



## **The Hidden Genocide: Thousands of Palestinian Political Prisoners Suffer Severe Crimes and Extermination Behind Bars**

### **December 2025 Briefing**

The Commission of Detainees' Affairs and the Palestinian Prisoner's Society  
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**Ramallah, occupied Palestine** – The Commission of Detainees Affairs and the Palestinian Prisoner's Society (PPS) have released a new briefing on the detention conditions for the more than 9,300 Palestinian political prisoners held in the Israeli occupation's custody, covering the month of December 2025.

The Israeli occupation's prison system and military continues to systematically destroy Palestinian prisoners both physically and psychologically, using methods and policies that have become unprecedented in scale since the start of the genocide in occupied Gaza. The war crimes and crimes against humanity being committed against prisoners constitutes an inseparable part of the genocide as well as the ongoing violent colonial erasure of the Palestinian people across all Palestinian geographies.

Lawyers of the Commission and the PPS conducted dozens of visits to Palestinian prisoners in December 2025, specifically to the Ofer, Naqab (Negev), Megiddo, Ramla Clinic, Rakevet underground section, Shatta, Gilboa and Janot central prisons, as well as several military camps where detainees are held including Sde Teiman and Gilad, and finally, Damon prison where all female detainees are held.

All testimonies gathered highlight a continued severe decline in prison detention conditions, and an escalation in brutal assaults by special prison forces units. This comes alongside systematic starvation, the denial of medical treatment and healthcare, and the continuation of policies of deprivation of the most basic necessities of humane life. The occupation's policies are aimed at violating prisoners' human dignity through humiliation and abuse, carried out instantaneously and around the clock. Additionally, since the genocide, occupation authorities have banned all communication between Palestinian detainees and their families and have barred visits for the past two years in violation of international law.

### **Systematic Assault By Special Prison Forces, Including Against Female Detainees**

Assault and violent cell raids by special prison forces have long been a central policy of the Israeli occupation's prison system to impose control over detainees – this has escalated to unprecedented levels since the start of the genocide. No prisoner has been spared these assaults, which have caused varying injuries, most notably fractures, especially broken ribs.

During December, the Commission and the PPS documented numerous testimonies regarding systematic assault and repression, including attacks targeting women detainees and children. At



Damon prison, where around 50 female detainees are currently held, repression units carried out a series of organized assaults against several women inside multiple cells. On December 5, 2025, special prison forces stormed three cells, fired tear gas, forced the detainees to lie on the ground, and beat them while shouting insults and obscene language at them. The attack followed prison authorities' claim of finding "inciting" slogans on the walls. Collective punishments were also imposed on all detainees, including locking the cells and denying the women access to outside time ("fora").

On December 14, during the early morning hours, two cells were raided. The women detainees were handcuffed behind their backs, blindfolded, taken outside into the freezing cold, and forced to lower their heads and kneel. The repression operation was filmed by prison forces, including extensive destruction inside the womens' cells, and the use of police dogs and stun grenades. According to the detainees' testimonies, the assault lasted from dawn until 7:00 am.

Female detainees said their suffering intensifies in winter due to extreme cold, a lack of blankets and clothing, and the absence of any heating. This is compounded by ongoing systematic starvation and denial of medical treatment and healthcare, particularly for detainees with chronic illnesses, including cancer. They also face deprivation of basic personal needs, especially sanitary pads, which are used as an additional tool of humiliation and oppression.

At Janot prison (formerly Nafha and Ramon), prison authorities continue to impose harsh detention conditions. Several male political leaders are held in solitary confinement in this prison, including Ahmad Saadat, who faced great obstruction by the prison system in seeing any lawyers until recently. Ahmad Saadat is suffering from scabies and is deliberately denied treatment, like other detainees. According to his lawyers' visit, he was assaulted during his transfer from Megiddo Prison's isolation cells to the Ramla detention center, causing severe back pain, before being moved to Ohalay Kedar prison and then to the isolation cells of Janot prison.

Several imprisoned political leaders have been held in solitary confinement for over two years, and have been subjected to repeated and systematic torture and assault, resulting in multiple physical injuries, including fractures and broken bones of varying severity.

At Janot, Gilboa and Shatta prisons, repression operations escalated sharply following the ceasefire deal, with near-daily raids targeting sections and cells. These operations involve the use of tear gas, severe beatings, rubber bullets, electric shocks, police dogs, and batons, and are often carried out at dawn or around midnight. These attacks have caused bruises and various injuries to many prisoners, who are already suffering from hunger, illness, and physical exhaustion amid continued systematic starvation and denial of medical care.

Among those whose testimonies were documented at Gilboa prison is that of political leader Ahed Abu Ghulmeh, who confirmed that he had been subjected to systematic assaults and that the pace of repression is only increasing. He also pointed to the continued spread of scabies, the severe shortage of clothing, and worsening conditions in winter, with the extreme cold being used as an additional tool of torture.



**Testimony of prisoner (M.D.):** “On June 19, 2025, I was injured after repression forces fired rubber-coated bullets at my right leg. After repeated demands, I was transferred only to a medical clinic, while referral to a hospital was denied on the pretext of there being a state of emergency. I suffer from severe pain that worsens in the cold due to a prior injury by occupation forces, before my arrest, that caused a pelvic fracture, in addition to a shoulder dislocation due to repeated abuse during transfers and shackling.”

Several other prisoners testified to systematic violent assault and injury. One detainee said he was wounded after prison forces shot him with pellet guns that required he be transferred to a clinic immediately. Another prisoner said he is suffering from fractures to his rib cage after being beaten. They all stated that no day passes without beatings, insults, humiliation, or degrading treatment, in addition to repeated and extended denial of time outside (“fora”).

### **Ongoing Health Catastrophe Amid Systematic Denial of Medical Care**

The prison system continues to deny thousands of political prisoners their right to medical treatment while deliberately imposing harsh detention conditions that worsen their health and weaken their immunity. This is carried out through systematic starvation and the maintenance of an environment that facilitates the spread of disease and epidemics.

As of December 2025, conditions have shown no improvement. Instead, the denial of medical care has become an entrenched and permanent policy. Prisoners fear asking for treatment due to the beatings and assaults that often follow. The majority of Palestinian detainees suffer from one or more physical ailments – many of whom became ill following their detention, including with skin diseases like scabies. Access to medical care – a basic right for any human whether imprisoned or not – is used by the Israeli occupation prison system as a tool to kill prisoners in the short and long term.

The Commission and the PPS documented testimonies from ill prisoners, including detainee (D.D.), a prisoner held without trial or charge under “administrative detention,” in “Megiddo” Prison. He was in extremely dire health condition when he met with his lawyer. He suffered from multiple sclerosis prior to his arrest – a condition that has severely deteriorated since his detention due to denial of treatment, leading to additional liver and stomach problems.

Prisoner (A.M.) reported that despite receiving a final diagnosis of intestinal and abdominal cancer after his arrest, he has not received any treatment to date and remains uncertain about his medical fate under the current policy. The meager food portions and systematic starvation have further worsened his condition, leaving him unable to eat the food provided.

Prisoner (Y.T.) experienced symptoms of a stroke in Nafha Prison. When transferred to the prison clinic, he was physically beaten by a “paramedic.” His condition deteriorated and he was transferred to Soroka Hospital, where he was diagnosed with kidney problems alongside his other symptoms, before he was later moved to Ramla Prison Clinic often described by detainees as a “graveyard”.



Based on lawyers' visits to sick detainees held at Ramla Prison Clinic, detainees said prison authorities physically assault them during transfers for medical treatment. This pattern extends across prisons, especially when prisoners request care or transfer to outside hospitals—procedures that are rare and often occur only after prisoners reach advanced and critical stages of health deterioration.

In a testimony from an injured prisoner at Ramla Clinic, it was confirmed that prisoners transferred for kidney dialysis are subjected to abuse and, in many cases, severe beatings. He also noted the presence of sick prisoners from Lebanon and Syria.

### **Food As A Tool of Torture**

The policy of starvation is among the most dangerous and prominent inhumane policies imposed by the occupation's prison system since the start of the genocide. Prisoners' bodies have become living evidence of the scale of the human catastrophe caused by systematic starvation, which has affected all detainees, including women and children. More than two years into the genocide, prisoners' testimonies reflect unprecedented daily suffering from hunger and its devastating impact on their health.

In the Naqab Prison, testimonies documented in December 2025 focused on the severe reduction in food portions. Prolonged starvation has severely worsened prisoners' health and immunity as they have endured hunger for over two years, leading to extreme weight loss and severe emaciation. This has particularly aggravated the conditions of prisoners with chronic illnesses or weakened immune systems.

At the same time, prisons have seen the spread of multiple diseases, most notably scabies, which has become widespread due to the absence of basic hygiene measures, denial of adequate amounts of clothing, and severe overcrowding in cells. Recently, prisoners in one section of Naqab Prison reported contracting an unidentified virus that caused serious symptoms lasting about two weeks. They recovered without receiving any medical treatment.

In his testimony, prisoner (Gh.M.) stated that he and all prisoners in his cell suffered from scabies for two months. The condition worsened into boils covering their bodies, yet they received no treatment, as prison authorities provided only a single ointment for all those infected.

In this context, the Commission and the PPS stress that despite a ruling by the Israeli Supreme Court acknowledging that the amount of food provided to prisoners does not meet legal standards, the prison system has ignored the decision entirely. On the contrary, testimonies continue to confirm severe food shortages and worsening suffering under a starvation policy that has persisted for more than two years and has killed Palestinian prisoners, including children. While the ruling stopped short of explicitly recognizing starvation as a policy and merely described the food quantities as legally insufficient, it nonetheless exposes the Supreme Court's clear and complicit role since the start of the genocide, including its cover for the crimes that continue to be committed against Palestinian political prisoners.



### **Gilad Military Camp: the New Torture Site**

Since the opening of Gilad military camp inside Ofer prison, testimonies from detainees held there—most of them recently arrested—indicate that they have been subjected to systematic torture, as is the case across all prisons and camps. Torture has become the central pillar of detention policies, including severe beatings, electric shocks, deprivation of basic necessities, and deliberate humiliation, all applied within a structured and systematic regime of torture.

Army-run camps reflect a horrific level of these abuses, with Gilad military camp standing out as a clear example. Camp authorities deliberately keep cell windows open, allowing rainwater to flood inside and soak prisoners' mattresses and blankets, which offer little protection from the cold. No alternatives are provided. At the same time, blankets and mattresses are confiscated daily from 6:00 am until the evening, leaving prisoners exposed to freezing temperatures.

Cells are severely overcrowded, holding around 11 prisoners each. Some are forced to sleep on water-soaked floors, while others crowd onto just four metal bunks to avoid the cold and damp. Prisoners are also forced to shower with cold water, in a blatant violation of basic humanitarian standards.

### **Child Detainees**

Prisoner (Z.Y.) confirmed that child detainees are treated no differently from adults. They are subjected to beatings, verbal abuse, physical attacks, starvation policies, and denial of medical care, with no regard for their age or physical vulnerability. Child prisoners suffer from the spread of scabies, with infections increasing and no effective treatment provided. According to the latest data, around 350 child prisoners are held in Ofer and Megiddo prisons. Like adult prisoners, they have been denied family visits and visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross since the start of the genocide.

### **Palestinians Abducted From Gaza Held in Prisons, Military Camps, Face Extreme Torture**

After the completion of the ceasefire deal in October 2025, occupation authorities acknowledged the presence of more than 1,400 Palestinians abducted from occupied Gaza held in central prisons as well as military camps. However, this figure does not reflect the true number of detainees taken from Gaza, especially given the occupation's continued commission of the crime of enforced disappearance. Testimonies emerging successively from detainees abducted from Gaza regarding the torture they were subjected to remain among the harshest, most severe, and most dangerous. They reveal an unprecedented level of brutality and methods of torture practiced against Palestinians from the moment of arrest, through the interrogation phase, and later through oppressive detention conditions that violate human dignity.

During December 2025, several visits were carried out to a number of Palestinians abducted from Gaza and are held in the prisons and camps of Naqab, Ofer, Ramla, and Sde Teiman. Prisoners



conveyed a shocking picture of detention conditions that violate the most basic humanitarian standards.

In the “Rakevet” underground section of Ramla Prison, detainees confirmed a set of facts that do not differ from those documented by institutions in previous periods, most notably the following:

With regards to food, prisoners are provided three extremely small food portions “meals” a day - barely amounting to a few bites. The prison administration deliberately removes mattresses and blankets from 4:00 am until 11:00 pm, leaving prisoners throughout the day lying on iron beds or on the floor. Four prisoners are held in each cell: three sleep on the bunks, while the fourth is forced to sleep on the floor.

Detainees are prohibited from performing prayers collectively and are only allowed to do so individually; they are also forbidden from possessing a Qur’an. Suppression operations and beatings take place on a daily basis, with prisoners beaten with batons, alongside a repeated policy of breaking fingers.

During time outside their cells, guards keep prisoners’ hands shackled and prevent them from raising their heads, while consistently shouting insults, curses, and verbal abuse at them. A policy of threats and beatings is also practiced prior to lawyers’ visits, where prisoners are threatened if they report what they are subjected to, in addition to a complete lack of basic hygiene conditions.

As for the Sde Teiman military camp, prisoners said they are also provided with three meals a day of very small quantities. Prisoners are allowed to sleep only from 9:00 pm until 4:00 am, and are forced to remain awake for the rest of the day and to remain seated at all times. They are prohibited from speaking to one another, whether inside the rooms or during time outside, and are forced to keep their heads lowered when outside. Prisoners are allowed to shower only on Sundays and Tuesdays, for no more than a few minutes, and are permitted to change their clothes only once a month. Each cell is provided with only one roll of tissue for all prisoners, while the number of detainees per room ranges between 12 and 16. In addition, suppression operations, beatings, insults, and a policy of systematic humiliation continue, whereby each prisoner is forced to wear a wristband bearing a number and is dealt with exclusively by number, in a clear attempt to erase their human identity.



## **Demands of Palestinian prisoner institutions amid ongoing genocide both in Gaza and inside the Israeli occupation's prisons:**

- Activating universal jurisdiction to prosecute those involved in torture, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and violations against prisoners.
- Suspending diplomatic, military, and economic ties with the occupation until it fully complies with international law.
- Ensuring the immediate and unconditional release of all Palestinian political prisoners, including:
  - Ending administrative detention
  - Dismantling the military court system
  - Conducting independent investigations into all cases of torture and martyrdom inside prisons
  - Full cooperation with the International Criminal Court, supporting its investigations, and enforcing arrest warrants against those involved in international crimes
- Allowing the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit prisoners and inspect their detention conditions.

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*