions of the accused, that must be deemed 'widespread or systematic'. Consequently, a single act may be classified as a crime against humanity if it occurs within the appropriate context.⁴

Furthermore, Article 7(1)(h) addresses persecution directed at any identifiable group or collectivity based on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender, or other criteria, thereby reinforcing efforts to

³ | ICTR. "The Prosecutor versus Jean-Paul Akayesu." Trial Chamber Judgment, paragraph 731. 2 September 1998. <https://tinyurl.com/mrx6tw87>

⁴ | ICTY. "The Prosecutor versus Kunarac, Kovač and Vuković." Trial Chamber Judgment, paragraph 431. 22 February 2001. <https://www.icty.org/x/cases/kunarac/tjug/en/kun-tj010222e.pdf>

combat impunity for systematic persecution. Such crimes can also be categorized as torture or other inhumane acts, deliberately inflicting serious physical or psychological suffering.

In addition, sexual crimes that take place during an international or non-international armed conflict can be classified as war crimes under Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. These offenses include rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity. These acts are also seen as assaults on human dignity, as defined by the Rome Statute. Moreover, torture is recognized as a war crime if the perpetrator intentionally causes physical or psychological pain or suffering.

Patterns of Sexual Abuse in Israeli Detention Facilities

Sexual violence has frequently been viewed as an issue that primarily affects women. Yet, in recent years, there has been a notable shift in the examination of this violence to encompass the sexual abuse of men, especially within the realms of armed conflict and detention. A significant number of cases have been recorded involving Palestinian men who have endured such abuse. This violence manifests in various ways, from humiliating psychological tactics to severe physical attacks. Consequently, sexual assaults can be categorized into several key patterns, each varying in its methods, intensity, and both physical and psychological repercussions, which will be explored in detail in this section.



1. Forced Nudity

The occupying authorities in Israeli prisons and detention facilities utilize strip searches as a systematic approach to demean Palestinian prisoners. This practice is employed repeatedly and intentionally to incite prisoners and undermine their morale, particularly during collective searches. It is evident that this method transcends mere security protocols; it is fundamentally punitive and degrading, resulting in a breach of the prisoners' human dignity and inflicting significant psychological distress. Such actions represent ill-treatment that could be classified as cruel or degrading treatment under international legal frameworks, including the Istanbul Protocol.

According to the Istanbul Protocol, "Sexual torture begins with forced nudity, which in many countries is a constant factor in torture situations. An individual is never as vulnerable as when naked and helpless. Nudity enhances the psychological terror of every aspect of torture, as there is always the threat of potential sexual torture or ill-treatment, including rape. Furthermore, verbal sexual threats, verbal abuse, and mocking are also part of sexual torture, as they enhance the humiliation and its degrading aspects. Touching a woman's body is always traumatic and constitutes a form of torture."⁵

⁵ Article 215 of Istanbul Protocol: Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. <https://tinyurl.com/xrrvvt97>

The overwhelming majority of detainees have reported **enduring forced strip** searches at least once during their time in detention, with many confirming that they experienced this invasive procedure multiple times. These searches took place at various points, including at the time of arrest at their homes, during transfers to interrogation and detention centers, while being moved to prison sections, during section searches, and during crackdowns.

Such practices were executed in a degrading and humiliating fashion, impacting nearly all prisoners without exception, and occurring regularly, particularly in light of the significant rise in repressive actions and cell searches within prisons. These operations were often justified as a reason to conduct strip searches, whether at the moment of arrest, upon arrival at initial detention centers, or during transfers to detention facilities. Moreover, these searches were frequently repeated within these facilities, especially during mass repression operations or during transfers between prisons.

It is important to highlight that since the onset of the genocide, the Israel Prison Service (IPS) has halted all visits from the Red Cross and family members of prisoners, in addition to confiscating all personal belongings of the detainees. As a result, the prisoners have been subjected to complete isolation, which undermines any security rationale for such searches, particularly since the prisoners' cells lack any personal items. Consequently, the ongoing strip searches under these conditions clearly demonstrate that they are employed as a means to humiliate prisoners and infringe upon their human dignity, rather than serving as a legitimate security measure.

Moreover, a significant number of detainees from the Gaza Strip experienced strip searches at the time of their arrest. Many of them recounted being compelled to disrobe and were then provided with white (COVID-19) suits before being transported by various means, such as trucks and buses, to detention facilities. Some individuals were even taken to these facilities without any clothing at all. This invasive search procedure was not confined to the arrest phase but persisted throughout their detention and interrogation periods.

One of the prisoners who faced this degrading treatment repeatedly was M. Y., who shared his experience in the Sde Teiman Detention Camp. "After spending three days in a room referred to as the disco room, I was taken to a courtyard with a gravel floor. There, my handcuffs were removed, and I was stripped completely naked, then ordered to turn around while exposed. The soldiers laughed and mocked me during this ordeal. They then commanded me to put my clothes back on, all while I was blindfolded." Furthermore, M. Y. endured searches and beatings during one of the regular crackdowns, explaining: "Each section experiences a crackdown roughly every three days [...] We would be lined up for searches inside a cage, **searched while naked**, and subjected to verbal abuse and physical assaults. Once the search concluded, the individual would be thrown face down until all prisoners in the cages had been searched."⁶

In another distressing account, prisoner S. H. was arrested at Al-Shifa Hospital while recovering from a gunshot wound to his right leg and a graze from another bullet on his left. He was arrested in a state of undress and remained that way for a prolonged period until he reached the Sde Teiman Detention Camp. He recounted: "Upon our arrest, they took us

⁶ Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner M. Y. on 19 November 2024.

directly to Sde Teiman. **I was still entirely naked**, lacking even my underwear, and they denied me the blanket I had brought from the hospital."⁷

The strip search took on various forms that heightened its severity and stripped away the dignity of the prisoners. **They were compelled to undress in front of one another**, resulting in a deep sense of humiliation and lasting psychological trauma. One prisoner, Kh. R., recounted his experience of a strip



search that was accompanied by brutal beatings in front of fellow cellmates at Nafha Prison: "Upon my transfer to Nafha, the Keter unit took control of us. They immediately set the dogs on us, and we were then led straight to the search room. A group strip search **was conducted; we were all made to strip in front of each other**. There were around 24-25 of us. They assaulted us during the search and jumped on us while we were exposed."⁸

Prisoner N. D. shared his account of the degrading search that prisoners endured in a section known as Al-Makhloul, the designated area for searches in Naqab Prison: "We were taken to a place we refer to as Al-Makhloul, which is a search zone, **where I was searched while naked in front of other prisoners**. Groups of 4-5 prisoners were searched together. During the process, we were brutally beaten while naked, using

⁷ Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner S. H. on 12 November 2025.

⁸ Affidavit collected by Addameer from prisoner Kh. R. on 22 April 2025.

sticks, and muzzled dogs were unleashed on us."⁹

This was corroborated by multiple prisoners who reported experiencing the same search procedure in this area, including prisoner M. Q., who mentioned being **forced to remove all his clothing** and being **struck in sensitive areas** with a portable search device. He also noted that a guard wielded a long stick with a mirror attached to its end, which was while he was in a squatting position.¹⁰ Furthermore, some prisoners were photographed while naked, such as prisoner J. K., who disclosed that guards took naked photographs of him on their personal phones.¹¹

Prisoner S. M. reported enduring a degrading and collective search at Shatta Prison. He, along with seven other prisoners, was removed from their cell, handcuffed behind their backs, and dragged to the outdoor yard, forced to kneel with their heads bowed for an entire hour. Subsequently, they were taken one by one to the toilet within the cell, where their hands remained cuffed. In this location, a guard **stripped the prisoner of his trousers and underwear while he was still restrained. A magnetometer was then used on his body, and he was struck on the buttocks. After this, he was dragged back to the cell and thrown to the ground, exposed and face down. Later, another prisoner was brought in, having undergone the same ordeal, and was thrown on top of the first prisoner.** The guard instructed him, **"Fuck him."**

The seven prisoners experienced the same invasive search technique, which prisoner S. M. likened to rape and sexual harassment. The guard climbed onto the 50-centimeter-high bed where the seven prisoners, stripped from the waist down, were piled on top of one another. He then pressed down on them with his foot, forcing them into the confined

⁹ Affidavit collected by Addameer from prisoner N. D. on 19 November 2024.

¹⁰ Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner M. Q. on 6 December 2023.

¹¹ Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner J. K. on 30 November 2023.

space. Following this, the prisoners were released from their restraints and made to kneel on the floor. The guard then left the area. Each prisoner was subsequently taken individually to the door, where the guards removed his handcuffs.¹² Prisoner M. Kh. observed the same incident, as he was present in the same room as prisoner S. M.¹³

In this context, the Pre-Trial Chambers of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda determined that various actions are classified as sexual assault. These include forced nudity, sexual humiliation, and compelling detainees to engage in sexual acts. When evaluated within their broader context, these actions qualify as crimes against humanity. Therefore, forced nudity and the act of making prisoners undress in front of each other represent a type of sexual violence, even without the presence of rape or penetration, because of the coercive nature involved and the serious infringement on human dignity.¹⁴



2. The Targeting of Sensitive Areas

In addition to enforced nudity, **the targeting of sensitive areas** represents a form of sexual torture that is carried out in various Israeli detention centers. This practice is a type of genital mutilation, which Addameer has documented as being both widespread and systematic. It

¹² Lawyer's visit to prisoner S. M in Shatta Prison on 15 January 2024.

¹³ Affidavit collected by Addameer from prisoner M. Kh. on 12 September 2024.

¹⁴ ICTY. "The Prosecutor versus Brđanin." Trial Chamber Judgment, paragraph 1014. 1 April 2004.

<https://www.refworld.org/jurisprudence/caselaw/icty/2004/en/91856>. ICTR. "The Prosecutor versus Akayesu." Trial Chamber Judgment, paragraph 688. 2 September 1998. <https://tinyurl.com/mrx6tw87>

entails inflicting harm on prisoners' genitals through beatings, squeezing, pulling, burning, and electric shocks, demonstrating a clear intent to cause severe physical and psychological damage that could result in permanent or long-lasting effects. For instance, when a soldier greeted prisoner M. W. with the words "Welcome to Hell," he proceeded to pour hot water on him. Subsequently, six soldiers assaulted him during a search. The assault involved the use of hands, feet, and batons, **specifically targeting sensitive areas**, all while the prisoner was entirely naked.¹⁵

Prisoner A. Y. recounted being struck on his genitals during his transfer for interrogation. He stated: "During the transfer to interrogation, one of the soldiers hit me, while I was blindfolded inside the bus, with something that felt like a thin iron rod. **He hit me twice in the genital area with the same rod while I was seated.** I endured pain for two days, and I was not provided with any pain relief or medical treatment during the interrogation."¹⁶

Prisoner A. M. recounted: "They conducted a strip search on me, and during this process, **one of the officers forcefully grabbed my genitals, applying intense pressure. It was an excruciating and deeply humiliating experience.**"¹⁷ Prisoner S. Kh. shared: "I was taken to a room equipped with technological examination tools (a magnetometer). They performed a strip search, and while I was in the process of undressing, I was assaulted. The way they used the magnetometer on me was unmistakably sexual harassment and extremely degrading. **One of the officers even kicked me in the genital area.**"¹⁸

Prisoner Kh. J. endured repeated beatings to his genitals, with the first incident occurring during a field interrogation in Gaza. He stated, "When

¹⁵ Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner M. W. on 9 February 2025.

¹⁶ Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner A. Y. on 16 January 2025.

¹⁷ Affidavit collected by Addameer from prisoner A. M. on 27 May 2024.

¹⁸ Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner S. Kh. on 24 March 2024.

the interrogator realized I had no information to provide, he started kicking my legs with his boots. Then he summoned another soldier, and together they viciously assaulted me. **The officer placed his boot on my sensitive area and pressed down hard**, inflicting severe pain and injury."

The prisoner endured yet another brutal beating during the interrogation at the Sde Teiman Detention Camp. He recounted the experience, stating: "The interrogation involved a series of questions paired with intense beatings from the interrogator and two large soldiers who were experts in inflicting pain. They employed a technique of **pressing their boots onto my sensitive areas for a few seconds** before lifting them off. My body would convulse in agony. This cycle was repeated multiple times in each session. Most of the officers applied the same brutal method on me." Furthermore, he faced beatings on sensitive areas for a third time in a section referred to as "The Arch," where a canine unit raided the area. During this assault, the prisoner seized a blanket and held it in front of himself to shield against the dogs. The soldiers misinterpreted this as an act of defiance. He was abruptly yanked from his position, compelled to extend his hands forward and spread his legs. While in this search stance, a soldier struck him with a reinforced plastic baton, specifically designed for suppression tactics. The soldier relentlessly hit him all over his body, **including several strikes to his sensitive areas**.¹⁹

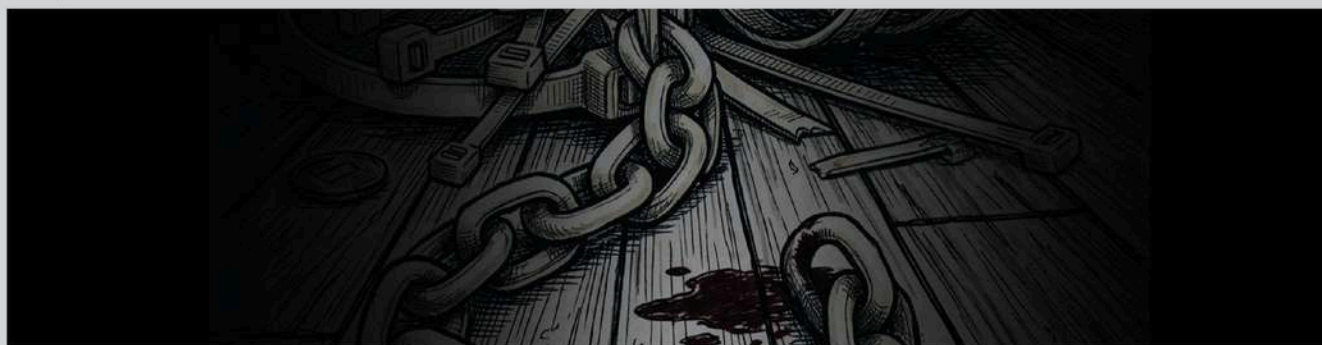
The Nahshon Unit inflicted severe violence on prisoner H. A. during his transfer to Naqab Prison. "Fourteen days after my arrest, I was moved to Naqab Prison in a bus operated by a unit known as Nahshon. While being searched, two soldiers held me down as a third soldier yanked down **my trousers and struck me in sensitive areas with plastic zip ties**. He

¹⁹ Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner Kh. J. on 16 December 2025.

gathered several ties and hit me five or six times in the same area, resulting in excruciating pain."²⁰

In the same facility, prisoner A. A. suffered burns **when hot water was poured over his genitals**, leading to involuntary urination and ongoing urinary incontinence that he still endures.²¹ Moreover, prisoner R. A. experienced electric shocks to his sensitive areas on two occasions, each time receiving more than five intense shocks.²²

It is evident that the targeting of sensitive areas was not merely a random policy or an isolated event within a particular prison; instead, it was a systematic approach implemented across all detention facilities. This practice was intentionally repeated against numerous detainees, often multiple times against the same individual, highlighting the systematic nature of these abuses. The repercussions are enduring, leading to persistent psychological and physical issues for the prisoners, alongside a clear infringement of their human dignity and the conversion of incarceration into a means of psychological and physical degradation. Among the instances of extreme sexual violence, one notable case involves a prisoner whose **genitals were restrained** to coerce him into making false confessions, specifically the case of prisoner Kh. F.



Genital Restraint as a Method of Sexual Violence and Coercion: The Case of Prisoner Kh. F.²³

²⁰ Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner H. A. on 17 December 2025.

²¹ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. A. in Naqab Prison on 22 April 2025.

²² Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner R. A. on 10 December 2025.

²³ Affidavit collected by Addameer from prisoner Kh. F. on 21 December 2025.

Prisoner Kh. F. endured extreme sexual violence as a tactic of psychological manipulation and coercion aimed at compelling him to provide false confessions. On the third day of his interrogation, around 11:00 a.m., just two or three hours after it commenced, he requested to use the bathroom for the first time due to an urgent necessity. The interrogating officer then summoned soldier Sami, who released the prisoner from the chair, handcuffed his hands behind his back (his legs were already restrained), and commanded him to bend over and squat. Subsequently, he was thrown to the ground, and his hands and feet were secured together with an additional pair of handcuffs behind him. His body was then forcibly rotated so that he lay on his back, constrained by his shackled limbs, before being compelled to kneel.

Soldier Sami completely removed the prisoner's lower garments, leaving him naked down to his knees. Following this, they [the interrogator and the soldier] called for one of the female soldiers. The prisoner noted that he could see her since he was not blindfolded. He sensed that they intentionally allowed him to see her as a method of inflicting psychological distress and humiliation. **She seized his penis with her hand, then applied a plastic strap around it and tightened it.** She then addressed the officer in Hebrew, saying "Beseder," which translates to "okay" in Arabic. The officer responded with "Beseder," and then she exited the room. Soldier Sami also departed.

The prisoner stayed in the same position with the officer, who ridiculed him by saying, "Go to the bathroom now." The interrogator then exited the room and left **the prisoner lying naked** on the floor for about an hour. When the officer returned, he inquired if the prisoner had gone to the bathroom, but the prisoner chose to remain silent. Subsequently,

the officer kicked him in the side, compelling him to respond affirmatively. After that, he summoned the soldier Sami, who assisted the prisoner in putting on his trousers and secured him to the chair, **but the restraint on his genitals remained until the next day, when it was finally removed.**

To read the full testimony, see:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fqVpCPM5pv6rKf-Ojy8bvhQyoGpdZ4Nr/view?usp=sharing>



3. Rape

Sexual violence in Israeli detention centers, particularly rape, represents one of the most severe violations of human dignity. It takes advantage of the forced detention environment and the significant power disparity between the aggressor and the victim. This heinous act transcends mere physical violence; it inflicts profound psychological harm and jeopardizes the overall health of prisoners, resulting in enduring consequences that persist long after their release. Such violence is frequently executed systematically, exploiting the absence of accountability and the challenges victims encounter in seeking protection and justice.²⁴

Consequently, rape in prisons should not be viewed as isolated incidents but rather as part of a larger framework of abuses designed to

²⁴ To learn more about the policy of impunity regarding crimes against Palestinian prisoners, visit: <https://addameer.ps/node/5675>

humiliate, dominate, and undermine the spirit of prisoners. In certain situations, these acts may constitute serious international crimes. Addameer has recorded the rape of 12 individuals across different detention facilities. These incidents involved the insertion of a solid object, typically a stick, into the anus. This figure does not encompass all instances of rape that have transpired in detention centers, but only those that Addameer has successfully monitored and documented. It also does not account for all cases reported by other organizations. Numerous additional incidents remain concealed due to fear, societal stigma, the challenges of reporting while detained, and the ongoing incarceration of many individuals. This has hindered the accurate assessment of the prevalence of rape and sexual abuse within detention facilities.

Rape is characterized in international criminal law as follows: "The perpetrator invaded the body of a person by conduct resulting in penetration, however slight, of any part of the body of the victim or of the perpetrator with a sexual organ, or of the anal or genital opening of the victim with any object or any other part of the body."²⁵

In addition to that, the Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) described rape as "a physical invasion of a sexual nature, committed on a person under coercive circumstances. Sexual violence, which includes rape, is considered to be any act of a sexual nature that is committed on a person under coercive circumstances."²⁶

The Chamber considers that rape is "a form of aggression and that the central elements of the crime of rape cannot be captured in a mechanical description of objects and body parts. The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment does not

²⁵ Articles 7(1)(g) and 8(2)(b)(xxii) of the Elements of Crimes at: <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/Publications/Elements-of-Crimes.pdf>

²⁶ ICTR. "The Prosecutor versus Akayesu." Trial Chamber Judgment, paragraph 598. 2 September 1998. <https://tinyurl.com/mrx6tw87>

catalogue specific acts in its definition of torture, focusing rather on the conceptual framework of state-sanctioned violence. This approach is more useful in international law."²⁷

"Like torture, rape is used for such purposes as intimidation, degradation, humiliation, discrimination, punishment, control, or destruction of a person. Like torture, rape is a violation of personal dignity, and rape in fact constitutes torture when inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity."²⁸

The International Criminal Court, in the Bosco Ntaganda case, affirmed that "rape encompasses all perpetrators and victims regardless of gender, and that it constitutes a grave violation of the physical and psychological integrity of victims, a factor taken seriously when determining punishment."²⁹

Addameer has documented numerous testimonies from prisoners in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, revealing a disturbing pattern of rape crimes. The evidence shows that most of the prisoners who experienced rape were attacked by several soldiers, employing the same weapon—a baton—and the same method of anal penetration. Furthermore, the soldiers intentionally moved the prisoners to locations without cameras and denied them any medical assistance for the physical injuries caused by these assaults. This tactic was aimed at preventing the documentation of these crimes in medical records, thereby ensuring that the offenders would evade accountability.

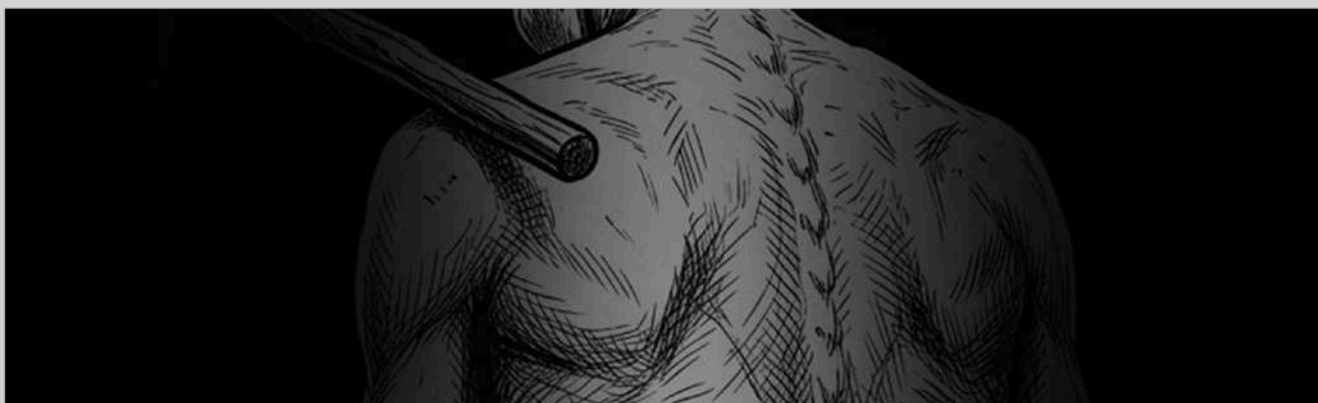
The consistent use of method, tools, number of offenders, and crime scene, along with the intentional withholding of medical assistance,

²⁷ Ibid. P 597.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ ICC. "The Prosecutor versus Bosco Ntaganda." Trial Chamber Judgment, paragraph 933. 8 July 2019. https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/CourtRecords/CR2019_03568.PDF

unmistakably shows that these actions were neither isolated nor random. Instead, they reveal a coordinated strategy and systematic conduct. These are calculated crimes, designed and carried out to inflict harm and seek vengeance, rather than being mere isolated or accidental incidents. One of the cases recorded by the organization involves prisoner Q. M., who endured extreme sexual violence that ultimately resulted in his infertility.



Intentional Sexual Abuse of a Palestinian Prisoner: The Case of Prisoner Q. M.³⁰

Prisoner Q. M. was arrested on 17 March 2024 while he was at Al-Shifa Hospital. He was compelled to strip down to just his underwear. Subsequently, he was held inside the hospital along with a significant number of other detainees for a duration of eight hours. Around 1:30 a.m. that same day, he was transported to a military facility known as Sofa. All detainees were blindfolded, with their hands and feet restrained, and were left wearing only their underwear despite the frigid temperatures.

Upon reaching the military base, the soldiers viciously assaulted them with batons and set dogs upon them. Prisoner Q. M. sustained injuries when one of the dogs attacked, biting his back and urinating on him. Numerous other prisoners endured similar treatment. They were

³⁰ Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner Q. M. on 7 December 2025.

confined in what is believed to be the Sofa army base until the early morning hours, after which they were moved to the Sde Teiman Detention Camp. Upon their arrival, the soldiers welcomed them with brutal beatings. Consequently, Q. M. received a single strike to the head with a stick, which caused him to lose consciousness. He was subsequently taken to the camp's field hospital. There, he was kept bedridden, unable to move due to an intense heaviness in his head resulting from the injury. He was provided with diapers and was entirely immobilized. No medical assessments were performed; doctors only appeared for a quick inspection, and he was denied any pain relief.

On the third day, medical professionals arrived and informed him that he needed to be moved to Barzilai Hospital because of a suspected skull fracture. He was transferred that very day, placed on a stretcher, and taken by ambulance, accompanied by the transport unit known as the "Nahshon Unit." The trip lasted approximately three hours, during which he was assaulted by the unit members using their hands and batons all over his body. They also displayed pornographic videos on their mobile devices. Even though he was blindfolded, the prisoner could recognize the voices. There was a recording of sexually suggestive sounds, and the soldiers began to verbally abuse him, throwing insults and referring to him as a 'faggot' and a 'homo.' They spoke fluent Arabic. They attempted to remove his trousers while his hands were restrained. Although he was not completely stripped, the attempt was made menacingly. They forcefully tugged at his genitals through his trousers multiple times, and despite his cries, they did not relent.

Upon his arrival at the hospital, he was subjected to an X-ray before being sent back to the field hospital located in the detention camp.

When he inquired about his medical reports, they refused to provide them, insisting that he was fine. He spent one day in the field hospital before being returned to the cages. While in the cages, he persistently sought treatment and painkillers, but all his pleas were ignored. Approximately three weeks after his arrest, on Eid al-Fitr, the canine unit invaded his cell at sunset. The unit proceeded to sexually assault him.

"They forced me against the wall and spread my legs apart as if I were being searched. Two soldiers restrained me. They yanked down my pants, pushed my hands against the wall, and inserted a stick into my anus. The insertion was superficial, not deep. They lowered my pants slightly, and as they inserted the stick, they pulled my pants back up over it, causing it to move inside me for about a minute. I believe they used a baton typically employed during crackdowns—a police baton around 80 cm long, made of iron and covered in rubber, approximately 5 cm thick. After removing the stick, one soldier delivered a brutal kick to my groin, striking my genitals with such force that I collapsed from the pain. Yet, the soldiers continued to hold me down and assault me.

Then a soldier forcefully grabbed my genitals over my trousers and squeezed them tightly for about a minute. I was blindfolded and handcuffed during this ordeal. This occurred multiple times, and I am uncertain if it was the same soldier or different ones. I could hear the young men beside me, and from the sounds, it was evident that they were subjected to the same abuse; they were raped as well. Approximately an hour after the assault, we were dragged out and thrown back into the cages where we had been confined, without any care or assistance. After the unit left, the young men helped carry me and attempted to clean me due to the odor of urine. They put me back in the same clothes I had on,

even though they were stained with urine, as there were no other garments available in the area.

Right after that, I entered the bathroom and found it difficult to defecate. A significant amount of blood accompanied my stool. I informed the young men, who then called the section supervisor, and a female soldier contacted the doctor. The doctor arrived and stood behind the wire mesh. I recounted my experience to him, and he dismissed my concerns, telling me I was fine and to drink water. He only provided me with paracetamol without conducting any examination."

The prisoner mentioned earlier was released as part of a prisoner exchange agreement on 13 October 2025.

For the complete testimony, please visit:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10-3Zh6l4XX4bBeWRsz5ogCXlCtp1YV9p/view?usp=sharing>

The attacks endured by the prisoner unmistakably reveal that they were neither random nor merely the result of individual actions; instead, they were systematic, organized, and executed with specific violent methods. Additionally, the focus on the genitals, the refusal of medical treatment and care, and the persistence of these abuses despite the emergence of severe symptoms illustrate a clear intention to seek revenge and cause enduring damage to him.

Moreover, a soldier made a direct declaration of his desire to inflict lasting harm on the prisoners. During a raid at Ofer Prison, prisoner A. H., along with four other prisoners, was forcibly taken to the shower area. His trousers were yanked down, and he was brutally beaten with a stick. A soldier then attempted to **penetrate him with the stick.**

Although the soldier did not complete the act due to A. H.'s screams, he did insert the stick superficially. The other four prisoners faced the same brutal treatment. Additionally, **he was repeatedly subjected to having his testicles squeezed** by soldiers. One soldier explicitly stated the intention to castrate the prisoners, declaring, **"We'll send you back to Gaza castrated."**³¹



This was corroborated by prisoner S. M., who recounted an attempt to castrate him. An officer **yanked down his genitals and shook them**. He also confirmed that several prisoners had their **genitals beaten and pulled** by the same officer.³²

In another instance, rape was employed as a method of punishment against prisoners. Prisoner Kh. H. experienced an attempted rape at the Sde Timan Detention Camp as retribution for his outburst and cries for essential medication. He endured two attempts of rape, which included having his clothes forcibly **removed and an attempt to insert a stick into his anus**.³³

Similarly, prisoner R. A. faced a brutal assault akin to that of prisoner Q. M. at the Sde Teiman Detention Camp, resulting in long-term bowel issues. Recounting the horrific event, the prisoner stated: "A soldier led me to a secluded corner within the same cage, raised my hands in front of

³¹ Lawyer's visit to prisoner A. H. in Ofer Prison on 9 December 2024

³² Lawyer's visit to prisoner S. M. in Ofer Prison on 17 September 2024

³³ Lawyer's visit to prisoner Kh. H. in Nitzan Prison on 27 August 2025

me, and handcuffed them to the mesh. Two soldiers searched my clothing, while a third soldier leaned in close to my ear, uttering vile **threats of rape**. Initially, I believed it was merely a threat, but I was horrified when **he yanked down my pants and abruptly inserted a stick**—a sturdy plastic rod that soldiers routinely carry for torture—into my anus. It penetrated about 5-7 cm for a few seconds, causing me excruciating pain, and I screamed. Afterward, he pulled it out and pulled my pants back up. I endured suffering for approximately two months, unable to use the toilet without assistance. They would provide me with a cream-like ointment to apply to the wound around my anus to facilitate using the toilet. During toilet time, I would call for the doctor to supply me with the ointment. They never took me to the hospital for proper treatment, nor did they conduct any medical examinations or tests."³⁴

In the same camp and in a similar fashion, prisoner S. A. endured a comparable sexual assault by a group of soldiers, estimated to be between 7 and 10 in number. They took him behind the cages, handcuffed and ankle-chained him, blindfolded him, stripped him of his clothes, and conducted a **strip search**. Subsequently, they **inserted a stick into his anus, causing him** excruciating pain that nearly made him lose consciousness. Despite this, one soldier removed the stick and attempted to force it into his mouth, **compelling him to lick it sexually for approximately a minute**. After the assault, they pulled up his trousers and placed him back on his mattress, threatening him not to seek medical assistance, or they **would return to mutilate him**.³⁵

Following this incident, the military police initiated an investigation, resulting in the arrest of nine individuals involved in the crime, who were later placed under house arrest.³⁶ Five reserve soldiers, including two

³⁴ Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner R. A. on 10 December 2025.

³⁵ Lawyer's visit to prisoner S. M. in Sde Teiman Detention Camp on 25 August 2024

³⁶ Al Jazeera. "Israel releases soldiers who assaulted a Palestinian prisoner and places them under house arrest." 13 August 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/3f9t9amb>

officers, faced indictment. Investigations uncovered that the soldiers had brutally assaulted the prisoner, including stabbing him in a sensitive area with a sharp object, leading to severe injuries such as broken ribs, a punctured lung, and a rectal tear.³⁷

A leaked video from internal cameras at the Sde Teiman Detention Camp, which captured the sexual assault of this prisoner, prompted many Israelis to argue that all their soldiers are regarded as 'heroes' and should be shielded from prosecution.³⁸ The subsequent debate within Israeli circles centered on what was referred to as the 'video leak scandal,' rather than addressing the horrific sexual assault itself. This shift in focus illustrates a systematic policy by the occupying power aimed at protecting the perpetrators of crimes while persecuting those who bring such actions to light, rather than ensuring accountability for those responsible.

In spite of his challenging physical and mental state, the Israeli forces held him in detention for more than a year and a half before finally releasing him in October 2025. Over a year and a half after the crime occurred, the charges against the five soldiers were dismissed on



³⁷ The New York Times. "Israeli Military Prosecutor Charges Five Reservists With Abuse of Detainee." 19 February 2025. <https://tinyurl.com/2xp7r37a>

³⁸ The Washington Post. "Some Israelis argue all soldiers are heroes and should not be prosecuted." 11 November 2025. <https://tinyurl.com/3bpry75n>

12 March 2026, based on the weak argument that releasing the prisoner, who was a crucial witness in the case, would hinder the defense lawyers' ability to cross-examine him, thereby fundamentally undermining the defendants' case. This occurred even though a significant amount of time had elapsed before his release, during which he could have been interrogated.³⁹

The dropping of the charges and the closure of the case highlight the complicity of the Israeli judicial system in addressing crimes against prisoners. Despite numerous documented instances of rape, no investigations were initiated except for this particular case, which was subsequently closed. When the victim is Palestinian, Israeli law appears to be merely a formality with no substantial impact, thereby creating a conducive environment for impunity. This situation enables these crimes to persist without consequence, transforming them from isolated events into a systematic policy.

In a similar attack to that endured by prisoner S. A., prisoner H. A. reported being raped at the Al-Mascobiya Interrogation and Detention Center. During one of the interrogation sessions, he was assaulted with a **stick forced into his anus**. He described the stick as being similar to a broom handle in thickness, and he believed it was made of bone. They stripped him of his clothes, and the soldiers restrained him while he was in a prostrate position on the floor. **The stick was inserted approximately six times**, penetrating to a depth of around five centimeters. He bled and suffered intense pain. Each time it was inserted into his anus, they forced **it into his mouth until he vomited**. The prisoner repeatedly pleaded to be taken to the clinic.

³⁹ For more on the case of prisoner S. A., see page 60 of the "Beyond Accountability" report at: <https://addameer.ps/node/5675>

⁴⁰ Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner H. A. on 10 November 2025.

Eventually, a doctor arrived but informed him that he could not offer any substantial medical help, only providing him with a piece of cotton. As a consequence of the assault, the prisoner endured bowel issues for an extended period and continues to experience pain during defecation to this day. After his release, he began receiving medical treatment, which he continues due to the lasting effects of this assault.⁴⁰ Although the locations of these assaults differed, they were executed consistently, highlighting the systematic nature of these violations and their recurrence as a deliberate policy, rather than isolated or limited incidents.

Thus, it can be asserted that these assaults went beyond mere random acts of violence, representing a systematic approach to cruel and inhumane treatment designed to break the prisoners both physically and psychologically, while stripping them of one of their essential rights: the right to physical integrity and the capacity to reproduce. Despite this right, the prisoners faced medical neglect and were denied the necessary treatment. This situation highlights the dual nature of these offenses and affirms that the violations were not confined to physical violence alone; they also encompassed intentional medical neglect, which serves as an additional form of torture aimed at causing lasting medical harm that persists beyond the duration of detention.



Double Crimes: Sexual Crimes Accompanied by Systematic Medical Neglect

The anguish experienced by victims of sexual crimes does not cease at the moment of the assault; rather, it evolves into another form of violation: medical neglect and the refusal of essential healthcare. The lack of prompt medical examinations, delays in treatment provision, and insufficient medical and psychological follow-up all contribute to worsening the physical and psychological damage inflicted on prisoners, turning the crime into a multifaceted violation with enduring repercussions. Documentation from Addameer reveals that numerous prisoners have endured significant medical neglect after sexual assaults, which is a blatant breach of medical standards as well as legal and humanitarian responsibilities. This situation illustrates a systematic approach to handling these crimes, one that not only disregards them but also intensifies their impact and undermines the victims' rights to treatment, dignity, and justice.

Prisoner Sh. M. experienced the same brutal treatment that many prisoners have faced, specifically the genital beatings at the Sde Teiman Detention Camp. This form of assault was consistently carried out similarly, indicating a persistent pattern of behavior rather than an isolated event.

Prisoner Sh. M. recounted: "After approximately four months in detention, the canine unit invaded our section, and they forcibly dragged me away. Although I was blindfolded, I could still see brown boots beneath the blindfold. I estimated that there were at least 15 soldiers present. They made me stand in a cage and spread my legs slightly. Multiple soldiers restrained my body to prevent any movement, and I was handcuffed in front. They struck me forcefully on the genitals. It was just a single blow, and instinctively I closed my legs and began screaming

in agony. Following that, they tossed me onto the mattress where I had been lying."⁴¹

For two weeks, the prisoner endured extreme and unusual swelling in his testicles, coupled with excruciating pain that kept him from sleeping for more than a week. Due to the intensity of the pain and swelling, the prisoner repeatedly requested the guard to call for a doctor. After the guard reached out to the administration, a doctor in military attire arrived a week after the assault. The doctor inquired about who had attacked him and what was occurring within the prison, prompting the prisoner to share the details of his suffering. On the same day, an officer from the administration summoned the prisoner and asked where he had been sleeping the night of the beating. The prisoner indicated the location.

The prisoner was subsequently taken to the administration office. Approximately a day later, at around 6:00 p.m., an ambulance arrived, and the prisoner was summoned by name. He was then escorted to the ambulance, handcuffed, ankle-chained, blindfolded, and laid on a stretcher. He was transported to Soroka Hospital, where he underwent medical examinations and scans. He spent nearly a full day there without being informed of the results or receiving any medication. After this, he was returned by ambulance to the Sde Teiman Detention Camp.

The camp doctor informed him that daily checks of blood pressure and temperature would be adequate. This continued for about two weeks, during which no treatment or painkillers were administered. After roughly two weeks, the swelling and pain gradually diminished on their own. It is important to note that the prisoner had a significant

⁴¹ Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner Sh. M. on 11 January 2026.

tumor in the same testicle, which had become severely swollen and inflamed following the beating. He also faced difficulty and pain while urinating for about two weeks before his condition began to slowly improve.

The prisoner's situation cannot be viewed as an isolated or unique case, as records show that other prisoners have endured similar treatment. This clearly points to a persistent and systematic pattern of sexual assaults coupled with medical neglect within detention facilities. The frequency of these violations supports the conclusion that they are not isolated events, but rather a calculated policy enacted against prisoners. This represents a serious and systematic infringement of their fundamental rights and fosters a climate of impunity if serious legal accountability measures are not implemented at both national and international levels. This intensifies the physical and psychological suffering of prisoners and perpetuates the continuation of arbitrary practices within detention facilities.

For the complete testimony, please see:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n_-M3kvMNTxhMijxVPhlGFIZ_a5wEcUm/view?usp=sharing



Tactics of Violating the Body: Sexual Violence Targeting Palestinian Female Prisoners

Since the Nakba [the Catastrophe] and continuing through the genocide inflicted by the Israeli occupying forces on the Gaza Strip after October 7th, along with their increasing aggression in the West Bank, Palestinian women have endured various forms of violence that have assaulted their bodies and undermined their right to exist. These serious violations are evident both historically and in contemporary events, highlighting that the use of violence, particularly sexual violence, is not merely incidental but rather a fundamental aspect of Israeli policies aimed at advancing a colonial agenda that seeks to extend control and forcibly alter the Palestinian identity.

Consequently, the violent targeting of Palestinian women by the occupying authorities is not a random or isolated incident; it has consistently been associated with racist rhetoric and actions that directly impact the bodies and reproductive rights of Palestinian women. This is poignantly reflected in the slogan that resonates among them: "One Shot, Two Kills,"⁴² which starkly illustrates the targeting of pregnant Palestinian women, viewed as a symbol of the ongoing and renewed Palestinian existence.

Palestinian female prisoners have faced a multitude of sexual crimes and violations, executed as part of systematic policies. These offenses encompass degrading strip searches of individual prisoners, collective strip searches involving multiple prisoners, threats of sexual assault, and both verbal and physical sexual harassment.

Among these violations is the forced photographing of female prisoners, including those who wear headscarves, which constitutes a grave violation, as it involves taking pictures of them without their

⁴² Mezan Center for Human Rights. "One Shot, Two Kills: Israeli snipers celebrate killing Palestinian children and pregnant women." 23 March 2009. <https://tinyurl.com/443wwe35>

headscarves. This act, along with the forced removal of headscarves, infringes upon their religious beliefs and subjects them to sexually explicit and degrading insults and abuse. Moreover, menstruation has been weaponized as a means of sexual violence and both physical and psychological pressure. This is evident through the denial of sanitary pads and appropriate clothing for changing, restrictions on bathroom access, violations of privacy, and the deprivation of basic needs, including personal hygiene products, all while enduring overcrowded cells. Such actions blatantly violate their physical and psychological well-being and are a direct affront to their human dignity.

These heinous crimes are inextricably linked to the larger context of genocide. The violations serve as a systematic tool aimed at targeting the Palestinian community, representing a direct assault on the very existence of the Palestinian people. Documentation from Addameer and other human rights organizations substantiates that sexual violence is not merely the result of isolated incidents; rather, it is a recurring and escalating policy that has been in place since 1967, historically utilized and currently being reactivated within the framework of genocide.

The organization successfully gathered testimonies from both released female prisoners and those still incarcerated, confirming that they had endured various forms of sexual assault. A significant number of these female prisoners reported experiencing **strip searches** multiple times throughout their detention. This practice began at the time of their arrest, continued at Hasharon Prison,⁴³ and was repeated at Damon Prison, where they faced strip searches several times, including during interrogations and at interrogation centers.

⁴³ Hasharon Prison is a temporary detention center for female prisoners, before they are transferred to Damon Prison.

One prisoner, referred to only as "H," remarked: "After October 7, 2024, any female prisoner who went for interrogation was required to undergo a strip search upon both entering and exiting, as if this had **become a standard procedure**. They began verbally abusing us, saying, 'You shouldn't come here if you don't want to be searched. You are in the State of Israel.'"⁴⁴

The strip searches imposed on the female prisoners were often accompanied by **insults and degrading verbal abuse**. Another prisoner, Y., recounted: "Upon my arrival at Damon Prison after an interrogation at Ofer, following a grueling three-day journey without access to showers and using filthy toilets, I was subjected to a strip search by the head of the isolation section and a female guard. After they stripped me of all my clothing, the head of the isolation section remarked, '**You stink! Go down to section and shower!**' **She insulted me throughout the entire ordeal.**"⁴⁵

The female guards completely disregarded menstruation during searches, compelling female prisoners to strip down to nothing while enduring ridicule and mockery. This was corroborated by prisoner Sh., who was ordered by a female guard to remove all her clothing. Even after she informed the guard of her menstruation, the guard insisted on **her complete nudity**. The prisoner recounted that once stripped, the guards began to **mock and ridicule** her due to her period. She was then made to squat, during which she faced **a barrage of insults and humiliation**. She described the ordeal as profoundly harsh and degrading, particularly considering her physical and psychological condition.⁴⁶

In terms of the rationale behind such searches, prisoner L. revealed that

⁴⁴ Affidavit collected by Addameer from prisoner H. on 27 January 2025.

⁴⁵ Affidavit collected by Addameer from prisoner Y. on 29 January 2025.

⁴⁶ Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner Sh. on 24 April 2024.

she had been subjected to multiple strip searches, where she was forced to **remove all her clothing**, as if she were 'hiding something under her skin,' as she put it, while being bombarded with **repeated insults**. This illustrates how bodily control is wielded as a means of torture and sexual humiliation. During one search, she was physically **assaulted** for protesting against being searched in front of surveillance cameras, which the female guard claimed were off, all while **the guard looked at her with contempt and hurled curses at her for 20 minutes**. The prisoner affirmed that the female guards consistently instill a sense of bodily violation in the female prisoners, employing a severe psychological strategy that amplifies the humiliation and intensifies the physical and psychological suffering of the female detainees.⁴⁷

In addition to the forced nudity and humiliation, various forms of systematic sexual violence perpetrated by Israel against Palestinian women and girls have surfaced, including instances of **sexual harassment**. The occupying power has utilized this behavior as a means of psychological manipulation, intending to instill fear in the victims and foster a climate of extreme anxiety, thus eroding any sense of safety and sending the message that their bodies are perpetually at risk of violation.

Numerous female prisoners have reported experiencing harassment from soldiers and guards of both genders. One prisoner, T., recounted: "After being taken to a small room, a female guard named Seder, notorious among the girls in Damon Prison, entered. She was overweight, with long, dyed brown and wheat-colored hair. Being Jewish, she spoke only a few words of Arabic. **She strip-searched me**, pointing at me with her finger and demanding that I remove all my clothing. Initially, I resisted, but she began to yell at me, compelling me to comply. Under the pretense of

⁴⁷ Freedom Breakers ep.8 with Lana Fawalha, YouTube video, published 30 November 2025. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wyotv6JK0g>

searching me, **she pressed on my breasts**, which disturbed me. Subsequently, she tossed me a bag containing gray clothing and underwear, but no bras. I later discovered from the other girls that Seder was known for her harassment and inappropriate conduct, treating all the girls similarly under the guise of searches."⁴⁸

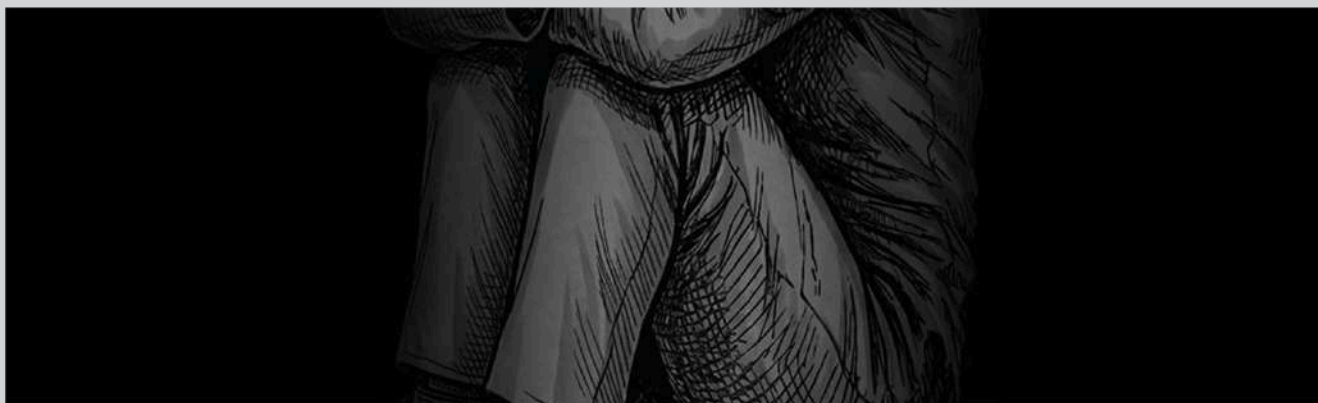
Prisoner D. also faced sexual harassment at the hands of an Israeli soldier. After being arrested at her home and taken to one of the army camps, she was confined with another prisoner in a cramped room. Her handcuffs were switched from plastic to metal cuffs behind her back. Shortly after, a soldier entered the room, positioned himself next to her, and **groped her breasts**. The prisoner instinctively recoiled, but he approached her again and **grabbed her breasts once more**. She screamed, prompting the other prisoner in the room to also scream in an effort to make the soldiers leave her alone.⁴⁹

Furthermore, the Israeli occupation authorities employed psychological intimidation tactics against female prisoners, utilizing threats of rape as a means of coercion and extortion. In one instance, a woman was detained to compel her husband to surrender. She faced **threats regarding** the sexual assault of her daughter. Prisoner J. recounted: "A female soldier forcibly took me to my daughter's room and shut the door behind her. Then, she yelled at me to completely **undress** for a search. This search lasted approximately four minutes. Afterward, she escorted me out of the room and commanded me to put on my shoes [...] When I requested to use the bathroom, they permitted me, but the female soldier accompanied me, untied me, then locked the door and observed me while I relieved myself [...] During the interrogation, one of the interrogators called my father and handed me the phone to speak with him. When I

⁴⁸ Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner T. on 15 December 2025

⁴⁹ Lawyer's visit to prisoner D. in Damon Prison on 28 October 2024.

reassured my father, saying, 'Don't worry about me,' the officer, named Wisam, snatched the phone from me and told my father, 'I'm advising you to worry.' As soon as the call concluded, the officer warned me, **'When we rape your daughter, then you'll begin to worry.'**"⁵⁰



Internal Body Searches of Palestinian Female Prisoners

The searches conducted on Palestinian female prisoners have exceeded the limits of standard external procedural inspections, escalating to invasive internal body searches. Female guards have been forcibly conducting searches on the prisoners' bodies, an action that cannot be justified as a security or precautionary measure; instead, it aligns with acts of revenge and collective punishment. The lack of any legal or medical rationale, combined with searches that involve complete nudity, intimidation, and humiliation, indicates that the intent behind this behavior is to punish the victim rather than serve any claimed security purpose. This malicious intent elevates the act to a serious sexual assault and simultaneously represents a blatant violation of international humanitarian law principles, which forbid degrading treatment, torture, and the use of sexual violence as a means of revenge or deterrence.

The female prisoners have reported enduring this type of search. One prisoner, R., recounted: "The Iran War marked the darkest chapter of our

⁵⁰ Affidavit collected by Addameer from prisoner J. on 2 November 2023.

lives. Guards were brought in nearly every two or three days. One evening, as the sun set, they burst into our room. Three female guards and four male Druze guards entered, accompanied by a female officer named Anastasia (though I'm uncertain about the pronunciation). They positioned us against the wall and commenced a thorough search of the room. Subsequently, the officer instructed the male guards to exit, and she began escorting us, one by one, to the bathroom for individual searches. I was personally searched by a female guard named Seder. She was tall, dark-skinned, had dyed blonde hair, and was overweight. She commanded me to remove my underwear and proceeded to open and **examine my private areas from both the front and back.** She wore gloves during the search. My body froze, and I felt like I wanted to die, yet fear held me back from stopping her. Another female guard, Nicole, along with another named Lauren, also conducted searches on us."⁵¹

Concerning the same incident, Prisoner H. recounted that during the Iran War or shortly after its conclusion, female prisoners faced extreme repression. "Approximately three female soldiers and a female officer entered, and they began taking each prisoner one by one to the bathroom for a search. Each female prisoner was accompanied by two female soldiers and the officer. When it was my turn, they stripped me completely naked, subjecting me to degrading treatment during the search. **They groped my breasts and commanded me to squat and spread my legs.** The two female soldiers were merciless. After the search, I learned that one female prisoner had her **private parts forcibly** opened. She completely broke down afterward, unable to eat and weeping incessantly, collapsing in tears whenever she recalled the ordeal."⁵²

These occurrences should not be regarded as isolated incidents, but

⁵¹ Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner R. on 21 September 2025.

⁵² Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner H. on 6 November 2025.

rather as part of a systematic approach. Prisoner S. experienced a similar search in 2015 when a female doctor performed an internal examination, inserting her fingers into her vagina and anus.⁵³ This led her to file a formal complaint. However, the investigation into her case was closed on April 7, 2021, with no charges brought against any of the individuals involved, under the pretense that the special unit investigating the matter could not identify who ordered the internal search of the detainee.⁵⁴

As a result, the resolution of the complaint in 2021 has essentially paved the way for the revival of such violations. It ensures that offenders will escape legal repercussions, fostering an environment of impunity that promotes the ongoing targeting and both physical and psychological mistreatment of women during detentions or searches. Within this atmosphere of impunity, this trend was further solidified by the neglect to record violations in the interrogation reports, even after numerous requests for their documentation. This lack of accountability hindered legal recourse, as exemplified by the situation of prisoner N.



The Lack of Documentation of Offenses in the Interrogation Reports: The Case of Prisoner N.⁵⁵

On 9 November 2023, around 2:00 p.m., a group of approximately 12 Israeli intelligence officers, dressed in civilian attire and armed, forcefully

⁵³ Affidavit collected by Addameer from prisoner S. in Damon Prison on 7 September 2015.

⁵⁴ Public Committee Against Torture in Israel. "Torture in Israel 2021: A Picture of the status quo." 2019. <https://stoptorture.org.il/en/torture-in-israel-2021-situation-report/>

⁵⁵ Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner N. on 18 December 2023.

entered the residence of prisoner N., situated near the New Gate in Jerusalem. They used a tool to break down the front door while the prisoner was in her room, which was directly visible from the entrance. The door to her room was wide open. Once inside the house, they proceeded to her room while she was still in her pajamas. She yelled at them to step back and allow her time to don her abaya and headscarf, but they ignored her pleas. This compelled her to quickly retrieve her headscarf and abaya from behind the door and put them on.

Some officers then burst into the room where her 25-year-old daughter was present with her infant daughter, who was less than two weeks old. They searched the baby and demanded that she undress as well, but she refused because the officer searching was male, and there were no female officers present. He began to yell at her, but she stood firm against being searched. He then threatened her with a stun gun he was wielding.

Subsequently, after the arrest of prisoner N., she was taken to an interrogation room where only one interrogator was present, who introduced himself as Peter. Shortly after, two other men entered the room. One of them introduced himself as Talaat, who began to threaten the prisoner with death and sexual violence, explicitly stating, "I will rape you from the front and the back." She requested the interrogator to document the events that transpired, but she sensed that he had failed to include any of the specifics in the official report.

At the beginning of her interrogation, the interrogator started by noting down some basic details regarding her residence, age, and job. The detainee then requested that the interrogator include in the official

report that the security forces had unlawfully entered her home without a search warrant, and that they had burst into her room while she was not wearing a headscarf and was with her infant daughter. She also asked the interrogator to document her physical assault and the threats of rape she faced. Although the interrogator suggested that he had noted her request, her lawyer later informed her that this information was absent from the official report. This suggests a willful neglect of her rights and an effort to conceal the violations she endured to maintain impunity.

Right after the interrogation, which lasted around two hours, she was taken to a room devoid of cameras. A policewoman was brought in and performed a strip search while she was handcuffed. The prisoner recalls: "She would undress me and redress me herself, as I found it challenging to take off my own clothes, and this was degrading. When it came to the headscarf, which was a georgette headscarf with a cotton undergarment beneath, the policewoman took the undergarment from me, asserting it was forbidden because it had a tie, and ties are not allowed in prison. She merely placed the georgette headscarf on my head, then seized me and dragged me out of the room. At that moment, the headscarf slipped off my head in front of the intelligence officers, including Talaat. They began to mock and laugh. Regrettably, this was the second occasion they had seen me without my head covered that day."

The prisoner reports experiencing a degrading search at Hasharon prison. She states: "In Hasharon, I underwent yet another strip search conducted by a female soldier. After my handcuffs were removed, she commanded me to disrobe. Throughout the search, she instructed me to lie on the floor and then rise, as well as to bend over while completely

naked. She examined intimate areas of my body and forcibly grabbed my breasts, which left me feeling profoundly humiliated."

To read the full testimony, see:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11dH6auH5jHjZ0zWwfisAHNIOGjgP2SW-/view?usp=sharing>



"Our Soldiers Raped and Killed Your Mother and Sisters": Psychological and Sexual Torment Inflicted Upon Children

F., a sixteen-year-old, shares one of the most traumatic experiences he endured in the Sde Teiman Detention Camp after being taken from an aid distribution point in Gaza. Approximately a week before he was due to be released, a guard approached him and displayed a photo through the cell window. This photo had been manipulated to depict his mother alongside a soldier in a degrading manner. The guard taunted him, saying, "Look at what our soldiers did to your mother. Would you like to see your mother? **Our soldiers raped and killed your mother and sisters.**" In a surge of anger, the teenage prisoner erupted with a stream of curses. Consequently, he was suspended in the air for an entire week.⁵⁶

The ordeal faced by prisoner F. illustrates that children are not exempt from the **exploitation of images and falsehoods used to intimidate and psychologically manipulate them**, disregarding their youth and the legal

⁵⁶ DCIP. "The prison is inside me: three released Palestinian boys abducted, tortured by Israeli forces while seeking aid." 13 November 2025. <https://tinyurl.com/4s3yknah>

protections afforded to children under international law. The occupying power makes no distinction between children and adults, or between women and men, when perpetrating sexual violence against detainees. Children, like their adult counterparts, can be subjected to strip searches, often accompanied by brutal beatings, as well as direct psychological and physical maltreatment, including coercion and deceit regarding sexual assaults on their family members.

Numerous prisoners have come forward with accounts of enduring **strip searches and physical assaults on their genitals**. One such prisoner, S. A., recounted the horrific torture he faced at the Al-Mascobiya Interrogation and Detention Center, which included sexual violence directed at his genitals. He expressed, "The most challenging aspect of Al-Mascobiya was the beatings, **particularly on my genitals** with the handheld search device. Every time we were taken out for a check-up, without fail, they would escort us out of the room and search us. Once the check-up was over, we would be searched again. It was a routine search every time we entered or exited. Each of us underwent a search, and during this process, **my genitals were struck** with the device. I faced daily beatings in the same area, accompanied by occasional slaps from the guards."⁵⁷

In addition, prisoners were often held for extended periods in a state of near-nudity, even in frigid temperatures. A. Kh., who was arrested in Khan Yunis and transported by truck to an undisclosed location, described being left **nearly naked** with fellow detainees throughout the night, forced to kneel on stones in the rain.⁵⁸ Teenage prisoner M. T. further elaborates that upon their arrival at Damon Prison, a specialized unit awaited them. They were compelled to kneel; approximately thirty of them

⁵⁷ Affidavit collected by Addameer from prisoner S. A. on 15 April 2025.

⁵⁸ Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner A. Kh. on 16 March 2025.

were crammed into a small waiting area. They endured **strip searches**, beatings, incessant shouting, and their feet were tightly bound. To be permitted to exit the cell, they were required to kneel and shout before being escorted out.⁵⁹

In a troubling reinforcement of the impunity system established by the occupying power to avoid accountability for the atrocities committed against prisoners, assaults were routinely executed in areas lacking surveillance cameras. E. H. reported: "The prison yard is equipped with surveillance cameras, except for two corridors, each roughly four meters long, which are devoid of cameras. Within these corridors, I was assaulted, along with other prisoners, using a metal inspection stick on my head and between my legs, specifically targeting **sensitive areas**. I endured this beating three times."⁶⁰

These violations cannot be viewed as mere isolated incidents. Instead, they unmistakably expose a systematic pattern of sexual violence, intentionally inflicted to cause long-lasting harm to the dignity, psychological well-being, and physical health of the prisoners. Such actions lead to severe psychological trauma and deep psychological disturbances that go beyond immediate injury, affecting the victim's mental and social framework. Moreover, this tactic of intentional humiliation seeks to instill fear and foster a climate of collective terror, reaching beyond the individual victim to affect the entire community. It also represents an assault on fertility and a form of biological extermination. In this light, sexual violence serves as a mechanism to establish a sense of dominance and an inflated masculine identity in the perpetrators, while simultaneously and purposefully eroding the masculine identity of the victim.

⁵⁹ Lawyer's visit to prisoner M. T. in Damon Prison on 9 December 2024.

⁶⁰ Interview conducted by Addameer with prisoner E. H. on 26 September 2024.