

Palestinian Testimonies Reveal Horrific Abuses in Israeli Prisons

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – New “shocking” testimonies from Palestinian detainees have revealed the “systematic torture and abuse” against Gazans held in the Zionist regime’s Naqab prison, amid the regime’s ongoing genocidal war on the Gaza Strip.

Following a visit to the prison, the Palestinian Prisoner’s Society (PPS) and the Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs shared new accounts, that they said, “represent clear evidence of the increasing danger posed to more Gaza detainees.”

According to the testimonies, the prison authorities use scabies, a skin disease which is spread among the detainees, as a tool of torture against them.

One of the detainees, identified by his initials MR, recalled his horrific experience of being subjected to “all forms of torture and abuse” since his detention in Sheikh Zayed city in March 2024, saying “I saw death a thousand times.”

He recounted being subjected to physical abuse and forced into signing a made-up confession.

“Today, the situation in Naqab prison is very difficult and tragic, because of the continued spread of scabies, and most of the prisoners suffer from sores and boils, and cannot sleep because of severe itching.”

A similar testimony was shared by MH, another prisoner who was detained at the Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza. Referring to the humiliating



Zionist troops lock a gate from the inside at Sde Teiman detention facility near Beersheba.

treatment he and other detainees were subjected to, MH said the Israeli forces threw sewage water and urinated on them.

He added that he was kept shackled, blindfolded, and kneeling in a camp for a month, before being transferred to the Naqab prison.

“Today, we are dying slow death at every moment,” he said of his experience in Naqab prison.

Hot water torture was also mentioned by detainee HR, who was later transferred to the Naqab prison.

Meanwhile, the detainee AN said, “Death is more merciful than what we are living in prison. Even today, despite the arrival of winter, the prisoners are still wearing their summer clothes.”

“We suffer from extreme cold, hunger, and diseases without exception, particularly due to the

spread of scabies. I have also contracted other diseases due to the harsh prison conditions,” he added.

In another testimony, the detainee JS said, “Today, I can hardly stand or walk easily” because of scabies and the physical abuse he was subjected to during his detention.

“I now bleed because of what I have been subjected to.”

Referring to the case of his cellmate Ashraf Abu Warda who died late last month, JS said Abu Warda’s condition was very dire and that he had lost the ability to speak, remember, and even stand on his feet before his death.

In another form of torture, detainee SA said, “The Israeli prison administration deliberately removes the mattresses every morning and returns them in the evening, despite the harsh cold. Sometimes, they intentionally punish us by delaying

the return of the mattresses until midnight.” Other detainees confirmed the report.

The PPS and the Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs reported that these testimonies are merely one part of a larger set of accounts from other detainees, which reflect the level of systematic torture and abuse faced by Palestinian detainees, especially those from Gaza, at the hands of Israeli prison guards.

The report comes as at least 54 Palestinians, whose identities are known, have died in Israeli custody since the start of the Israeli genocidal war on Gaza in October 2023.

Israel launched a genocidal war on Gaza on October 7, 2023, after the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas waged the surprise Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against the occupying entity in response to the Israeli regime’s decades-long campaign of bloodletting and devastation against Palestinians.

The regime’s bloody onslaught on Gaza has so far killed at least 45,581 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injured more than 108,438 others. Thousands more are also missing and presumed dead under rubble.

Last August, the Israeli rights group B’Tselem said Israeli authorities were systematically abusing Palestinians in prison camps set up after the October 7 operation, subjecting them to severe violence and sexual assault.

Zionist Troops Use Live Ammunition, Tear Gas Against Palestinians in West Bank

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – Several Palestinians were injured by live fire and tear gas during clashes with Zionist troops across the occupied West Bank on Friday, according to local reports.

Confrontations erupted in the towns of Kafr Qaddum east of Qalqilya, Beita south of Nablus, and Jabal al-Tawil in al-Bireh, where Zionist troops fired live bullets and tear gas to disperse protesters, according to an Anadolu reporter.

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society confirmed dealing with one live fire injury in Jabal al-Tawil, with the victim transported

to a hospital for treatment. Clashes in the Jabal al-Tawil area during an Israeli military raid, where live bullets and tear gas were used, witnesses reported.

In Kafr Qaddum and Beita, Zionist troops suppressed weekly protests opposing settlement expansion. Field medics reported treating several individuals for tear gas inhalation at the scene.

Also, in Tubas, northern West Bank, Zionist troops raided a home, further escalating tensions in the region.

In the past few years, the Israeli military has conducted regular

raids in the West Bank, which have escalated with the beginning of the war on the Gaza Strip on Oct. 7, 2023. Palestinians have also been violently attacked by illegal Israeli settlers.

In a recent incident, an elderly Palestinian man suffered head injuries after extremist Zionist settlers savagely assaulted him last night in Masafer Yatta, south of Al-Khalil in the occupied West Bank.

Local official Rateb al-Jabour said that the settler attack happened in the Quwawis area near Shaab al-Batm in Masafer Yatta, adding that Khaled

al-Najjar was transferred to the Abul-Hasan al-Qasem Hospital in Yatta.

At least 835 Palestinians have since been killed and more than 6,700 injured by Israeli army fire in the occupied territory, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry.

The escalation follows a landmark opinion in July last year by the International Court of Justice that declared Israel’s decades-long occupation of Palestinian land “illegal” and demanded the evacuation of all settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Report: U.S. to Build New Base in Northern Syria

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – U.S. troops are reportedly building a base in the northern Syrian city of Kobani (Ayn al-Arab) on the Turkish border to help its Kurdish ally the so-called People’s Defence Units (YPG).

Local sources shared images and videos allegedly showing convoys carrying concrete fortifications to Kobani, while a large convoy of the U.S. Army arrived in the town.

Turkey has in recent weeks warned that it would bring in additional reinforcements into the town, where the Kurdish group is entrenched, as it has done in other areas.

Kurdish militias in Syria are actively fighting elements of the so-called Free Syrian Army supported by Turkey.

Last week, Kurdish militants took several villages from the Free Syrian Army.

Turkey ‘Neutralizes’ Over 3,000 ‘Terrorists’ in Syria, Iraq in 2024

ANKARA (Xinhua) – Turkish forces “neutralized” over 3,000 “terrorists” in cross-border military operations in Syria and Iraq, over the past year, the military said on Thursday.

At a press briefing in the capital Ankara, Defense Ministry spokesperson Zeki Akturk said that Turkish forces in 2024 “neutralized” 3,070 “terrorists”, including 1,579 in northern Syria and 1,491 in northern Iraq.

Turkish authorities use the term “neutralize” to imply the individuals in question

surrendered, were killed, or captured. He added that a total of 49 “terrorists” were “neutralized” in the past week alone. However, he did not specify the groups they were affiliated with.

Turkish forces “detected caves of terrorists with multiple sections containing weapons, ammunition, and living supplies” within the Claw-Lock operation region in northern Iraq, according to Akturk.

Turkey launched Operation Claw-Lock in northern Iraq in 2022 to dismantle hideouts

of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK). Designated as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the PKK has waged a decades-long insurgency against the Turkish government.

In northern Syria, Turkey has carried out multiple military operations targeting the Syrian Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG), which Ankara considers the Syrian branch of the PKK.

These campaigns, Turkey says, aim to eliminate security threats emanating from the region.

Iran...

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President Masoud Pezeshkian said the Islamic Republic will continue the path paved by Gen. Soleimani with all its power.

“We will stand for the truth and stay on this path with strength, where we will rub the nose of the cowards to the ground,” Pezeshkian told the same ceremony.

“We pledge that we will continue the path of Martyr Soleimani with strength and stand against oppression as long as we live,” he added.

Gen. Soleimani, the president said, shamed the oppressors with his blood.

“Such a person should have been martyred and showed that America, Israel and Europe, who falsely claim to support humanity and human rights, are liars.

“They are in fact the enemies of humanity. You can see how barbaric they are and what crimes they are committing,” he added.

Pezeshkian said the whole goal and effort of Gen. Soleimani was unity and cohesion of the Islamic Ummah.

The top commander, the president said, did not know day and night wherever he was needed to defend the oppressed irrespective of their religion whether in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Afghanistan or elsewhere.

The president touched on the enemies’ efforts to create divisions in Iran with the help of some anti-revolutionary elements and carry out their conspiracies in the country.

“We must try and not let their conspiracies and sinister plans come to fruition and this will be possible with the help of all dear Iranians,” he said.

Pezeshkian said the first step for unity is to obey and support the policies of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and then move to solve the problems of the Iranian people.

In Sana’a, Ansarullah chief Abdul-Malik al-Houthi said Gen. Soleimani played a unique role in supporting the Palestinian people and their resistance front.

“The U.S. targeted Hajj Qassem Soleimani as he was a significant obstacle to the success of many of its conspiracies.

“Martyr Haj Qassem Soleimani and his Iraqi companion, Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis, had distinguished and vital roles in confronting Israeli and American conspiracies,” the Ansarullah chief said.

Yemen...

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warned the United States and the Zionist regime over the dire consequences of continuing their aggression against the Arab nation.

“The Yemeni people have entered into direct confrontation against its adversaries today, and we tell them they are welcome to the great hell,” Zaid al-Gharsi, director of the Media and Cultural Affairs Department in Sana’a, said on Friday.

Gharsi said the U.S. and the Zionist regime’s escalation against Yemen aims to stop its pro-Palestinian operations, warning that the country would not stop short of supporting Palestine even if the confrontation were to increase in scale.

“If the enemy thinks that it would stop Yemen by targeting its infrastructures, we say that it is suffering from an illusion,” the official noted.

“We are in a state of readiness, and have prepared ourselves for all possible scenarios.”

Gharsi said the enemies’ strikes on Yemen’s infrastructures indicate their weakness.

Hamas...

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17 soldiers were killed in ‘suspected suicides’ including seven after the outbreak of war,” it added.

Another 10 suspected suicides took place in 2023 before the October onslaught.

The suicide numbers represent a sharp uptick from previous years. In 2022, the Israeli military recorded 14 suspected suicides, and in 2021 the number was 11.

Overall, the number of deaths in the military in 2023-2024 was the highest in decades due to war.

According to figures released by the army, at least 891 Israeli soldiers have been killed and 5,569 others wounded since the outbreak of the war on Gaza.

The army said 363 soldiers were killed in 2024, down from 558 in 2023. In 2022, 44 Israeli soldiers were killed.

The army said suicides have become the second-leading cause of death within the Israeli military, trailing behind operational duty, but surpassing illnesses and accidents.

Palestinian resistance groups say that the fatalities are much higher as the Zionist regime maintains strict censorship and does not release the real figures of its military casualties amid fear of public discontent over the war.

Palestinians in recent months have stepped up their resistance operations in the face of intensified Israeli aggression in northern Gaza and elsewhere across the besieged region.

In addition, the figures underscore the heavy toll the war has taken on the physical and mental well-being of military personnel.

The Israeli regime said it was working to prevent suicides in the military, including by opening a 24/7 helpline, which has received over 3,900 calls since it was established in October 2023.

The military has also called up over 800 reservist mental health officers amid the war to help soldiers.

The developments come as the regime’s military is reported to be facing a critical manpower problem as it runs short of thousands of forces.

The military also said thousands of reservist soldiers had apparently stopped serving in combat roles due to mental stress.

The high number of reservist suicides was also thought to be tied to the military’s call-up of nearly 300,000 reservists during the war.

In October, over 130 Israeli soldiers, including reservists and conscripts from various military branches, signed an open letter calling for an end to the war and stating they refused to serve unless the government worked on a ceasefire and captive release deal.