



רופאים לזכויות אדם
PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

أطباء لحقوق الإنسان

ישראל ישראל

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Since the beginning of the war, Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHRI) has received information whereby more than ten Palestinians have died in detention facilities under the custody of the Israel Prison Services (IPS) and the Israeli army. In the last month alone - since we finished the writing of [our recent report on systemic violations of human rights in incarceration settings](#), four additional Palestinians have died in Israeli prisons.

Our physicians participated in five autopsies of people who died in the IPS. In two of the cases, the autopsies found severe signs of violence and assault; four has suffered from medical issues, and in at least one autopsy, our doctor found that the specific cause of death was medical neglect.

- In addition to these ten cases, we know of at least two detainees who died in military custody in November - two Gazan workers who were held by the army.
- In addition, subsequent to indications that many Gazan detainees have died in the Sade Teman military camp, on the 25th of December, PHRI submitted Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests to the Israeli army and the Ministry of Health about the number of Gazan detainees who died under military custody and the number of bodies that came from the army for autopsies at the Forensic Medicine Center under the Ministry of Health. According to Israeli law, they were required to answer within a month; both asked for an extension for another month - until the end of February - but until now we have not received an answer from them.

On March 7th it was [revealed by Haaretz](#) that 27 Gazan detainees have died under Israeli military custody. In the army response to the article, they confirmed that "some detainees have died, some with pre-detention diseases and some with wounds which happened due to fighting". Still, there is no official response to our FOI request for the number of Gazan detainees who died in custody.

Below is a list of the ten detainees and prisoners who died in IPS custody since October:

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Omar Darjama, 58 years old from the city of Tubas. He was arrested on 9.10.23 and held in Megiddo prison. He died on 23.10.23. A day before his death, a hearing in his case was held in court via video, during which he informed his lawyer that he was fine. Omar suffered from heart problems before the arrest, and according to the IPS report, he complained of pain in his legs on the day of his death and died a short time later. (A **PHRI volunteer** attended the autopsy, and a specific cause of death wasn't found in the autopsy. There is no final report yet.)

Arafat Hamdan, 25 years old, from the village of Beit Sira, west of Ramallah. He was arrested on 22.10.23 and was held in Ofer prison. He died two days after his arrest, on 24.10.23. Arafat suffered from insulin-dependent diabetes and needed regular treatment with insulin injections. (A **PHRI volunteer** attended the autopsy, where a specific cause of death wasn't found. There is no final report yet).

Abdel Rahman Marai, 33 years old, a resident of the West Bank, was arrested in February 2023 and died on 11.13.23 in Megiddo prison. A preliminary report by a doctor on behalf of the family (a **PHRI volunteer**) indicated that there were significant signs of violence on the body and that it probably caused his death.

Thair Abu Assab, 38 years old at the time of his death. He was arrested in 2005. A notice of Thayer's death in Kzi'ot prison was published on 11.19.23. His family was not notified of the autopsy, and therefore the presence of an outside doctor during the autopsy was not possible. But according to media reports, an investigation is underway against several guards who apparently assaulted him and caused his death. According to the testimonies of prisoners who were in the cell with him, he was beaten to death.

Abdel Rahman Bahash, 23 years old at the time of his death. He was arrested in May 2022 and died in Megiddo prison at the end of December 2023. An autopsy was performed in the presence of a doctor on behalf of the family (a **PHRI volunteer**). In his report, the doctor wrote:

"Traumatic injury should be considered (multiple right rib fractures, spleen injury, superficial bruising). However, the amount of intraperitoneal blood found was relatively small. In this context, sepsis from severe infection or respiratory failure become the most likely causes of death, e.g. secondary to spontaneous rupture of one of the necrotizing infiltrates. Finding an association between recent signs of trauma and ongoing infection leading to death is fairly intuitive but challenging. The finding of multiple right rib fractures, right middle lobe tear, and the large right empyema might suggest traumatic rupture of a focus of necrotizing pneumonia with subsequent large empyema and septic shock or respiratory failure as a potential cause of death. Alternatively, massive aspiration of gastric content during or following assault might offer an additional explanation."

Muhammad Elsbar, was 21 years old when he died in Ofer prison on 8.2.24. Known to have had Hirschsprung's disease since childhood - he needs an adapted diet and treatment in case his condition deteriorates. An autopsy was performed in the presence of a doctor on behalf of the family (**a PHRI volunteer**). The doctor wrote in his preliminary report that Muhammad died after he wasn't given a diet that he needed, which caused constipation for weeks. The doctor said that during this period, he didn't receive treatment, and that when he was transferred to the hospital it was too late, and he died after a few hours.

Khaled Elshawish, 53 years old. He has been in prison for 15 years. He is paralyzed due to an old injury. Notice of his death was published on 21.2.24. An autopsy was performed without the presence of a doctor on behalf of the family.

Ezz Al-Din Albana - We don't have much information about him. He was arrested in the Gaza Strip in recent months. A few days before the announcement of his death, a lawyer who visited the Marsh-Ramla prison received an update from other prisoners that he was transferred from Sade Teman military base to Ramla Prison a few days before and that he was paralyzed even before his arrest. It was also reported that he suffered from severe bedsores and complained of pain but did not receive treatment. Notice of his death was published on 25.2.24.

Asaf Rafai, 21 years old, is known to have had advanced stage cancer and was held since the beginning of his arrest at Ramla prison. Notice of his death was published on 29.2.24.

Jouma Abu Ghneme, 26 years old, was arrested after the war started, a notice of his death was published on 17.3.24. Media reports said he was found unconscious in his cell, was then transferred to a hospital, and after four days the medical staff at the hospital determined his death.

Prisoners and Detainees Department
PHRI