

“What is there left after losing oneself?”: 100 testimonies of genocidal torture from Gaza

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Key points of interest

- Interviews were conducted with 100 Palestinians detained by Israel between 7 October 2023 and October 2024.
- All interviewees reported ill-treatment or torture. Methods were numerous and included sexual violence.

Abstract

Introduction: Since 7 October 2023, the number of Palestinians detained by Israeli authorities has increased dramatically. *Methods:* Semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted between December 2023 and November 2024 with 100 Palestinians who were detained by Israel. A mix of snowball and convenience sampling was adopted. Thematic analysis was based on a qualitative codebook, and findings were complemented by open-source material. *Results:* Detention conditions were generally poor, including insufficient and poor-quality water and food, and substandard hygiene conditions. Access to healthcare was usually delayed, restricted or absent. All interviewees reported ill-treatment or torture. This included but was not limited to prolonged, tight mechanical restraint with blindfolding, positional torture, forced nudity, sexual violence, and being used as human shields in military operations. *Conclusion:* We found that the treatment of Palestinians from Gaza in Israeli custody constitutes torture. We found that the treatment of the interviewees fulfils two acts under the Genocide Convention and the Rome Statute, namely, causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of a group, and inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction.

Keywords: Torture, Sexual Violence, Palestine, Israel, Genocide

Introduction

“I have lost everything, my house, my brother, my friends, my father’s memory and myself”, he told me. “What is there left after losing oneself?” (43-year-old Palestinian from Gaza)

Gaza is an illegally occupied territory according to the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion of 2024 (ICJ, 2024).

Although Israel withdrew its troops from Gaza in 2005, it retained control over Gaza’s land, sea and air borders. It imposed restrictions on the movement of people and goods, as well as the collection of import and export taxes, and military control of the buffer zone (ICJ, 2024). Israel retains control over birth registration, deciding who is a Gaza resident (HaMoked, n.d.). In 2007, Israel also imposed a blockade, resulting in a humanitarian crisis and significant restrictions on movement and trade. Of the 2.4 million Palestinians residing in Gaza, about

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1.6 million are refugees (UNRWA, 2023). The occupation and blockade have profoundly impacted Gaza's residents, particularly its youth, with the UN and humanitarian organisations referring to Gaza as 'the world's largest open-air prison' (OHCHR, 2023). A 2020 review found 53.5% of Gazan children suffered post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and a 2017 study found 67.9% of Gazan children showed depression (Abudayya et al., 2023; Thabet et al., 2005). Palestinian and international criticism of systemic segregation and discrimination against Palestinians culminated in an advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice, which found Israel in violation of the international prohibition on apartheid (International Court of Justice, 2024). The torture of Palestinians by Israeli authorities has been documented and raised as an issue by several Israeli, Palestinian and international organisations, including the UN Committee against Torture (UNCAT, 1994). In 2021, the Israeli organisation, Public Committee against Torture (PCATI), filed over 1400 complaints about torture by Israeli authorities since 2001 (PCATI, 2021).

Since the assault of 7 October 2023, Israel has been waging one of its most violent and destructive attacks on the Gaza Strip, inflicting devastating consequences on its 2.3 million residents. As of June 2024, Israel killed an estimated 64,260 people, injured at least 111,000, displaced an estimated 90% of Gaza's population, destroyed its infrastructure, including its medical facilities, and is currently blocking access to food, water, medicine and essentials from Gaza, creating a famine in what the UN Secretary General called "A failure of humanity itself" (Jamaluddine et al., 2025; OCHA, 2025, 2024; The Lancet, 2025; UN, 2025).

In addition, the number of Palestinians detained by Israeli authorities reportedly increased (Addameer, 2024). Although there are no public figures about the number of Palestinians held by the Israeli military, the number of those in prisons was officially 10,000 as of December 2024, with only 1,789 of those serving a sentence (B'Tselem, 2025). Many Palestinians are arrested under the Unlawful Combatants Law No. 5762–2002, enacted in 2002. While the terms 'combatant,' 'prisoner of war,' and 'civilian' are clearly defined and commonly used in international humanitarian law (IHL), the term '*unlawful combatant*' is absent from IHL instruments. Israeli law defines the term as: "*a person who takes part in hostile activity against the State of Israel, directly or indirectly, or belongs to a force engaged in hostile activity against the State of Israel, but does not meet the conditions granting the status of prisoner of war under international humanitarian law, as detailed in article 4 of the Third Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 regarding the treatment of prisoners of war.*" In other words, this term refers to individuals who

do not meet the criteria for combatant status, such as civilians participating in hostilities or members of resistance movements not affiliated with a Party to the conflict. As a result, they do not fall under the protections of the First, Second, or Third Geneva Conventions. However, they may still be entitled to certain protections under the Fourth Geneva Convention, particularly regarding the treatment of civilians during armed conflict, depending on the circumstances. Israel has been using this concept broadly to justify the arrest and detention of any Palestinian from Gaza.

Methods

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR), documented the experience of Palestinians detained by Israel. PCHR staff conducted semi-structured in-depth interviews with Palestinians who resided in Gaza prior to 7 October 2023 and who were detained by Israel between 7 October 2023 and October 2024. Initial seeds were provided through the PCHR civil-society networks within Gaza. Inclusion in the study ceased when saturation of major themes was reached.

Interviews were conducted between December 2023 and November 2024. Interviewees were selected through a mix of snowball and convenience sampling. This approach was adopted due to the complicated context of the ongoing conflict. Oral consent was provided prior to the interview, which was conducted in person mainly from inside Gaza, except for two cases who were interviewed by phone. Interviewees were offered a referral to mental health support services.

Interviewers utilised a question guide which consisted of basic demographic facts, and facts about the arrest, transport, detention and release of the interviewee. The guide included open-ended questions about the interviewees' experience and the conditions of arrest, transport, detention and release, how they were treated, potential ill-treatment or torture, as well as information about potential physical, mental or social consequences of the experience. Interviewers took written notes during each interview and later transcribed them. Quality control was ensured by a senior staff member. Transcripts are stored on a secure offline database.

A qualitative codebook based on the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol) themes and international human rights law was used to code all transcripts. Coding was done in duplicate by both legal and health experts, and discrepancies were resolved through consensus. Thematic analysis was conducted to discern salient findings.

In addition to the interviews, we searched open-source material to triangulate information on the context of detention and the conditions in Gaza after 7 October 2023 in line with the Istanbul Protocol's definition of external consistency (OHCHR, 2022). This included UN and international NGO reports. We also reviewed lawyer reports following visits to Palestinians in Israeli custody. A full report of this study is available (PCHR, 2025a).

Results

Interviewees

Interviewees consisted of ten women, 87 men, and three boys with an age range of 14 to 75 years at the time of arrest, a mean of 38.5 years and a standard deviation of 12.3 years. Interviewees' occupations included government officials, construction workers, taxi drivers, teachers, stay-at-home mothers, health care professionals, and unemployed people. Thirteen interviewees held work permits for Israel ('Gaza workers') and one interviewee was legally seeking treatment in Israel. Interviewees were all Palestinians from Gaza.

Most (86%) were arrested in Gaza from a range of locations, namely homes (n=27), checkpoints (n=27), school shelters (n=16), hospitals (n=11), and the street (n=5). Fourteen people were arrested in Israel.

Arrest, transfer and detention procedures

The arrest procedures tended to follow a similar pattern. Heavily armed Israeli soldiers would raid a location. Women were separated from men. Children usually stayed with the women, but older boys (15 and above) were often prohibited from staying with their mothers and younger siblings. Men were ordered to strip to their underwear, hold up their identification cards and kneel. Sometimes the soldiers would fire shots in the air. None of the 100 individuals was provided with any information about the legal grounds for their arrest. See Annex for individual arrest procedures.

The arrest was always followed by transfer to another location. We found a consistent pattern of repeated transfers averaging 4.6 transfers per person (a total of 459 transfers were recorded among the 100 interviewees). Interviewees were almost always blindfolded and handcuffed during transfer and were rarely informed of the time, duration, destination or reason for transfer. The initial detention often lasted a few hours or overnight, followed by transfer(s) to other facilities for longer durations. Interviewees reported ill-treatment during transfers.

Interviewees were detained in several locations, including prisons and military detention facilities, with 74% being held

exclusively in a military facility. Of the 100 interviewees, only 22 were aware of the exact location of all their detention facilities. The rest were unable to identify the facilities due to blindfolding, repeated transfers, and the lack of information. Interviewees were detained both in Gaza and Israel. Sites included forward operating bases (temporary sites set up by the Israeli military in Gaza in a range of locations, including pits in the ground or civilian locations such as private homes or schools), military detention (both identified and unidentified), and Israeli prisons. The detention lasted from 1 to 257 days with a median of 43.5 days and an inter-quartile range of 26-55 days. Almost all (90%) were held incommunicado without contact with the outside world. Ten interviewees were brought before a judge, with only two having access to legal representation, appointed by the Israeli army.

Detention conditions

Detention conditions were generally poor, especially in military facilities. See Supplementary Material for additional interviewee quotes. Overcrowding was commonly reported, with interviewees saying there were not enough mattresses or beds, and others being held in cramped spaces with only a small window for ventilation. Thirteen interviewees reported being held in cages or in cage-like cells for several days, while six were detained outdoors without shelter from the rain and cold, some in only their underwear.

All reported insufficient and poor-quality water and food in detention. Some received one small meal a day, while others received three small meals a day. Some were forced to eat and/or drink while handcuffed and/or blindfolded, while others were beaten or humiliated in relation to food. Examples of this behaviour include a soldier spitting on their food and soldiers placing food just out of their reach while laughing and insulting them.

Hygiene conditions were reported as poor. For example, one facility had only one toilet for 500 to 700 detainees. As a result, some interviewees reported urinating on the cell floor or wetting themselves. Shower access was restricted. One person reported being allowed to shower only on the 20th day. Five of the ten female interviewees were held in facilities with limited access to sanitary pads, receiving only one per day. An interviewee described how they had to return the used pads to receive a new one. Many reported not being given regular access to clean clothing. One interviewee reported remaining in the same tracksuit in which he was arrested for the entirety of his detention, 230 days. Interviewees recounted lice, flea and bed bug infestations.

Although most detainees received a blanket and a mattress, some were forced to sleep directly on the floor. Interviewees described the mattress as very thin and too small. Exposure to cold, especially during winter, was a salient theme across interviews due to insufficient clothing, sleeping on the floor, or a lack of blankets.

Many interviewees described being held in facilities with restricted, delayed, or no access to healthcare; some endured physical or verbal abuse during health procedures, or were punished if they requested medical care. For example, one interviewee was handcuffed tightly upon arrest, and despite complaining, he was not allowed to see a doctor until 19 days later, when the soldiers had difficulty taking his fingerprints due to swelling of the hand. Another interviewee was denied treatment for a severely swollen foot caused by shackling, only being taken to the hospital when it became so infected that amputation was necessary.

Several interviewees were assessed by medical personnel upon arrival as part of an initial medical evaluation. Although interviewees reported both acute (e.g., fractured bones after beatings) and chronic (e.g., diabetes) medical conditions on arrival, most were only given paracetamol and not followed up.

In numerous cases, detainees were examined by medical personnel immediately after enduring torture, often with visible injuries. In one instance, a doctor repeatedly saw an interviewee following each torture session. Despite some interviewees informing medical personnel about the abuse, none were offered by medical staff to document or report it. In some cases, medical staff were present while soldiers accosted their patient, while one interviewee talked about getting slapped by a doctor. In some instances, interviewees received medical treatment while blindfolded, bound to a bed by all four limbs and wearing diapers.

Interviewees described not being allowed to talk to each other or being punished when they did. They also recounted restrictions on religious practice. Some women were forced to remove their hijabs during detention. Interviewees reported not being allowed to pray at all. Others were not allowed to pray together (*gamaah*), were only allowed to pray while sitting down, or were denied access to water for purification. Some recounted that soldiers mocked or beat them as they prayed, while others described being punished for praying.

Ill-treatment and torture methods

All Interviewees reported ill-treatment or torture during their arrest, transfer, detention or release process. They described this treatment as worse during interrogations to which they were repeatedly subjected. Interviewees reported many ill-treatment

and torture methods. We present some of those methods, starting with the least physically violent and proceeding to the most.

All interviewees spoke of constant verbal abuse and humiliation from arrest throughout detention both independently and accompanied by other forms of ill-treatment or torture. The insults were directed at the interviewee, their family members or their community. They varied in nature, including gender slurs, sexual insults, humiliating, mocking and racist insults referring to being Arab or Muslim or Gazan or Palestinian.

In addition to verbal abuse, interviewees reported being subjected to a range of humiliating actions. This included being forced to kiss the Israel flag, chant 'long live Israel', or being photographed in front of an Israeli flag, forced to dance in their underwear, sing humiliating songs, placed in pits in the ground in their underwear for long periods, or risk physical punishment if orders were not obeyed.

During this time, another soldier came and began mocking us. He said, 'I want to sing 'You little goats', and you will say "baa baa":' He then started singing, and we were forced to repeat "baa baa" after him for about a minute and a half. He laughed and continued to mock us. (17-year-old male interviewee)

I desperately needed to pee. I asked the interrogator if I could use the bathroom, but he refused, telling me, 'Pee on yourself.' So, I did. Seeing this, [he] began urinating on me. (45-year-old male interviewee)

Interviewees were repeatedly threatened with death, prolonged detention, ill-treatment, and torture, as well as sexual violence and harm to family members. In addition, they reported being threatened with the destruction of Gaza, or the extermination of its population. A 14-year-old boy recounted being detained with other children including his cognitively impaired 11-year-old brother and being threatened with death. Two interviewees reported being threatened with arrest if they spoke about their detention experience after release. Threats of reprisal were a serious fear for many interviewees.

They called us, the children—myself, my brother [name redacted, 11-years old], and my cousins...[names redacted, 12, 13 and 15-year old]...They...placed us in a large pit, deep enough to cover us. They threatened us, saying they would bury us in the pit, and no one would know what had happened to us. After five hours they took us on foot to the Prisoners' Towers [...]. While walking, they repeatedly told

us that we were being taken to our death. (14-year-old male interviewee)

Interviewees described being subjected to prolonged, tight mechanical restraint using handcuffs and/or foot cuffing in combination with blindfolding. This occurred from the moment of arrest and continued throughout transfer and detention. Prolonged restraint led to degrading conditions where detainees were forced to sleep, eat, and use the toilet while handcuffed and blindfolded.

Blindfolding was a commonly reported sensory deprivation method during arrest, transfer, interrogation and detention. It was often prolonged, lasting several hours or days and combined with other methods.

Interviewees shared their experience of being relentlessly deprived of sleep. They described being regularly woken abruptly in the middle of the night for head counts and searches. Some were forced to remain with their hands tied and blindfolded even during the night, while others were simply not allowed to sleep for more than four-five hours.

Soldiers frequently woke us up late at night...We were... forced to stand up and were given military orders such as 'stand like rectangles' or 'make a triangle and spread your legs in a seven-shape.' This was on a daily basis throughout our detention. (65-year-old male interviewee)

Exposure to cold, whether natural or manually created, was commonly reported. Interviewees recounted being forced to remain outdoors in cold weather with minimal clothing for extended periods. This occurred during arrest or detention, for example, in the middle of the night. Others described having fans and air conditioners aimed at them for extended periods or being put in rooms designated for cold exposure, resembling walk-in fridges.

All interviewees described being beaten. Beatings were reported to most body parts, including but not limited to the head and genitals. It consisted of slaps, punches, kicks, being stepped or walked on, being pushed to the ground, thrown out of vehicles or being lifted off the ground and then thrown down repeatedly, having fingers forced repeatedly into the ears, hitting both ears (*telephono*), being dragged across the ground or pulled from the shoulders or hair, and blows with objects such as rifle's butt, batons, chains, sticks, iron rods, brass knuckles, steel, boots or other objects. Some interviewees reported having their head slammed into a wall or a table. People with injuries were not spared beating.

Interviewees reported exposure to riot control weapons. They described how Israeli soldiers would throw stun grenades into a cell unexpectedly and repeatedly over several days, causing one interviewee temporary hearing loss. They recounted being electrocuted by a hand-held device, likely an electric discharge weapon (EDW), such as a Taser, on various body parts, including the testicles. Interviewees also reported being subjected to pepper spray, which is normally used as riot control in the open air, causing intense irritation in the nose, eyes, throat, lungs and skin.

A salient theme was the use of dogs, which were mentioned in descriptions of both arrest and detention. Interviewees recounted that, during arrest, the dogs accompanied soldiers in raids, and in detention, they were used in cells to threaten, physically hurt or humiliate those detained. One interviewee reported witnessing a dog maul another man to death.

They unleashed police dogs on us again, allowing them to tear into our flesh. One dog attacked a fellow detainee, [name redacted], and started mauling his genitals. He bled to death in my arms. A doctor, shielded in a cage, examined him from a distance and said, 'Throw him outside.' (48-year-old male interviewee)

Interviewees widely recounted positional torture. They were ordered to maintain a specific physical position over an extended period of time, such as sitting, standing, or kneeling, risking punishment if they spoke or moved. The most commonly reported position was kneeling, often accompanied by blindfolding and tied hands. The duration ranged from 10 minutes to 25 days. Most stated that they were forced to kneel 'all day', 'all night', 'long hours'; or 'most of the time'.

Suspension was widely used during detention, particularly during and between interrogation, as well as a form of punishment. A form of suspension commonly reported by interviewees is *Shabb*, where the person is suspended by their tied wrists. Many interviewees described being exposed to *Shabb*, sometimes suspended for several hours, and this being repeated over several days.

I was shackled in the position known as *Shabb*...They hung me from my hands, which were tied to a barbed-wire fence, and my feet did not touch the ground. The pain was unbearable, especially since I weigh 136 kilograms, and all the weight rested on my wrists. I remained in that painful position until dawn and it was raining. They put me down and the soldiers poured water on my face. I saw blood on

my wrists and then they tightened the handcuffs behind my back. (27-year-old male interviewee)

Forced partial or complete nudity was a common practice, mainly reported by men and boys. They were kept in their underwear for prolonged periods, sometimes in the presence of family members or strangers and in public areas. This occurred during arrest, transport and detention. Some interviewees were photographed in this state. Two female interviewees described being subjected to forced nudity.

During detention, forced partial or complete nudity in front of other people, sometimes of a different sex, was reported. Some described that everyone in their cell were ordered daily to lower their pants to their knees, revealing their genitals to soldiers. Interviewees described being repeatedly stripped and body searched, sometimes every few hours—even when the interviewee had not moved from their spot.

Sexual Violence, abuse and torture

Several interviewees also reported being subjected to sexual violence, including verbal abuse, forced strip-searches, public nudity, sexual harassment, sexual assault, as well as threats of rape and sexual violence. Some described witnessing the rape of others. Verbal abuse included calling interviewees 'whores', 'sluts' or making them repeat insults about family members, such as calling their mother a whore and inviting the soldier to have sex with their sister. One woman recalled being stripped of her hijab, then being tossed into a packed truck with men reduced to their underwear while the soldiers laughed and took photos.

While strip-searching us and having our legs tied, the [female] soldiers were biting their lips in a sexual manner, and the male soldiers were staring at us. They were laughing at us, insulting us with genital-related words and making sexually suggestive movements. (39-year-old female interviewee)

Interviewees recounted being ordered into sexual positions, such as one woman instructed by a male soldier to bend over and then ordered a female soldier to throw herself on her. Several interviewees also described groping of breasts and genitals, including in a painful manner. Many interviewees reported being threatened with rape.

At 19:00 on the tenth day of detention, soldiers came with their large dogs and ordered us to sleep on our stomachs and place our hands on our heads and warned us

that whoever moves would get raped. (16-year-old male interviewee)

Two interviewees described witnessing the rape of others detained with them. One interviewee saw a dog being used to rape another man in a military detention, while another interviewee heard another man being forced to perform oral sex on an Israeli soldier inside a tank during transport.

Later, I was called out along with two other [detained] men and we were taken to a concrete yard. They removed our blindfolds and took one detainee, stripped him naked and brought a police dog. The dog raped the detainee thoroughly and had sexual intercourse with him. He was screaming loudly. This torture continued for two minutes. Then they took me and the other detainees to new barracks and the sound of the screams of the man who had been raped disappeared. (25-year-old male interviewee)

While we were inside the tank, the soldiers beat an elderly man. I knew that from his voice, as he was screaming. The soldiers severely beat him...and ordered him to have sex with them inside the tank. One of the soldiers, who was speaking Arabic fluently, told him: 'I want you to suck my dick', and they forced him to do that. I knew that from the sound I heard. The elderly man tried to prevent them, but in vain as I heard his gargling sound while the soldier was beating him and saying: 'suck my dick or I will kill you.' (52-year-old male interviewee)

All the interviewees reported witnessing others being ill-treated, tortured or even killed. Some saw the violence, while others heard it.

Some interviewees recounted witnessing others die. In total, interviewees reported witnessing at least 21 individuals dying while in custody, either directly killed by Israeli soldiers or dying as a result of ill-treatment, including medical neglect.

In addition to the methods of ill-treatment reported above, interviewees described additional forms of psychological violence. During the arrest, some interviewees explained that soldiers fired shots at families and burned people's homes in front of them. Half of the women who were interviewed were mothers who were forced to abandon their babies and young children during their arrest. One mother of a 4-year-old boy and a 9-month-old baby recounted being separated from her children, who had just survived a missile hitting their house and witnessed family members being gruesomely injured.

I asked him If I could take my breastfeeding baby with me, but the soldier ...told me that if I did [not leave my baby], they would kill us all, so I had to leave. My [other] child was grabbing my hijab not wanting me to leave him. I gave him to his grandmother; all of us were crying. (24-year-old female interviewee)

Interviewees also explained how some of them were deceived into thinking they would be taken back to their shelters or released, but were instead taken to another detention facility. During interrogation, some were falsely informed that their family members, including children, had been killed.

Several interviewees, including children, reported being used as human shields in Israeli military operations. This often involved being forced to stand in front of military assets, such as tanks, or making them enter buildings and film inside before soldiers decided whether to proceed. The interviewees described feeling particularly terrified during these experiences. Two brothers, interviewed separately, recounted being used as human shields for 44 and 36 days, respectively. They were forced to enter a series of buildings ahead of the Israeli occupation forces to take photos and film, warn civilians, and check whether the area was safe.

[The soldiers] ordered me to enter a house. I was exhausted, and there was a lock on the staircase that I missed due to my fatigue. I went up... took pictures, and returned to them. When they entered and broke the lock that I had overlooked under the stairs, they found three explosive devices. They ran out, shouting ... and aimed their weapons at me...then ordered me to return to the house, retrieve the three explosive devices, place them in front of the stairs, and go back inside to photograph everything in the house, including the wardrobes, leaving nothing unphotographed. (44-year-old male interviewee)

Health and social consequences

Interviewees described their physical and psychological health status after the detention experience. The self-reported symptoms vary, including both acute and potentially chronic symptoms, and are both physical and psychological (See Table 1).

Interviewees described feelings of helplessness when they could not manage to extract themselves or others from the ill-treatment, shame (especially but not only in relation to sexual ill-treatment and forced nudity), hopelessness and even a death wish. Interviewees felt they had lost a sense of their own identity, had insomnia, felt anger and in their own words, experienced general "psychological devastation".

Table 1. *Symptoms reported by interviewees following the detention experience*

Psychological symptoms and feelings

Fear (of death, for loved ones, etc.)
Sadness
Humiliation (feelings of defeat)
Shame
Helplessness
Shock
Anger
Suicidal ideation
Memory loss
Insomnia
Worrying
General feelings of "psychological devastation"
Hallucination

Physical symptoms

Pain (acute, chronic, dull & sharp to a range of body parts)
Dizziness, fainting, loss of consciousness and coma
Damage to limbs and nerves (including foot amputation)
Damage to the skeleton (including fractures, dislocation and joint injury)
Damage to fingers (after fingernails ripped off)
Sensory disturbances (including temporary loss of hearing and visual problems)
Skin damage (including cuts, excoriations, cysts, etc.)
Damage to ear, nose, mouth and eyes
Breathing difficulties
Haematuria (blood in the urine)
Haematemesis (blood in vomit)
Haemorrhoids, kidney stones and stomach ulcers
General malaise (including rapid and severe weight loss)

I am not myself anymore... I cry and laugh at the same time...I cannot believe that I am still alive and that I survived all this. I have become soulless when I look at my children and fear that one day they will go through what I experienced. (43-year-old male interviewee)

I am no longer [name redacted], the young man who dreams of having a happy family and building his professional future. I am no longer [name redacted], the laughing young man who was active, spirited, and energetic and gave his friends hope. I have become very nervous, very afraid even of the night and only sleep during the day. I lost my home, which I worked and saved money for years to build so I could get married and live in my own house. I lost my family, home, my job, and everything. I lost the past, the present, and the future. I lost my brother for no reason, only because I am a young Palestinian who tried to live in Gaza. (26-year-old male interviewee)

A broad range of physical consequences were also reported, including acute and chronic pain, light-headedness, hallucination, difficulty breathing and sensory disturbances. Some interviewees described acute and chronic limb and skeletal damage such as foot amputation, bone fractures, dislocation and reduced mobility.

The foot cuffs were so tight that...I was screaming from the pain and could not even sleep...I asked for help and begged them to bring me a doctor or painkiller, but they told me that my foot was fine...When they finally realized how serious my condition was, they...took me to the hospital after 20 days of brutal beatings and torture. I was barely conscious as they dragged me to the hospital with my hands and feet tied. The doctor performed surgical debridement of my foot as I saw every bone in my leg...then they told me that my foot was fine, and I was discharged. Three days later... they suddenly rushed me into surgery, and when I woke up two hours later, my foot was already amputated. (42-year-old interviewee)

Interviewees recounted their relief after release; however they also described dire post-detention conditions. Many were unable to return home, forced instead to live in overcrowded shelters with little to no support. Many had been separated from their families at the time of their arrest and were still searching for information about their whereabouts. Detained children were not linked back to their families or supported.

Those who did manage to locate their family members were often unable to physically reach them in the humanitarian disaster.

I am constantly worried about my family and do not know how they manage to find food and water, as well as medicine in case one of them gets sick amid the dire situation and the lack of aid delivery in North Gaza. (42-year-old male interviewee)

Sometimes when the whereabouts of family members were traced, it was only to learn of their death. In some of the most fortunate cases, interviewees were reunited with family members. They talked about the reunion, but also about their current living conditions in light of the loss of their homes and limited access to income, food, and medicine.

Discussion

We interviewed 100 Palestinians from Gaza who experienced Israeli detention from October 2023 to October 2024. All interviewees recounted exposure to a broad range of ill-treatment and torture, including but not limited to threats, prolonged mechanical restraint, sleep deprivation, beating, use of dogs, positional torture, suspension, forced nudity, sexual violence, medical neglect, witnessing others tortured or killed, and being used as human shields during Israeli military operations in Gaza.

Torture as an act of genocide

Torture constitutes one of the most egregious violations of international law, universally and absolutely prohibited at all times and against all individuals (UN, 1948b, 1949, 1984, 2008; UNGA, 1966). This prohibition is recognized as a *jus cogens* norm, a fundamental principle of international law that is universally binding and allows for no exceptions (*Furundziya—Judgement*, 1998). To reinforce this absolute prohibition, an international system of criminal sanctions exists, making torture a punishable crime under international law (Henckaerts & Doswald-Beck, 2005; ICC, 1998; UN, 1948a, 1984).

While genocide is most commonly associated with mass killings, international jurisprudence recognizes that genocidal acts may also involve forms of destruction that do not result in immediate death but aim to destroy a protected group over time. Although torture is not explicitly enumerated among the five acts constituting genocide under Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and Article 6 of the Rome Statute, international courts have recognised torture as conduct that may constitute genocidal acts when committed with the requisite genocidal intent

(ICC, 2013; ICJ, 2007; ICTR, 1999b, 2000, 2001, 2004; ICTY, 2001, 2003, 2005a, 2007b, 2017). This recognition reinforces the understanding that torture can serve as a powerful method of destruction that can be just as effective as killing in fulfilling the genocidal goals of those who seek to erase a group's existence.

This section analyses the treatment of Palestinians from Gaza detained by Israeli authorities, drawing on the 100 testimonies documented by PCHR, and assesses whether these acts meet the legal definition of genocide. Two of the enumerated acts under the Genocide Convention and the Rome Statute are particularly relevant to the treatment of Palestinians in Israeli custody:

1. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the Palestinian group; and
2. Inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction.

Causing serious bodily or mental harm, through acts of torture

To amount to genocide, the bodily or mental harm caused must be of such a serious nature as to contribute or tend to contribute to the destruction of all or part of the group. While the harm need not be permanent or irreversible, it must inflict grave and long-term disadvantages to a person's ability to lead a normal and productive life. According to international jurisprudence, acts causing bodily or mental harm include acts of torture.

In this section, we will first assess whether acts of torture were committed and then move to examining whether the acts of torture caused serious bodily or mental harm, according to the Genocide Convention and the Rome Statute.

Under international law, four consistent legal elements define torture: (1) severe pain or suffering; (2) committed for prohibited purposes; (3) with the involvement of a public official or control over the victim; and (4) intent.

Severe pain and suffering: An important degree of pain and suffering must be reached for a criminal act to amount to torture (ICC, 2009, 2021). The severity of the pain and suffering 'may be met by a single act or by a combination of acts when viewed as a whole' (ICC, 2021). It is not necessary for there to be specific physical injuries, impairment of a bodily function, or death, or for the consequences of torture to be visible or permanent (ICC, 2021). International judges have used both objective and subjective criteria to assess the severity threshold.¹

Vulnerable groups—including minors, the elderly, chronically ill individuals, and mothers separated from their infants—were targeted. Upon arrest, interviewees were immediately put in a position of inferiority. Often blindfolded and handcuffed, many were forced to undress, leaving them disoriented and powerless, under the full control of the Israeli soldiers. This environment of coercion and subjugation began at the point of arrest and persisted throughout their detention. The median detention period was 43.5 days, with one lasting up to 257 days, during which detainees were entirely cut off from the outside world.

We found consistent patterns of ill-treatment, revealing the institutionalisation of abuse and the manner and method used. All interviewees, regardless of the location or duration of detention, experienced several methods of torture, ranging from beatings, violent suspension, forced nudity, and sexual violence to verbal abuse and threats. All interviewees, including children, reported being interrogated by Israeli soldiers or intelligence officers at least once, with some facing daily interrogation. During these sessions, intense forms of ill-treatment were inflicted upon them, such as beatings, electrocution or violent forms of suspension. The ill-treatment continued throughout the entire detention period, and even during release.

The treatment of detained Palestinian men and women was shaped by gender-specific tactics designed to exploit cultural, societal, and religious norms and increase the impact of the ill-treatment. For men, extreme violence and emasculation stripped them of their dignity and masculinity. Tactics included forced public nudity, humiliating strip-searches, and physical abuse while naked, sometimes involving diapers or targeting the genitals. Men were forced to undress in front of family members, neighbours, and fellow detainees, with some images later disseminated publicly. Such practices weaponised cultural shame to undermine masculinity and social roles as protectors. Although women were arrested less frequently, their treatment also revealed systematic sexualized and gender-based violence. Female detainees were subjected to forced nudity, sexual assault, and threats of sexual violence. Mothers were separated from young children — some as young as nine months — leading to severe emotional distress. Threats against their families further heightened their psychological suffering, targeting their maternal identities.

1 The criteria are as follows: the physical condition of the victims, the victims' age, sex, and state of health, their position of inferiority, their specific social, cultural, and religious background, the physical and mental effect of the treatment

on them, the nature and context of the infliction of pain, the premeditation and institutionalisation of the ill-treatment, and the manner and the method used. See, for example (ICTY, 2002, 2005b, 2007a, 2008; Kvočka et al. - Judgement, 2001).

Prohibited Purposes:² Testimonies show that the ill-treatment served multiple purposes:

- *Discrimination*: All victims were Muslim Palestinians from Gaza, specifically targeted based on religion and nationality. For example, some were forced to kiss Israeli flags, prevented from praying, and punished for religious observance.
- *Humiliation and dehumanisation*: Victims were called “animals” or “human animals” and subjected to degrading practices aimed at stripping them of dignity. Gender-specific humiliations further deepened psychological harm.
- *Punishment*: Ill-treatment served to punish the interviewees for their identity and perceived affiliation with Palestinian resistance and the events of October 7, 2023 and as a response to minor infractions committed.
- *Extraction of information*: Interrogations focused on alleged affiliations with Hamas, participation in the October 7 events, knowledge of tunnels or hostages. Interrogators used violence to extract confessions or intelligence.

Involvement of Public Officials/Control over the Victims: All acts of ill-treatment occurred while detainees were in Israeli custody under the control of Israeli occupation forces soldiers, intelligence agencies (including Shin Bet and Mossad), and prison authorities.

Intent: Finally, these acts of ill-treatment seem to have been intentionally inflicted by the perpetrators, based on the nature and duration of the abuse, the methods employed (e.g., beating with various objects, suspension, or electrocution), the combination of different forms of ill-treatment, including threats and humiliation, and the dire and coercive conditions under which the victims were detained throughout their detention. Consequently, the perpetrators either had the intention to inflict severe mental and physical pain and suffering on the detainees, or they knew that their acts or omissions were likely to cause such harm.

As a result, we found that the treatment of Palestinians from Gaza in Israeli custody constitutes torture. We then assessed whether these acts of torture caused serious bodily or mental harm, according to the Genocide Convention.

According to our analysis, the bodily and mental harm caused by acts of torture was of such a serious nature as to contribute or tend to contribute to the destruction of all or part of

the Palestinian group, in that it inflicted and will continue to inflict grave and long-term disadvantages to the victims’ ability to lead a normal and constructive life.

Interviewees complained of a long list of health consequences subsequent to their ill-treatment. Physically, many interviewees suffered permanent injuries, including chronic pain, a foot amputation, herniated discs, and reduced mobility. Many developed ulcers, cysts, fractures or physical disabilities that continue to affect their daily functioning. While the exact symptoms and consequences of each torture method will vary depending on different factors (such as the intensity and the duration of the torture, pre-existing health conditions, and the context, including concomitantly used methods), the reported physical health consequences are overall in line with the described methods of ill-treatment. For example, it has been documented that positional torture leads to injury usually concentrated in tendons, joints and muscles, potentially causing swelling, numbness and pain which could be severe (Hincheli et al., 2018). These symptoms were reported by interviewees who were exposed to forced stress positions. Suspension has been associated with intense pain and reduced blood flow, potentially causing loss of consciousness and breathing difficulties (DIGNITY, 2024). These symptoms were described by interviewees who were suspended. For example, one described loss of consciousness, probably due to severe pain, when suspended from the genitals. The prolonged and reportedly tight restraints seem to have led to worse consequences than previously documented. Adverse effects of hand and foot cuffing have been documented to include pain, skin damage, numbness, nerve injuries, and fractures (DIGNITY, 2022). While these consequences were described in the interviews, the prolonged tight restraint additionally led to a foot amputation in one case. Amputations due to prolonged tight restraint were also reported in the media in other cases in Gaza since 7 October 2023 (CNN, 2024). This suggests a potential new trend that warrants further investigation.

In addition to the reported physical symptoms, torture is known to produce other long-term effects (Song et al., 2018). Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a common consequence of experiencing stressful or frightening events and has been well-documented in relation to war and detention (Shahmiri Barzoki et al., 2023; Steel et al., 2009). Psychologically, survivors are therefore at high risk of long-term mental health consequences such as PTSD, intrusive memories, self-isolation, and low self-esteem, exacerbated by their ongoing displacement, loss of family and livelihood, and the destruction of Gaza’s healthcare infrastructure, which severely limits access to treatment.

2 Prohibited purposes include, though not exhaustively, purposes such as obtaining information or a confession, punishing, intimidating or coercing the victim or a third person, or discriminating, on any ground, against the victim or a third person. In the case of Furundžija, the ICTR also recognized humiliation as an additional purpose (Furundžija—Judgement, 1998).

Further, torture is not only an individual experience. Families are affected when the survivor's behaviour changes, as is common in traumatised individuals, or if they are no longer able to generate an income through work due to physical or mental health consequences, for example. Research has demonstrated the biologic impact of trauma across generations, potentially resulting in adverse somatic and psychiatric effects in children (Flanagan et al., 2020). The concept of collective trauma has been documented in contexts such as Palestine, where entire communities faced ill-treatment or conflict resulting in long-term psychological harm (Mahamid, 2020). Such harm is therefore not transient but enduring, potentially lasting across generations, as individuals and the Palestinian community from Gaza find themselves debilitated by the aftermath.

Moreover, the intentional targeting of men of military age, especially those holding key functions, will have far-reaching implications for the cohesion and survival of the group. In addition to the ten health professionals interviewed by PCHR, many more were targeted (Kelly et al., 2025). Vital pillars of the community, doctors and other health professionals, play an essential role in treating the illnesses and injuries caused by the Israeli attacks and war in Gaza. The systematic detention and torture of these individuals create a severe gap in essential medical services or other relevant sectors, leaving the group vulnerable to both existing and new health crises and death.

Following the legal analysis of the 100 cases documented by PCHR and the lawyers' reports, we concluded that the acts of torture inflicted on Palestinians from Gaza arrested between October 2023 and 2024 by the Israeli occupation forces and held in military facilities and prisons across Gaza, Israel, and other Occupied Palestinian Territory, caused serious bodily and mental harm.

Inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction

Additionally, we found that the treatment of Palestinians from Gaza in Israeli custody constitutes the act of inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction of the group, as prohibited under the Genocide Convention.

This mode of destruction involves creating circumstances that, while not resulting in immediate death, are designed to systematically weaken and ultimately eliminate the targeted group (ICTR, 1998, 1999b; ICTY, 2003, 2010). Such conditions may include subsistence diet, systematic expulsion from homes, denial of the right to medical services, as well as the creation of circumstances that would lead to a slow death, such as lack of proper housing, clothing and hygiene or excessive work or physical exertion (ICTR, 1998, 1999b, 1999a; ICTY,

2003). Unlike other genocidal acts, this provision does not require proof of actual death or destruction but focuses on the intent and the living conditions imposed (ICTY, 2013).

Testimonies from detained Palestinians described brutal and degrading living conditions in Israeli military facilities and prisons. Interviewees, both male and female, were often blindfolded and handcuffed even during sleep, with some forced to kneel for prolonged periods. Food rations were meagre, sometimes limited to a piece of toast and strained yogurt (labneh), and drinking water was either unavailable, unclear or grossly insufficient. Bathroom access was restricted and often only allowed while handcuffed. Sleep deprivation was systematically inflicted, with many being awakened repeatedly during the night, forced to kneel, and threatened with death. These inhumane practices were not isolated incidents but occurred across multiple facilities, where Palestinian detainees were held for weeks or months. Several interviewees witnessed fellow prisoners die from the severe conditions.

The harm inflicted extended beyond the period of detention. Upon release, many were deliberately discharged in a critical physical and psychological condition, suffering from untreated injuries and illnesses. Israeli authorities released them directly into a war zone, fully aware of Gaza's devastated healthcare infrastructure, destroyed by prolonged military attacks and blockade. Consequently, most released interviewees lacked access to any medical treatment necessary for their recovery. Further exacerbating their suffering, many returned to find their homes destroyed and were left without shelter, basic necessities, or protection from ongoing hostilities.

These conditions will have profound and lasting consequences, as survivors remain in a state of extreme vulnerability, facing continuous physical and psychological deterioration under conditions of displacement, insecurity, and deprivation. The cumulative impact of these conditions threatens not only the individual survival of former detainees but also the broader physical survival of the Palestinian population in Gaza. The systematic nature of these practices reflects a deliberate policy designed to weaken the Palestinian group, diminish its resilience, and induce a slow death and collective destruction. PCHR concludes that these acts were intentionally calculated to bring about the physical destruction of the Palestinian group within the meaning of the Genocide Convention.

Genocidal intent

For the acts committed against Palestinians in Gaza to constitute genocide, they must be carried out with the specific intent to destroy, in whole or in part, the Palestinian group. This intent can be established through facts and circumstances, including

the general context, systematic targeting of the group, the scale of atrocities, the presence of a plan or policy, or the repetition of destructive, discriminatory acts, and the use of derogatory language (ICTR, 1998, 2004, 2005; ICTY, 2003, 2013). Where an inference needs to be drawn, it has to be the only reasonable inference available (ICTR, 2010).

The analysis presented in this section is limited to the 100 cases documented by PCHR and does not seek to establish broader conclusions regarding the genocidal intent of senior Israeli officials. A more comprehensive analysis addressing the broader scope of genocide is available in a separate report by PCHR (PCHR, 2025b). This section focuses solely on the intent of the direct perpetrators.

During our analysis, we found several genocidal statements made by members of the Israeli military during their interactions with the interviewees, where the destruction of Gaza and its population was openly cited. Several reported hearing Israeli soldiers express that their mission was to eradicate the Palestinian people in Gaza.

Other facts and circumstances further reinforce this finding. Arrests targeted all segments of the Palestinian population: men of military age, women, children, the elderly, the injured, and individuals with disabilities. Those detained included key community members such as healthcare workers, journalists, and human rights defenders. Entire groups, sometimes comprising hundreds of people, were detained together, with interviewees reporting witnessing the death of 21 persons during arrest and detention. Special brutality was inflicted on young men, suggesting a deliberate strategy to eliminate the community's future leadership and vitality.

The widespread use of dehumanising language also serves as powerful evidence of genocidal intent. Victims were routinely referred to as "animals," "dogs," or "not human," stripping them of dignity and framing them as unworthy of life. Such language was accompanied by treatment that reinforced these perceptions: extreme physical abuse, deprivation of basic needs, and exposure to inhumane conditions.

The analysis also reveals that direct perpetrators were involved in other culpable acts, such as systematic attacks on civilians, destruction of homes, hospitals, and schools, and forced displacement before arrest. Many interviewees witnessed the killings of family members by bombings, drones, and snipers. Mass property destruction further deprived victims of any sense of security or hope for recovery.

The consistency of arrest and detention practices across various facilities highlights the systematic nature of these actions. Families were forcibly separated, detained Palestinians were denied legal recourse, and all endured torture. Recent reports

prepared by PCHR's lawyers following their prison visits in late 2024 described ongoing horrific conditions, further evidence of the enduring brutality.

The deliberate release of severely weakened detainees into an active war zone—without medical care, shelter, or basic necessities—further demonstrates intent to ensure their continued suffering and physical destruction. Gaza's devastated healthcare system left these individuals with no possibility for recovery.

PCHR concludes that the combination of genocidal statements, mass arrests, systematic torture, dehumanisation, targeted destruction of Gaza's civilian infrastructure, and the release of incapacitated detainees into lethal conditions collectively demonstrates the intent to destroy the Palestinian group in Gaza physically. The evidence leaves no doubt that Israeli forces executed these actions with the knowledge and purpose of ensuring the group's eradication and preventing its reconstitution.

Conclusion

The conducted interviews must be understood in the historical context of Palestine. Palestine formally came under colonial British rule in 1922 (League of Nations, 1922), following the 1917 Balfour Declaration in which Britain pledged to establish a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine (Balfour, 1917)—without the consent of its indigenous population. The Declaration laid the foundation for a settler-colonial project founded on Zionism—the ideological basis of the Israeli state—which advocated for an exclusively Jewish state in Palestine (Dana & Jarabawi, 2017). This agenda was actively supported by British authorities, who facilitated Jewish immigration and enabled the creation and arming of Zionist militias. These militias carried out systematic attacks on Palestinian towns and villages, paving the way for large-scale displacement (Dana & Jarabawi, 2017).

In 1947, the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 181, which partitioned Palestine into a 'Jewish' and an 'Arab' state, with Jerusalem under international administration (UNGA, 1947). The plan granted the settler population control over more than half of the land despite Palestinians constituting the vast majority. This was followed by the Nakba (catastrophe), during which thousands of Palestinians were killed, over 750,000 were forcibly displaced, and more than 400 villages were destroyed (UN, n.d.). Despite decades of documented violations of international law, no punitive measures have been imposed on Israel by the international community, perpetuating a cycle of impunity.

In 1967, Israel extended its military occupation to all remaining Palestinian territories, including the Gaza Strip. Palestinian civil society has long warned that Gaza was on the brink of collapse, and the international community's failure to hold Israel accountable emboldened its actions. Top Israeli officials made statements reflecting genocidal intent, both through direct statements and policy and actions. For example, President Isaac Herzog declared: "An entire nation bears responsibility, of course. These discourses about uninvolved civilians are absolutely untrue." (Herzog, 2023). On 11 November 2023, Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir also declared, "Our goal is to win this war to destroy Hamas. By the way, when I say destroy Hamas, it also means those who distribute candy, those who support, those who sing, they also need to be eliminated." (Ben Gvir, 2023). At the beginning of the military attack, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant removed all restrictions, giving free rein to the Israeli occupation forces to destroy everything in Gaza, stating, "I have removed all restrictions, attack everything from the air and ground, with tanks, bulldozers, by any means necessary. Gaza will not return to what it was. Eradicate everything" (Galant, 2023).

Since October 2023, Israel has systematically arrested thousands of Palestinian civilians from Gaza, subjecting them to torture, ill-treatment and inhumane conditions across multiple detention facilities, including military facilities and prisons (OHCHR, 2024). Detained Palestinians interviewed by PCHR endured severe physical and psychological violence amounting to torture, including beatings, positional torture, verbal abuse, threats and sexual violence. We concluded that these acts of torture and the conditions of detention and release constitute acts of genocide, namely "causing serious bodily and mental harm" and "Inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction", and were committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, the Palestinian group.

The interviews were conducted in a challenging context, with both interviewers and interviewees facing displacement and life-threatening security challenges. Many interviewees were likely traumatised and had yet to receive psychological care. Many feared reprisals by Israeli forces following threats as described above. This data is, therefore, a snapshot of their experience, and it is likely that if they were to be interviewed in the future, more information would emerge. In addition, this was a qualitative study based on purposeful and snowball sampling and can therefore not be used to estimate prevalence.

Based on our findings, we recommend that States fulfil their obligation to prevent the ongoing genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, including acts of torture against

Palestinian detainees in Israel prisons and military camps, in particular by imposing an arms embargo on Israel; Demand the Israeli occupation authorities to comply with international law, including ending their indefinite incommunicado detention of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, without charge or trial under the Unlawful Combatants Law, to release all those arbitrarily detained without delay, and end the ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian detainees; Demand the Israeli occupation authorities to allow immediate and unhindered access to prisons, military detention camps, and medical facilities for relevant investigative and monitoring bodies; Investigate allegations of genocide and torture under the principle of universal jurisdiction, where applicable; and to support and respect the independence and decisions of the International Criminal Court and its officials. We also recommend that the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court ensure that the acts of genocide, including acts of torture and ill-treatment, committed by Israeli officials are investigated and prosecuted; and to add the commission of the crime of genocide in the arrest warrants against Israeli officials.

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Hospitals	3 at Al-Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza City	Three individuals who sought refuge at Al-Shifa Hospital in March 2024 recounted their experiences during its siege. They described how the IOF surrounded the hospital, arresting everyone in the front yard and courtyard. Army vehicles entered the premises, and Israeli soldiers opened fire while drones carried out relentless bombings. Those taking shelter near the windows were shot at.	11
	3 at Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahia	On 12 December 2023, the IOF attacked Kamal Adwan Hospital after besieging and shelling it for several days. According to reports, the hospital was hosting hundreds of people, including medical staff, patients, and civilians, including women and children. ¹ Two interviewees, a paramedic and a civilian, testified about the attack and their arrest. They explained that people trapped inside the hospital for several days were shot at by quadcopters or drones if they tried to exit through the northern or western doors. On 11 December 2023, the IOF targeted the first floor of the hospital and launched a raid the next day.	
	3 at Al-Ahli Hospital in Al-Zaitoun - Gaza City	Three interviewees were present during the attack on Al-Ahli hospital on 18 December 2023. The hospital was one of the last remaining facilities providing emergency care in Northern Gaza and held patients needing urgent surgery. ² The IOF besieged the hospital for two days, before raiding it. During the attack, the IOF destroyed parts of the building ³ and arrested around 20 doctors and medical staff, ⁴ as well as several patients and civilians seeking refuge in the hospital. One interviewee explained that he attempted to inform the soldiers that only medical personnel, patients, and their companions were present, and that they had a list of names to verify this. The soldiers, however, refused to communicate. Three of the arrested individuals, including a doctor, a Senior paramedic, and a civilian, were later released and interviewed by PCHR. +	
	2 at Al-Amal Hospital, Red Crescent Building, in Khan Younis	On 22 January 2024, the IOF besieged Al-Amal Hospital, without any prior warning, despite the coordination between the ICRC and the IOF. Snipers were positioned around the hospital, and surveillance drones were flying overhead. The administrative building where displaced persons were sheltering was bombed, without any warning, as well as the hospital's yard, resulting in several deaths. Israeli snipers then targeted maintenance workers who were attempting to repair the hospital's generator, the Director of the Volunteer Department for the Palestinian Red Crescent was shot as a result. After the destruction of other vital parts of the hospital, the IOF raided the Red Crescent Buildings on 9 February 2024, where around 30,000 people were sheltering, including the wounded, patients, their companions, and medical staff and arrested several individuals. Two of the arrested individuals, a Senior paramedic and a civilian, were detained and interviewed by PCHR.	

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2 Tétrault-Farber, G. (2023). *Northern Gaza no longer has a functional hospital, WHO says*, Reuters.

3 AFP (2023). *Gaza's Al-Ahli Hospital out of action after Israeli army assault: Director*. Al Arabiya.

4 Opening remarks by Dr Richard Peeperkorn and Sean Casey, UN Palais briefing (2023).

Check-points	6 in Khan Younis	Between 24 and 28 January 2024, four interviewees were arrested at a checkpoint in Khan Younis. On 22 and 24 January 2024, the IOF dropped leaflets and used loudspeakers to order an immediate evacuation to the west via the Sea Road through a designated 'safe corridor'. The IOF had stationed itself there two days earlier and established a checkpoint. The interviewees and their families, already displaced, decided to use this route to seek refuge. Upon arrival at the checkpoint, interviewees reported that Israeli soldiers ordered them to raise their identity cards and pass through. Soldiers appeared to randomly stop individuals and order them to stand aside. Two other interviewees also testified about their arrest at a checkpoint in Khan Younis, after they were ordered to leave by the IOF, in April and July 2024, respectively.	27
	21 on Salah al-Deen Road, Netzarim Checkpoint, so-called 'safe corridor'	21 interviewees were arrested at Netzarim checkpoint between November and July 2024. Among the arrested were four women and 17 men, including a doctor and paramedic in his Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) uniform. They were attempting to reach the South with their families through the 'safe corridor' due to heavy bombardments in Gaza City and Israeli orders to evacuate to the South. The interviewees described seeing dead bodies, including children, lying on the ground around the checkpoint and experiencing deep fear at the checkpoint, where Israeli soldiers fired shots into the air to intimidate the displaced families.	
Streets	5 on the street in Gaza City, Rafah, Khan Younis and close to the airport area.	Five interviewees were arrested on the street in January and October 2024. One interviewee was arrested while he was working with humanitarian aid trucks.	5
In Israel (incl. Gaza workers)	2 at a Police Station 5 at checkpoints between Israel and the West Bank 4 in their accommodation in Israel 2 on the street 1 unknown	14 interviewees were in Israel on 7 October 2023, 13 Gaza workers and one Palestinian receiving medical treatment in a hospital in Jerusalem. Four were arrested at their accommodations, five at a checkpoint while trying to reach the West Bank, three after voluntarily reporting to the Israeli or Palestinian authorities and two on the street.	14
Total			100