

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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ISRAEL/OPT: CONTINUING PATTERNS OF UNLAWFUL KILLINGS AND OTHER CRIMES FURTHER ENTRENCH APARTHEID

Israeli authorities must end unlawful killings, willful injury, arbitrary arrests, torture and other ill-treatment, persecution and collective punishment against Palestinians, including many children, which have been escalating since Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett took office in June 2021. The months of March and April saw the highest number of Palestinians and Israelis killed outside of armed hostilities in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) in any two months since 2008. As a priority, Israeli authorities must take serious and immediate steps to protect Palestinian children who have been and continue to be victims of unlawful killings, willful injury, arbitrary detention, torture and other ill-treatment, and persecution.

The alarming escalation in serious violations comes at a time when top Israeli officials have threatened further violence against Palestinians. The international community must act immediately to put pressure on the Israeli authorities to end unlawful killings and other gross violations and take concrete steps towards dismantling its system of apartheid against Palestinians.

These crimes under international law and serious human rights violations are a continuation of patterns which have been committed in the context of a system of oppression and domination over Palestinian people by the Israeli authorities for the benefit of Jewish Israelis with the intention of maintaining this discriminatory system. They form part of a widespread, as well as systematic, attack directed against the Palestinian population, and the inhumane acts committed in this context constitute crimes against humanity as defined in international law. All those with jurisdiction over the commission of the crime against humanity of apartheid, including Israel itself, the Palestinian authorities, the international community and the International Criminal Court (ICC), must impartially investigate the commission of these crimes.

Since the current Israeli coalition government took office on 21 June 2021 and up until the end of April 2022, Israeli forces killed 76 Palestinians, including at least 13 children in the Occupied Palestinian Territories according to United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). March and April saw the highest number of Palestinians killed in any given two months in the OPT outside of armed conflict since 2008. In March, Israeli forces killed 12 Palestinians, including three children. Another Palestinian was killed by an Israeli settler. During the month of April 2022, Israeli forces killed at least 22 Palestinians, including three children, according to Amnesty International's records. For comparison, in the equivalent period of March and April 2021, under the previous Israeli government, two Palestinians were killed and 378 injured, according to UNOCHA.

Many of the fatalities since the beginning of this year were a result of Israeli forces' use of excessive force in the context of law enforcement activities, including policing protests and crowds and arrest and search raids. On 8 February, three Palestinians were killed by the Israeli Border Police in circumstances that appear to be extrajudicial executions, as found by Israeli and Palestinian human rights organizations [B'Tselem](#) and [Al Haq](#).

Separate attacks by armed Palestinian individuals killed 18 people in cities across Israel, including three police officers and two foreign nationals, since 22 March. Six Palestinian attackers were killed by Israeli forces while one attacker was killed by an armed Israeli citizen. Following the attack by an armed Palestinian individual in the city of Bnei Brak on 29 March, which killed three citizens of Israel including a police officer, and two Ukrainian nationals, Israeli authorities launched a joint operation of the army and police forces across the occupied West Bank. As part of the operation, Israel imposed collective punishment measures against Palestinians, particularly in Jenin and East Jerusalem, by restricting freedom of movement; and by arresting hundreds of Palestinians for interrogations that lasted several hours. In some circumstances Israeli forces carried out arrests using excessive force amounting to torture and other ill-treatment. Between 1 January and 26 April, the Israeli military and ministry of defence kept 550 Palestinians in administrative detention, without charge or trial, on orders that can be renewed indefinitely, according [to](#) the Palestinian Prisoners Society. [The Palestinian NGO](#) said that 240 of the administrative orders were issued against new detainees, [mostly arrested in March and April](#). At least six Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem and citizens of Israel were among the new detentions. Two Jewish citizens of Israel were also placed under administrative detention during this period.

Amnesty International has spoken to nine witnesses, three lawyers representing Palestinians detainees, in addition to examining video and photographic evidence, making field observations, and collating information from human rights organizations, to analyse patterns of unlawful killings, arbitrary detention, torture and other ill-treatment, and collective punishment of Palestinian communities. Amnesty International also corroborated information on fatal attacks against civilians in Israel by armed Palestinian individuals.

APPARENT EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS AND OTHER UNLAWFUL KILLINGS

Since the beginning of this year, Israeli forces killed at least three Palestinians in circumstances that appear to be extrajudicial executions – a crime under international law – and six more Palestinians in other apparently unlawful killings.

On 8 February 2022 Ashraf Mbaslat, 21, Muhammad Dakhil, 21, and Adham Mabroukeh, 26, were killed by Israeli forces while driving in a car in Nablus in the occupied West Bank. According to [Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem](#), the men were killed following an ambush by the Border Police's National Counter-Terrorism Unit. The Israeli Border Police [spokesperson said](#) that the men were armed but no shots were fired at Israeli security forces. Their death should be investigated as an apparent extrajudicial execution.

On 2 April, Israeli forces killed Saif Abu Libdeh, 25, Khalil Tawalbeh, 24, and Sa'eb Abahra, 30, near Tulkarem in the northern region of the occupied West Bank. The three men, who were armed, as confirmed by Amnesty International's human rights partners [and other sources](#), were shot and killed in an ambush by Israeli forces. In a video filmed by Palestinian onlookers, seen by Amnesty International, military vehicles surrounded a car transporting the three Palestinian men. When one of the men exited the car, he was shot dead. Israeli authorities initially [said](#) that the three men were on their way to carry out an attack on Israelis and that they were killed in an exchange of fire with the police. Subsequently, an investigation by the Israeli army revealed that the officer who was severely injured had in fact been injured by shrapnel fired by Israeli forces. The aspects of the investigation that have been published [in the Israeli press](#) do not indicate that the lives of the soldiers had been in imminent danger. The death of the three Palestinian men should therefore be investigated as a possible unlawful killing.

On 10 April, Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint in the middle of Husan, a West Bank village near Bethlehem, shot Ghada Sabateen, a 47-year-old woman, from a distance of two or three metres. [The army said that](#) she was unarmed, and that the incident was being investigated. She was visually impaired and wearing thick glasses when she was shot, as witnessed by an Amnesty International researcher and evidenced by [photographs](#). [In videos](#) that the organization examined, [Ghada Sabateen was walking](#) near the checkpoint empty-handed, then covering her ears when a soldier fired warning shots in the air. She changed course in a confused manner, coming closer to the checkpoint. The army said that she had moved in a "[suspicious way](#)", but neither the army [nor human rights investigators](#) have proffered any evidence that she posed a threat to the soldiers. After a soldier shot her in the leg, she fell to the ground and gradually collapsed. An Amnesty International researcher, who witnessed the event, saw that the soldiers placed the woman in recovery position, and prevented passers-by from approaching for about ten minutes until they finished making phone calls. According to the [Palestinian Ministry of Health](#), she died of a ruptured artery as a result of being shot. The case of Ghada Sabateen's killing constitutes further evidence of [Israeli forces' use of reckless lethal force](#) against Palestinians in policing situations where non-lethal methods could have been used. It should be investigated as a possible unlawful killing.

On 8 May, Mahmoud Aram, 27, a Palestinian from Gaza who had no means of obtaining an access permit from the military because of his documentation status, [was shot dead](#) as he crossed the fence/wall south of Tulkarem in the northern West Bank. [The Israeli army spokesperson said](#) Mahmoud Aram was unarmed and gave no suggestion that he was posing a threat to soldiers or others. His death should be investigated as a possible unlawful killing.

On 11 May, Shirin Abu Akleh, Al Jazeera correspondent, was killed and Ali Samoudi, Al-Quds Newspaper correspondent was injured while covering a raid by Israeli forces in Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank. According to [a statement by Al Jazeera](#), Shirin Abu Akleh was shot in the head by Israeli forces and pronounced dead upon her arrival at a hospital in Jenin. An Israeli army spokesperson [called](#) for a joint investigation with the Palestinian authorities into the killing of Shirin Abu Akleh. Palestinian journalist Shatha Hanaisha, who was standing near Shirin Abu Akleh and witnessed the shooting, [said](#) that the group of journalists were standing together wearing protective gear that clearly marks them as journalists and that there was no exchange of fire between Israeli forces and armed Palestinians at the time when Israeli forces fired at journalists hitting Shirin Abu Akleh in the head and Ali Samoudi in the back. In an interview with Ali Samoudi in hospital, he [said](#) that Israeli forces fired at the group of journalists without warning. Her death should be investigated as a possible unlawful killing.

The Israeli authorities have not published the results of investigations, in the few cases where these have been conducted, nor have the rules on opening fire been brought into line with international standards despite ample evidence of unlawful killings published over the years by Palestinian, Israeli and international organizations, including [Amnesty International](#).

PALESTINIAN CHILDREN KILLED

Since the beginning of 2022 until 8 May, Israeli armed forces killed eight Palestinian children in circumstances that appear to be unlawful, including excessive and reckless use of lethal force, according to records kept by Amnesty International. In addition, an armed settler killed one Palestinian child during this period. On 13 April 2022, 16-year-old Qusai Fuad Mohammad Hamamra from Husan near Bethlehem in the southern West Bank was shot after the evening meal. Crowds of Palestinians were demonstrating by an Israeli military position in the village, where Ghada Sabateen had been killed by Israeli soldiers three days earlier. Some of the demonstrators were throwing improvised incendiary objects, according to the [Israeli newspaper Haaretz](#).

Qusai Hamamra's mother, Amina Hamamra, told Amnesty International: "I didn't believe my neighbours when they told me that Qusai had been martyred. I ran into the street without putting on my headscarf, shouting "Where is my son, God give me patience". I looked for him, but the place was full of soldiers, they were shooting from the roofs. We hid in a house for an hour, and phoned the Palestinian coordination [government] office, who told us that Israeli soldiers had taken Qusai's body to Etzion [Israeli military base]. I saw him at 3am [on 14 April] in the morgue at the Hussein hospital in Beit Jala."

[According to Defense for Children International-Palestine \(DCIP\)](#), a human rights organization, Qusai Hamamra was shot by Israeli forces at around 8.45 pm when Israeli forces were policing a protest by Palestinians in Husan. He sustained multiple live fire wounds from a distance of around 20 metres. At least one bullet struck him in the head, according to documentation gathered by DCIP. Shortly after the incident, the [Israeli army said in a statement](#) that an unnamed individual was shot near the village of Husan after hurling an incendiary bottle at the army position, where no injuries were reported among the soldiers.

"I saw the blood at the place where he was shot," said Amina Hamamra, "it was like when you slaughter a sheep. No one could get near because of the shooting. He had dreams. I had dreams for him."

According to DCIP's documentation, the other cases of Palestinian children, who were killed include: Muhammad Abu Salah, 16, who was shot dead during an Israeli military raid in Silat Al-Harithiya near Jenin in the northern West Bank on 13 February; Muhammad Salah, 13, shot in al-Khader near Bethlehem on 22 February; Yamen Khanafseh, 15, shot in Abu Dis, east of Jerusalem on 6 March; Nader Rayan, 16, who was shot in Balata refugee camp near Nablus in the northern West Bank on 15 March; Sanad Abu Atiyah, 16, shot on 31 March in Jenin refugee camp; Muhammad Qassim, 16, shot on 10 April and died in hospital on 11 April, in Jenin; Shawkat Abed, 17, shot on 14 April in Kafr Dan near Jenin and died on 15 April; and Mutasem Atallah, 17, from Harmala east of Bethlehem, who was shot on 8 May by a settlement guard.

Seven of the nine children were unarmed when they were shot and killed. In the case of Mutasem Atallah, the [Israeli army said](#) that he was armed with a knife and shot by an armed Israeli civilian while attempting to enter the settlement of Tekoa, illegal under international law. In the case of Nader Rayan, the Israeli authorities claimed that he pointed a gun at a convoy of Israeli forces raiding the Balata refugee camp in Nablus where he lives, though [videos reviewed](#) by Amnesty International, and an [investigation by B'Tselem](#), indicate that Nader Rayan had been shot in the front and in the back as he was running away from heavily armed soldiers. According to an investigation by Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz, there was no gun found after the killing. [Nader Rayan's father is quoted in the investigation](#) saying that he counted 12 bullets in his son's body.

CIVILIANS KILLED IN ISRAEL AND INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE BY PALESTINIAN AUTHORITIES IN GAZA

On 22 March, a Palestinian citizen of Israel from the Bedouin township of Hura in the south of Israel attacked passers-by with his car and a knife in Beersheva, southern Israel, killing four people: Doris Yahbas, 49, Moshe Kravitzky, 50, Laura Yitzhak, 43, and Menahem Yehezkel, 67. The attacker was then [shot dead](#) by an armed Israeli civilian. On 27 March, two Palestinian citizens of Israel from Hadera, in northern Israel, [shot at people at a bus stop in the city, killing two police officers](#). On 29 March, a Palestinian from Yabad in the northern West Bank used an [assault rifle to attack people in the street in Bnei Brak, central Israel, killing five people](#), including two Jewish citizens of Israel: Avishai Yehezkel, 29, Yaakov Shalom, 36; a police officer who was a Palestinian citizen of Israel; and two Ukrainian residents: Victor Sorokopot, 32, and Dimitri Mitrik, 23.

On 7 April, a Palestinian from Jenin refugee camp opened fire on a restaurant located on Dizengoff street in central Tel Aviv, killing three people, and injuring a dozen more. The three men killed at the restaurant were Eytam Magini, 27, Tomer Morad, 27, and Barak Lufan, 35.

On 5 May, two Palestinians from Rummaneh, near Jenin in the northern West Bank, killed three Jewish citizens of Israel in Elad in central Israel: Yonatan Havakuk, 44, Boaz Gol, 49, and Oren Ben Yiftach, 35. The two attackers [used an axe and a knife, according to the Israeli press quoting witnesses](#). They were [arrested by Israeli police](#), near Elad, on 8 May.

Israeli forces shot and killed on the spot the Palestinian assailants who carried out the attacks on 27 and 29 March. In the case of the attack that took place on 7 April, Israeli forces killed the Palestinian gunman after a short manhunt. Most of the assailants seem to have carried out the attacks [without any organizational backing](#). [The Israeli press reported](#) that the three attackers in Beersheva and Hadera had previously professed support for the Islamic State armed group.

On 30 April 2022, Hamas's leader in Gaza [Yahiya Sinwar called on Palestinians](#) to use "any means available" to attack Israelis in Israel and in settlements in the West Bank, while praising previous attacks against Jewish civilians. The 45-minute speech broadcast on several media platforms [was reported by Israeli media](#) to have inspired the attackers on 5 May in Elad.

COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT OF PALESTINIANS IN JENIN

Following the attack in Tel Aviv, on 9 April, Jenin was placed under arbitrary restrictions on freedom of movement. The two main checkpoints into the city, Jalameh and Barta, were closed by the Israeli military for one week. Palestinian citizens of Israel who regularly do their shopping in Jenin, and Palestinian traders from Jenin, [were not allowed to cross the checkpoints for their business](#). The restrictions appeared to be deliberately [designed](#) to affect Jenin's economy. [Approximately](#) 5,000 people who had been issued permits for celebrating seasonal religious holidays had them revoked. Additionally, the OPT in their entirety were placed under complete closure from 4pm on 15 April until midnight on 16 April, for the Jewish holiday of Passover, allowing only exceptional humanitarian cases to cross any permanent Israeli checkpoints in the OPT.

During the closure of Jenin and surrounding areas, the Israeli military carried out over 100 search and arrest raids, [according to UNOCHA](#), some of which involved apparent excessive use of force. Based on UNOCHA documentation, at least 3,623 Palestinians have been injured in the West Bank since the beginning of the year and up until 18 April, with at least 226 injured during Israeli search and arrest operations.

ISRAELI CALLS FOR EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE AND INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE

Since the current escalation of violence, Israeli government officials, including Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, have made repeated statements that incite violence and encourage the use of unlawful force in addition to giving orders to shoot Palestinians who pose no imminent threat. Other politicians have also openly incited violence, highlighting the extent of Israel's institutionalized discrimination against Palestinians.

On 30 March, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said that those Jewish citizens of Israel who have a [license to carry a weapon "should do so now"](#). On 10 April, [he told](#) the government cabinet and the press: "the State of Israel will do everything necessary to overcome this terrorism. We will settle accounts with everyone who was linked, either directly or indirectly, to the attacks. [...] The State of Israel has gone on offense. [...] There are no restrictions on the IDF, ISA and other security forces in the war against terrorism."

On 13 April, the Israeli military dropped leaflets in Jenin warning locals that anyone approaching the fence/wall that has been built around Palestinian population centres in the West Bank ["puts his life in immediate danger"](#). A day later, [Benny Gantz said that 16 combat battalions](#), including special forces, were deployed in the West Bank, especially along the fence/wall. He stated further that troops were given instructions to fire at the lower body of anyone who attempted to cross. Since then, at least one unarmed Palestinian was shot dead while crossing the fence/wall (see above).

In the aftermath of the Elad attack, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett called on 8 May for the formation of a ["civilian national guard"](#). In the context of incitement on social media, replete with calls for violence against Palestinian civilians, at a time when groups of armed Jewish supremacists have [committed acts of violence with impunity](#), the call for forming groups of armed civilians could amount to the endorsement of incitement to violence.

Israeli hate speech monitoring groups FakeReporter and Democratic Bloc revealed images of messages that incite to violence, which Jewish supremacist groups in Israel have been publishing and sharing via WhatsApp and Telegram since early April. The messages include calls for members of a group called "Love Israel" to meet at a specific time and place in

the West Bank where Palestinian migrant workers cross to Israel on a daily basis. One of the messages reads: “If the government is not going to make a mess of them, we will!” Another user responded: “Bring knives brass knuckles sticks and stones, Molotov cocktails. We’re 17 people already, some of us are armed.” Images shared on social media show weapons including hand grenades, long knives and guns.

Private Israeli media have also broadcast shows that incite violence. On 9 May, Israeli TV channel Hadashot [news] 13 [asked viewers](#) to vote whether Yahya Sinwar should be assassinated by the Israeli forces. Fifty-nine per cent voted “Yes”, against 20% who voted “No”.

Amnesty International’s [research in May-June 2021 found](#) how Israeli police failed to protect Palestinian citizens of Israel from organized attacks by groups of armed Jewish supremacists, whose plans were often publicized in advance, and shared via WhatsApp and Telegram.

EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE AND TORTURE AGAINST PALESTINIANS IN JERUSALEM

In occupied East Jerusalem, manifold restrictions on the access of Muslim worshippers to the al-Aqsa mosque esplanade during and after the month of Ramadan (between 3 April and 1 May) have led to Palestinian protests and violent suppression. The entrances to the Old City that lead to the esplanade have seen increased, semi-permanent checkpoints. Israeli police have used excessive force, intimidation and harassment routinely while checking Palestinian ID cards and bags.

In the evenings after the breaking of the Ramadan fast, when Palestinians were socializing in the Old City, the police would disperse gatherings using violence often amounting to torture and other ill-treatment. A journalist who witnessed arbitrary and abusive force by police at the Damascus Gate entrance to the Old City every evening between 4 and 6 April 2022 told Amnesty International: “The police relied mostly on heavy beating of young people, with fists and boots. I say young deliberately, the people I saw attacked and detained were younger than 16 and even around 14 years old. These agents supposedly do expert missions related to assassinations or supposedly targeting dangerous people, and here they were targeting children. I witnessed two of these arrests, where they arrested two children then, one was 14 and the other, I believe even younger. And they were monstrous. They were beating them left and right, sitting on their necks, beating them all over their bodies, and if anyone dared come to the children’s rescue, they would pull their guns on them.”

On 15 April, raids by Israeli armed police in the al-Aqsa mosque esplanade led to the detention of more than 400 Palestinians, many of them children, according to lawyers representing detainees, who were interviewed by Amnesty International. All except for ten Palestinians were released later that day without charge, the detainees’ lawyers told Amnesty International. The raids started at dawn and continued for six hours. [According to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, at least 152 Palestinians](#), including children, were injured by rubber bullets, live ammunition, and stun grenades; 117 were hospitalized for their injuries.

The Israeli police spokesperson [said in a statement](#): “police forces under the command of the Jerusalem District Police Commander were forced to disperse a violent riot on the Temple Mount. Hundreds of rioters participated in the clashes, during which stones were thrown and fireworks launched at police forces and towards the rear of the Western Wall.” According to Israeli authorities, three Israeli police officers were injured. The riots broke out before dawn after information was published on social media saying [that Jewish supremacists were planning to conduct religious rituals](#) on the al-Aqsa mosque esplanade, which is also a holy site for Jews known as the Temple Mount.

Amnesty International spoke to two journalists who were documenting the 15 April raid, and wished to remain anonymous. One of the journalists said: “[The police] shot many rubber bullets, and all injuries were to the upper body, mostly hitting the face, the back, and chest. And they acted like snipers, knowing exactly how much harm they were inflicting. It was like war. I witnessed a dozen serious injuries. I also spoke to the injured in hospitals, two of them were elderly men shot in the jaw and neck.”

Another journalist, Rami Khatib, who is employed by the al-Aqsa mosque administrators, was apparently targeted by the armed police. In [videos provided by Rami Khatib and other videos published online, reviewed](#) and verified by Amnesty International, Rami Khatib is seen motionlessly filming the clashes, at the side of the esplanade, 20-30 metres from the events. Suddenly, he was approached by a police officer who stood with his chest against the camera. [Within moments](#) five armed officers ran up to him and started hitting him with batons while he retreated. They beat him until he fell on the ground, as he continued trying to retrieve his camera. Rami Khatib told Amnesty International: “I didn’t have time to show them my press card or ID. In any case the police know me because I am there every day, and I always show them my ID without a fuss. It looked like they were going straight for me, as I was standing to one side; it’s my job to document events. They behaved as though they came to take revenge on me, even though all I did was take photos.”

Rami Khatib's arm was broken, and he had bruises all over his body including his head, as a result of the beatings. He intends to lodge a court case on the strength of the evidence from his camera: "I will pursue legal action against them, even though I don't think their courts will serve justice. I have the evidence, and there are many who have been attacked like I have but who don't have it on camera."

Another eyewitness described to Amnesty International how the Israeli police carried out violent arrests involving severe beatings. He explained that in the minutes after dawn on 15 April, most of the Palestinian worshippers and journalists were either evacuated by paramedics or pushed out the gates by the police. The majority of the 400 or so people who remained were detained by the Israeli police, and taken in buses to two detention centres, [according to Addammer, a Palestinian human rights NGO](#): the Moskobiya police station in West Jerusalem and the Ma'ale Adumim police station, in an Israeli settlement illegal under international law. The eyewitness told Amnesty International: "they continued to beat the men, even boys, men with disabilities, and old men, when they were bound and thrown against the wall, to be taken away. The officers kneeled on their heads and necks, beat them with batons, with their fists, with their boots, with terrifying brutality. Most of the injuries were broken arms and hands, from being stamped on. It looked like they wanted to clear the place fast, for the settlers to come do their prayers."

Another witness who was on the al-Aqsa mosque esplanade told Amnesty International: "Paramedics set up a tent on the esplanade and the tent came under fire from rubber bullets, too. People who tried to reach the injured to carry them to the medical tent were shot at." Amongst those injured was a support staff of the al-Aqsa mosque esplanade, Husam Sedr, who was shot in the face. [Photographs](#) seen by Amnesty International show bruising around his right eye consistent with wounding by rubber bullet. [Witnesses reported in the press](#) and in an interview with Amnesty International that he was shot while he was assisting paramedics.

APARTHEID, PERSECUTION AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

Patterns of excessive use of force against Palestinians during law enforcement operations, and Israeli officials' statements on responding to such operations particularly during protests, reflect a planned and persistent policy of shooting to kill or maim Palestinians. These practices are consistent with prohibited acts of "murder" and "other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health" or the "infliction upon the members of a racial group or groups of serious bodily or mental harm" enumerated in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Apartheid Convention. Additionally, under international humanitarian law, Palestinians in the OPT are "protected persons", entitled to special protection and humane treatment at all times. As such, the intentional and unlawful killing and injury of Palestinians in the OPT during law enforcement operations amount to extrajudicial executions, a crime under international law, as well as constituting the grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of wilful killing and wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health, which are war crimes.

Israeli forces' widespread and systematic use of arbitrary arrest, administrative detention and torture on a large scale against Palestinians, in flagrant violation of several prohibitions under international law, forms part of the state's policy of domination and control over the Palestinian population. Israel's laws and policies of administrative detention and torture have therefore involved the crimes against humanity of "imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty" and "torture", which are prohibited under the Rome Statute and the Apartheid Convention. When committed in the OPT, acts of torture and other ill-treatment are also war crimes.

Long-standing discriminatory laws, policies and practices against the Palestinian population in the OPT have resulted in numerous restrictions on fundamental rights, including arbitrarily restricting Palestinians' freedom of movement and residence in their communities, their right to family life, and their rights to access livelihoods, housing, food, water, essential healthcare services and education. These violations form part of the multiple commission of crimes prohibited under international law, including as enumerated in the Article 7 of the Rome Statute and in Article II(c) of the Apartheid Convention.

Israeli authorities have committed the crime against humanity of, and other inhumane acts similar to, "persecution" within the meaning of the Rome Statute and "denial of basic human rights" that "prevent the racial group or groups from participation in the political, social, economic and cultural life of the country and the deliberate creation of conditions preventing [its or their] full development" under the Apartheid Convention.

Unlawful killings, arbitrary arrests and torture, and denial of basic rights, including through collective punishment, are prohibited acts which form part of a systematic as well as widespread attack by Israeli authorities directed against the Palestinian population and amount to the crime against humanity of apartheid.