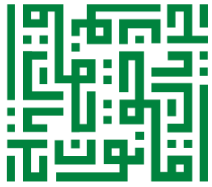


INDEPENDENT
COMMISSION
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
I C H R

Report on the Sexual Torture and Inhumane Treatment of Palestinian Female and Male Detainees by the Israeli Military

Pursuant to the Calls for Input:

Identifying, Documenting, Investigating, and Prosecuting
Crimes of Sexual Torture Committed During War and Armed
Conflicts, and Rehabilitation for Victims and Survivors



The Independent Commission for Human Rights in Palestine submits this report to the Special Rapporteur on Torture to highlight the grave issue of sexual torture and inhumane treatment, through nudity, sexual harassment, and threats of rape, faces by Gazans during their varying periods of detention by the "Israeli" army forces. This submission consolidates firsthand testimonies collected by our team, demonstrating a systematic pattern of sexual torture, rather than isolated incidents, perpetuated under the policies of the Israeli military.

The testimonies reveal multiple forms of sexual torture that intrude into the most intimate aspects of the person, thus constituting one of the most egregious forms of human rights violations. Reported forms include:

Forced Nudity and Humiliating Searches: Detainees are subjected to repeated and degrading strip searches, which are particularly devastating both culturally and psychologically in the Arab context. These searches are often unnecessary, as metal detectors, which have been mentioned in some testimonies¹, could be utilized instead. Furthermore, the same detainees are subjected to these humiliating searches repeatedly at various stages of their detention².

Sexual Harassment and Assault: Both male and female detainees report frequent sexual harassment and assault. Male detainees have been forced to remain naked in rooms with naked female soldiers, experiencing sexual assault through unwanted touching of intimate body parts during interrogation phases³. This adds significant layers of humiliation and trauma. Similarly, female detainees have also reported being sexually assaulted through inappropriate touching of their intimate body parts⁴.

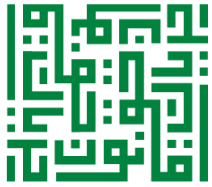
Threats of Rape and Actual Assault: There are credible reports of threats of rape made by officers to soldiers regarding detainees, with some threats escalating to actual sexual assaults. This includes the forced insertion of objects such as sticks or

¹ See the testimonies of Dr. Younis Hamlawi and Fatima Tamborah

² See the testimony of Tamam AlAswad

³ See the Testimonies of Imad ALdin Odeh, Nimeh Odeh

⁴ See the Testimonies of A.A.Z and W.N.S



cone-shaped tools into detainees' anuses, which constitutes a severe form of sexual torture⁵.

Forced Acts and Humiliation: Detainees report being ordered to perform degrading acts, such as walking like dogs while naked, further stripping them of their dignity and humanity⁶.

Systemic Issues and Policy Directions:

These acts of sexual torture and abuse are not merely the result of individual misconduct but appear to be part of an established policy within the Israeli army, as evidenced by soldiers explicitly stating they are following orders⁷. This indicates a need for a critical examination of the command structures and the rules of engagement that allow such practices to occur. Further underscoring this systematic policy is the Israeli military's deliberate obstruction of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) from accessing detainees in Gaza. Such actions not only highlight a strategic attempt to avoid scrutiny and accountability for the conditions and treatment of detainees but also raise serious concerns about the violation of international norms and the lack of transparency, emphasizing the apparent impunity with which these acts are carried out.

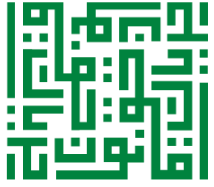
Conclusion:

Israel's actions, which involve torturing Palestinian female and male detainees, subjecting them to inhumane treatment, and committing various forms of sexual violence including rape, threats of rape, indecency, desecration, forced nudity, assaults on their dignity, and intentionally causing severe pain and suffering, are classified as war crimes and crimes against humanity. These actions stand as independent crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. They also constitute part of the ongoing genocide that Israel has been perpetrating in the Gaza Strip since October 7th of last year. It is imperative that these issues receive the urgent attention of the international community to ensure accountability, provide justice and reparations for the victims, and prevent future atrocities .

⁵ See the Testimonies of Dr. Younis Hamlawi, Yehia AlAtrash, Nimeh Odeh

⁶ See the Testimony of Imad ALdin Odeh

⁷ See the Testimony of Dr. Younis Hamlawi



INDEPENDENT
COMMISSION
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
I C H R

ICHR urges you to immediately investigate the serious violations and grave crimes committed against Palestinian female and male detainees and to report on these issues. This is in preparation for investigative and fact-finding committees and international courts to examine and prosecute crimes committed by the Israeli military against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip .

We look forward to the Special Rapporteur's recommendations and actions in addressing these severe violations of human rights.

End....

