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MUSLIMS for
PALESTINE

| REPORT | July 1st, 2025

The Carceral History of Occupied Palestine

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This white paper documents Israel's carceral regime as the backbone of its occupation, not an institution meant to promote security. Since 1967, Israel has arrested about one million Palestinians, an average of 47 per day for 58 years. Yet, Israel has historically kept prison head-count near 6,000 at any one time, fluctuating during escalations, but reverting to the mean quickly. As of May 2025, Israel holds 10,068 Palestinians in confinement, but only 1,455 are sentenced, while 3,190 await trial and 3,577 languish under administrative detention without charge. Meanwhile, administrative detention has exploded after Israel's 2023 genocide in Gaza, jumping from 350 to 2,373 detainees per month—a seven-fold surge that now accounts for nearly one-third of all prisoners.

Tel Aviv enforces its carceral system with movement barriers and draconian laws. The West Bank now suffers from almost 900 checkpoints, gates, and roadblocks, up from 645 in 2023, paralyzing daily life. In the first half of 2024, the IDF conducted 3,384 documented search-and-arrest operations across the West Bank. In April 2025 alone, Israeli forces conducted mass raids resulting in 530 arrests, including 60 children and 18 women, across cities, towns, and refugee camps in the West Bank. Meanwhile, in late 2024, the Israeli Knesset passed Amendments to their existing laws legalizing collective punishment and permitting life sentences for children at 12.

Washington has bankrolled this oppression. Since 1948, Congress has appropriated an inflation-adjusted \$383.75 billion in aid, promising at least \$3.8 billion in annual aid since 2016, while rushing to give Israel \$14.1 billion in April 2025 to underwrite their genocide. Unlike other countries, money for Israel arrives as an immediate lump-sum, lets Israel earn interest, and flows through lightly-scrutinised Direct Commercial Sales that speed up U.S. weapon approvals to their military, prison guards, and settlers alike.

Israel's carceral system, its military courts, administrative detention, torture, deportations, and child imprisonment constitute a comprehensive and deliberate apparatus of domination. The system is sustained by U.S. money, weapons, and diplomatic cover. To uphold international law and Palestinian rights, the system must be dismantled entirely, and U.S. support must end.

METHODOLOGY

Overview

For our data analysis, we collected information from a range of publicly accessible and reputable sources that we disclose below. While this paper provides background on the Israeli carceral system since its inception, several categories lack data for certain time periods, while others rely on estimates by reputable parties. For example, annual appropriations to Israel are concrete figures that are readily available online, whereas estimates were necessary for the annual population of Palestine. This pattern continues for the remainder of our sources. To conduct our data analysis, we tabulated all of our data in an Excel Sheet, exported it as a CSV, and conducted our analysis in Python. You can access our raw data [here](#).

The sources used are listed below:

- **Israel's Population** – Population figures for Israel were collected from the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), which provides the most authoritative data on Israel's population. The figures provided are the population figures at year-end and include Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Golan Heights, as well as Palestinians in East Jerusalem, under Israel's population. However, they exclude Palestinians in the remainder of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. We subtract the number of Palestinians in East Jerusalem from their figures. Beginning in 1995, CBS began reporting a separate category for "Non-Palestinian and Non-Jewish" populations, e.g., Druze, Armenians, etc. Accordingly, we adopted the same distinction starting in that year but do not retroactively apply it to earlier years. In 1995, the recorded Palestinian population decreased by 26,500, while a new population figure of 85,100 appears under the non-Palestinian and non-Jewish category. We infer that some individuals in this new category may have previously been counted under the Palestinian population, though not all. These figures also exclude temporary foreign workers. To avoid double counting, we subtracted the number of Palestinians in East Jerusalem recorded by the Jerusalem Institute and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in East Jerusalem from the Palestinian population recorded by Israel beginning in 1967 until 2024.

■ Sources: [Israel CBS](#), [PCBS](#).

- **Occupied Palestinian Territories' (oPT) Population** – Population figures for the occupied Palestinian territories (oPT) are drawn from several reputable sources. For the years 1948 to 1968, we used a 1994 report prepared for the United Nations entitled Population and Demographic Developments in the West Bank and Gaza until 1990. For missing years, we interpolated the population of the between years we have data for. The years we interpolated were 1953, 1954, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1964, 1965, 1966, then the years between 1989 and 1996. For the years 1969 to 1988, we relied on the annual Statistical Abstracts of Israel, Nos. 20–39, published by the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics. For the years 1997 to 2024, we used data from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). For the West Bank column, we subtracted the

provided Jerusalem numbers from the West Bank total, for the purpose of this study, we separate the Jerusalem population tabulated by both the Israeli CBS and the PCBS. For the period 1990 to 1996, we drew from several sources. For Gaza's 2024 figures specifically, we used a special report published by the PCBS due to the genocide.

■ Sources: [UN 1994 Report](#), [Israel CBS Nos. 20-40](#), [PCBS](#), [PCBS Gaza 2024](#).

- **Appropriations to Israel** – Figures were collected from the “Statutes at Large” functionality provided by the Government Publishing Office. We reviewed both base and supplemental appropriations enacted each year. Our figures also reflect only appropriations—not disbursements. This is because not all money appropriated in one year is disbursed within the same fiscal year. For example, only \$6.2 billion were disbursed to Israel in 2024. Loan guarantees were excluded, as they do not involve the transfer of funds, though they do subsidize Israel's borrowing costs and cost the American taxpayer. All adjustments for inflation were adjusted using the Gross Domestic Product Implicit Price Deflator from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, indexed to 2024. We organized our collected data in six columns. The U.S. Military Aid to Israel column includes all military assistance, such as Iron Dome and defense research, but excludes direct U.S. military spending that's not given to Israel—for example, funds spent on military activities supporting Israel. The U.S. Economic Aid to Israel is another column and the Other Appropriated Funds column covers economic assistance and all other forms of support, such as refugee resettlement and exchange programs. Each main column is accompanied by a corresponding inflation-adjusted column.

■ Sources: [Statutes at Large](#), [Israel Disbursements](#), [Price Deflator](#).

- **Prison Statistics** – Monthly prison statistics were gathered from HaMoked, a human rights non-profit organisation in Israel's online tracker.

■ Sources: [Hamoked](#).

- **Israeli Military Size** – We record Israeli military troop levels beginning in 1967. Figures for the Israeli Military's size are taken from the annual “Military Balance” reports published by the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

■ Sources: [Annual Military Balance Reports](#).

- **Israeli Settlements** – We count 466 Israeli settlements and outposts in 2025. We used Peace Now's published tracker for settlements; however, we do not differentiate between settlements, outposts, or their “legal” status. We consider a settlement as having begun either at its announcement or when the first building is recorded to have begun construction.

■ Sources: [Americans For Peace Now](#)

- **Israeli Settler Population** – According to the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip (Yesha), the Israeli and PCBS.

■ Sources: [FMEP Report citing Yesha](#). [PCBS](#). [Israel CBS](#).

INTRODUCTION

The story of Palestine is a story of incarceration. For Palestinians living under Israeli military occupation, the threat of detention is always looming. Incarceration occurs under two primary contexts: first, military detention, and second, administrative detention. Both of which, at least in Israel's application, exist outside the realm of international law and due process. This paper demonstrates, through extensive research and data, that Israel's carceral system is not merely a response to security threats but a central mechanism of control. It functions as a strategic pillar of occupation—an active, offensive weapon that is necessary for Israel's goal of territorial domination, and one that is propped up by the United States.



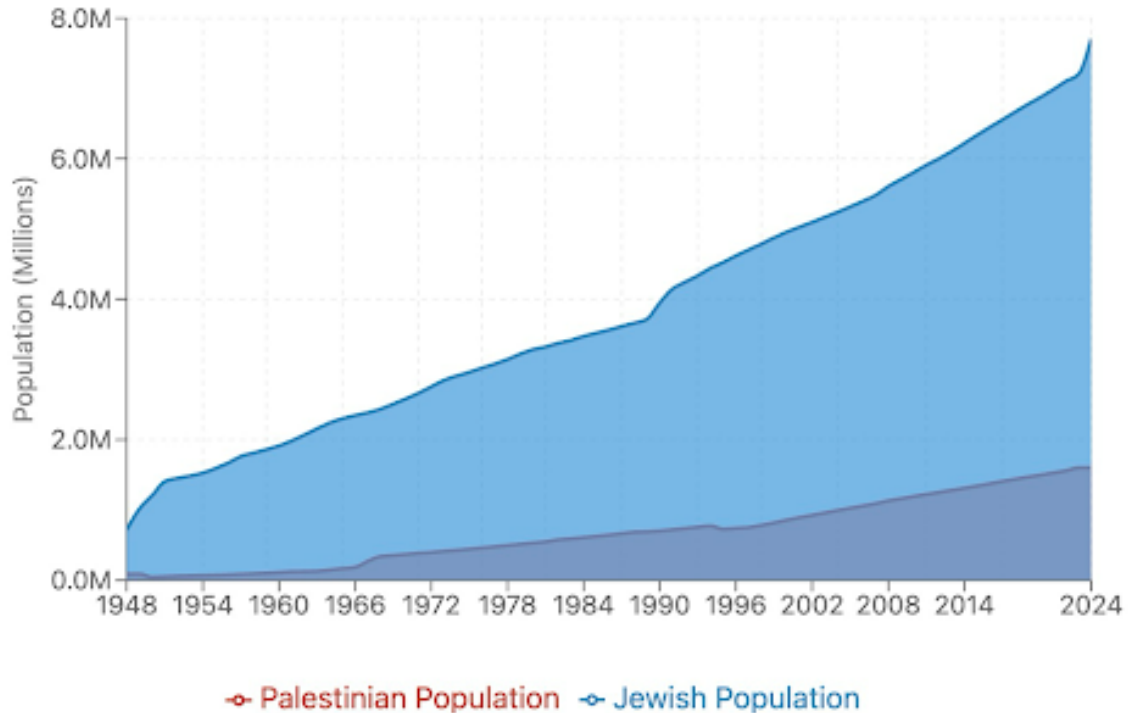
Gilboa Prison (Ammar Awad)

1948: DEMOGRAPHICS AND DISPLACEMENT

Israel's realization as a "Zionist state" requires that the Jewish population maintain a majority population in the state's borders. The [1947 United Nations Partition Plan](#) awarded approximately 56.47 percent of Mandatory Palestine to the proposed Jewish state. According to an official report of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), [published in 1947](#), the demographic populations of the area included 498,000 Jews and between 407,000 and 438,000 Palestinian Arabs, in addition to roughly 90,000 Bedouins. This meant that, even under the most conservative estimates, Palestinians would have comprised between a high of 51.46 percent and 49.95 low of percent of the population—either a slim majority or nearly equal to the Jewish population of a supposed future Jewish state. The remaining area that was apportioned to the Palestinians, was projected to have a population between 725,000 Palestinian Arabs and 10,000 Jews, meaning the total of historic Palestine had a total population of 1,163,000 Arabs and 508,000 Jews.

The new settlers recognized that the demographics were unsustainable for their vision of a Jewish state. David Ben-Curion, one of the national founders and first prime minister of Israel warned that the proposed partition left the Jewish state with too slim a majority to be viable, arguing that without dramatically altering the population balance the new state could not remain under Jewish control. ["\[I\]n the area allocated to the Jewish State there are not more than 520,000 Jews and about 350,000 non-Jews, mostly Arabs.... Such a \[population\] composition does not provide a stable basis for a Jewish State.... There can be no stable and strong Jewish State so long as it has a Jewish majority of only 60 percent."](#)

Israel Population by Group (1948-2024)



This realization led Jewish militias to launch an offensive war aimed at decreasing the indigenous Palestinian population, resulting in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and, ultimately, the Nakba, which saw the expulsion of more than 750,000 Palestinians from their homes decreasing the Palestinian population following the war to a low of 3.33 percent of the total population in 1950. In the following decades, the Palestinian population rose to an average of around 12.5 percent, and nearly 17 percent in 2024—a ‘manageable’ demographic minority. What Palestinians also witnessed as a result of the ethnic cleansing campaign, was the use of mass arrests and internment, accompanied by forced prison labor. Upon Israel’s founding, it reinstituted military courts, and various carceral practices which now primarily targeted the remaining indigenous population in what was now considered ‘Israel’ proper, subjecting these minority communities to surveillance, arrest, and mass incarceration.

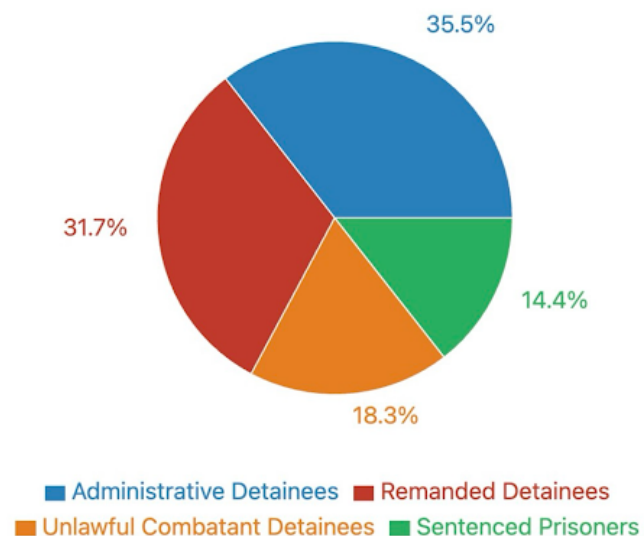
1967: FOUNDING OF THE CARCERAL STATE

Before the Six-Day War in 1967, the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, was administered by the Kingdom of Jordan, while the Gaza Strip was administered by Egypt. During the war, Israel seized these territories, unilaterally annexed East Jerusalem—including what is now referred to as the “J1” area—and placed the West Bank and Gaza Strip under military occupation. This occupation continued through the Oslo Accords of the 1990s, which established the Palestinian Authority and ostensibly provided the Palestinians with an internationally recognized government. The territories remain under Israeli military occupation to this day.

It’s under this context that Israel has established its carceral system for Palestinians living under a belligerent occupation. All Palestinians living under Israeli military occupation are subject to its system of prosecution, which is a system governed by military law. Resultantly, the Palestinians have been subject to the longest continuous military prosecution under military law of any population. To date, Israel has detained approximately [one million Palestinians](#), representing about 20 percent of the total occupied Palestinian population and roughly 40 percent of all Palestinian men living under occupation. Thereby, we can assume that these systems, riddled with violence and torture, have touched the lives of every Palestinian family in some respect. According to Defense of Children in Palestine, Israel is the only country to [systematically prosecute](#) children in military court.

May 2025 Detainee Breakdown

Total Detainees: 10,068



As of May 2025, these facilities held 10,068 non-Israeli Palestinians. Of the imprisoned, only 1,455 had been sentenced, while 3,190 were held in pretrial detention and 3,577 under administrative detention without charge. There were a reported 1,846 Palestinians classified as “unlawful combatants.” According to Amnesty International, Israeli law grants the Israeli military sweeping powers to detain anyone from Gaza that they suspect of [“engaging” in “hostilities against Israel”](#) or [“posing a threat”](#) to state security as an unlawful combatant indefinitely without having to produce evidence to substantiate any claims.

MILITARY COURTS AND DUAL SYSTEMS

Military law was established in the Palestinian territories on June 7, 1967. [Military Proclamation No. 2](#) vested the Israeli military commanders with complete legislative, executive, and judicial control over the occupied territories, effectively consolidating judicial power in military hands. Under this expansive authority, Israeli commanders later issued the [Security Provisions Order \(SPO\) No. 378](#) in 1970, which established the permanent military courts, defined their jurisdiction, and set out the criminal code for Palestinians living in the territories.

International humanitarian law mandates that local penal codes and judicial institutions remain intact under occupation. However, Israeli military courts in the occupied Palestinian territories flagrantly violate these standards. The penal code imposed under the SPO bears no resemblance to the prior Palestinian legal system and relies on vague “[security offenses](#)” to prosecute Palestinians for virtually any reason, or no reason at all. Palestinian defendants are tried by Israeli military judges and prosecutors while held in custody by Israeli soldiers. Defense attorneys are systematically denied access to the alleged evidence against their clients and must navigate a court system that operates entirely in Hebrew, with all documentation provided in Hebrew, despite the defendants being Arabic-speaking. Of those actually prosecuted, according to [Addameer](#), approximately 99.7 percent of Palestinian defendants are convicted, with nearly 97 percent of those convictions resulting from plea bargains.

Meanwhile, settlers residing illegally in the occupied Palestinian territories, are prosecuted under Israeli civil law. Of the few who are investigated, only 6 percent are investigated for violence against Palestinians. According to a 19-year study by [Yesh Din](#), roughly 80 percent of these investigations are closed without indictment due to police negligence. Out of 1,664 cases Yesh Din tracked, 1,615 were concluded, with 1,513—93.7 percent—closed without an indictment.

Simply put, Palestinians and Israeli settlers live in the same land, are policed by the same government, but are subject to entirely separate legal systems. They are tried in different courts, under different laws, with unequal due process protections, and often receive vastly different punishments for the same acts.



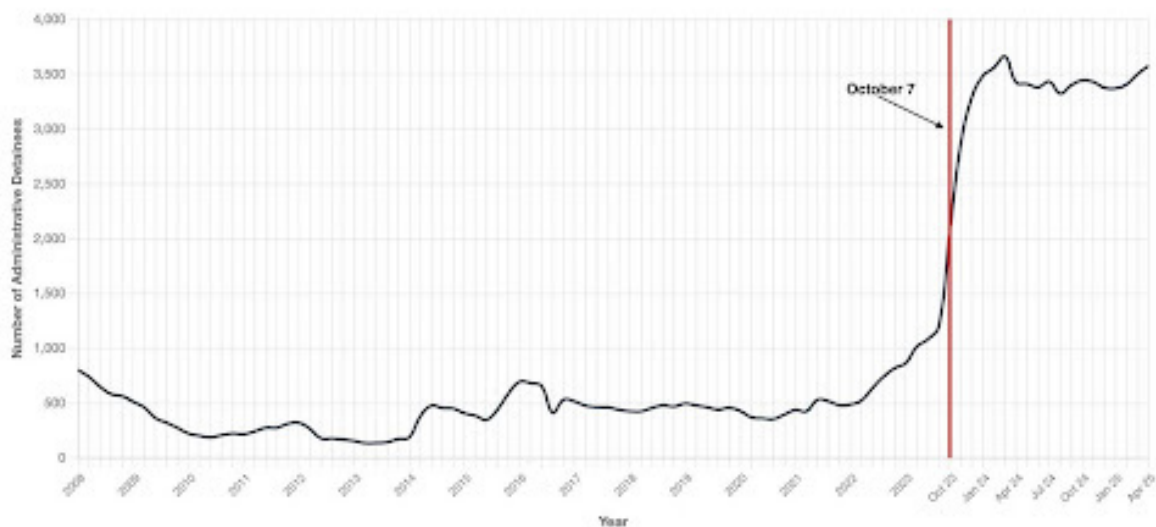
Ahmed Manasra, then aged 13, escorted by Israeli security during a hearing at a Jerusalem court on Oct 30, 2015 (Ahmad Gharabli)

ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION

Administrative detention is the second primary mechanism by which Palestinians are held under Israel's carceral regime. It permits the Israeli military to detain individuals indefinitely, without charge or trial, based on secret evidence that neither the detainee nor their legal counsel can access. The orders are issued for renewable six-month periods but can be extended indefinitely, leading to prolonged, arbitrary detention without any formal legal process. This practice, rooted in the colonial British Mandate Defense (Emergency) [Regulations of 1945](#), has been a core instrument of control since the beginning of the occupation in 1967, used overwhelmingly against Palestinians in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza.

International law permits administrative detention only in strictly limited circumstances—namely, during a public emergency and only as a last resort for imperative security reasons. Yet Israel has normalized it as a routine method of governing the occupied population. As of May 2025, there were over 3,500 Palestinians held under administrative detention. Testimonies and documentation by human rights organizations such as [Amnesty International](#) and [Addameer](#) demonstrate that detainees are denied fair trial guarantees, held on vague accusations related to “security concerns,” and prevented from mounting a legal defense due to the withholding of the evidence used against them by the Israeli government.

Administrative Detainees Over Time



The system itself is structurally rigged. Military judges and prosecutors—often serving in the same units and appointed by the same authorities—review administrative detention orders in closed hearings without oversight or public scrutiny. Detention can be imposed before a person is charged, after a criminal investigation fails, or even after a sentence has been completed. Some detainees have been held for years, with one individual detained for eight consecutive years without charge.

The use of administrative detention has grown as well. Prior to the genocide, Israel detained an average of 350 Palestinians per month under administrative detention, that number surged to an average of 2,373 detainees a month, a seven-fold increase, after the genocide. Administrative detention has also grown significantly as a share of the overall prison population, rising from about 5 percent to 32 percent—an increase of more than 600 percent. Israel has recorded over two consecutive years with more than 1,000 administrative detainees in custody at once, all of which occurred after October 2023. In the immediate aftermath of the 7 October 2023 assault on Gaza, the monthly administrative detention count spiked by roughly 620 percent, jumping from approximately 444 to 3,202 people.

DEPORTATIONS

Israel deports the Palestinians that it convicts from their homeland in violation of International law. [Article 76](#), Fourth Geneva Convention states that “Protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein.” Israel operates 40 known prisons, detention centers, and interrogation facilities across both its internationally recognized territory and the oPt. Many of these sites date back to the British Mandate era. Of the 40 known sites, 33 are located within Israel’s 1948 borders, 3 are in Jerusalem, and 4 are in illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

Palestinians convicted by military courts are deported from the occupied territories to serve their sentences in Israel, making it almost impossible for their families to visit them. Israel routinely engages in this behavior with Palestinian children as well. Each year approximately 500-700 Palestinian children are detained and prosecuted in the Israeli military court system. According to public data, between 2013 and 2023, around 50 percent of Palestinian children at any one time would be incarcerated inside Israel, with that number reaching as high as 81 percent in June 2020. In September 2015, there were as high as 120 children aged between 12 and 15 detained by Israel. [In 2019](#), 73 percent of children experienced physical violence following arrest and 88 percent of children were interrogated without a family member or lawyer present.



Israeli soldiers stand by a truck with Palestinian detainees in the Gaza Strip, Dec. 8, 2023. (Yossu Zeliger)

TORTURE AND MISTREATMENT

Although torture was [ruled unlawful](#) by Israel's High Court of Justice in September 1999—specifically methods including painful binding, shaking, placing a sack over a person's head for prolonged periods, and sleep deprivation—the Court also permitted exceptions to protect ISA agents who “exceed their authority and use physical pressure” in so-called “[ticking bomb](#)” scenarios. According to [B'Tselem](#), despite the ruling, these methods “were not limited to exceptional cases and quickly became standard interrogation policy.”

According to [Amnesty International](#), “Israeli courts have admitted evidence obtained through torture of Palestinians, accepting the justification of “necessity.” Prompt, thorough and impartial investigations by Israeli authorities into allegations by Palestinians that they have been tortured are extremely rare, effectively giving state endorsement to the crime of torture.”



A leaked photograph of the detention facility at the Sde Teiman military base shows a blindfolded man with his arms above his head.

In early 2025, surveillance footage from the notorious Sde Teiman prison revealed a group of Israeli soldiers sexually assaulting and raping a Palestinian detainee. None of the soldiers involved have faced prosecution, along with the majority of soldiers and prison authorities found perpetuating similar violence against detainees. A 2020 statement by the [Palestinian Prisoners' Society \(PPS\)](#) claimed that 95 percent of Palestinian detainees experience torture during the course of their incarceration. Similarly, a July 2023 report by [Save the Children](#) documented that 86 percent of Palestinian children held in Israeli military detention reported being beaten.

CONTROL THROUGH INCARCERATION

Despite Israel arresting more than a million Palestinians over the course of the occupation, the number of Palestinians detained at any given time has remained remarkably stable. Between 2008 and 2023, the number of Israeli settlements and outposts increased by nearly 60 percent, rising from 256 to 407. During the same 15-year period, the Palestinian population in the West Bank grew by 38 percent, from 2.08 million to 2.8 million. Yet, the number of incarcerated Palestinians remained steady, averaging 8,700 at any one time in 2008 and around 5,000 in 2023.

If we average the detainee population across the available data, we get about 6,000 Palestinians reported as detained at any one time by the Israel Prison Service. Dividing the estimated 1,000,000 Palestinians arrests by across 696 months between 1967 and 2025 yields an average of 1,437 arrests per month—or about 47 per day. If we calculate the average number of people in a system to the rate at which they enter and the time they spend there, we can estimate an average detention time of approximately 127 days. That



Palestinian Moazaz Obaiyat after being released from an Israeli jail near Hebron, July 8, 2024. (Saddam Obaiyat)

number is likely inflated by long-term prisoners, but it nonetheless highlights the churn of mass incarceration: a system that cycles through Palestinians regularly, keeping the prison population constant while subjecting hundreds of thousands to detention.

So although many Palestinians have been ensnared by the Israeli carceral system, the scale and nature of its deployment reveal that its primary function is not for reasons of safety or the removal of “dangerous” individuals, but rather a policy of systematic harassment of the native population. The frequency and arbitrariness of arrests combined with the steady levels of incarceration suggest a policy of sustained harassment, not justice.

THE PALESTINIAN CITIZENS OF ISRAEL

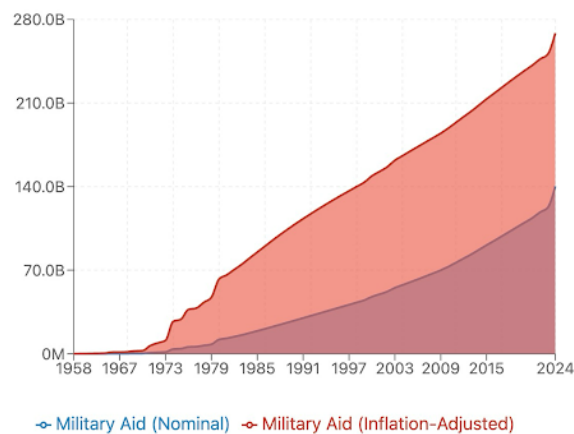
According to the [World Prison Brief](#), Israel’s incarceration rate was 217 per 100,000 people in 2024. But when adjusting for Palestinian citizens of Israel, who comprise 20 percent of the population but account for 40 percent of the prison population the incarceration rate falls to 162.8 per 100,000 and 434 per 100,000, more than double that of their Jewish citizen counterparts and more than double the global average as well. Meaning even the Palestinians living in Israel that are not prosecuted under military law face disparate treatment in the Israeli civil judicial system.

SUPPORT BY THE UNITED STATES

Since 1948, Congress has appropriated an inflation-adjusted total of \$383.75 billion in aid to Israel, the largest long-term transfer of U.S. security assistance in the world. Annual Foreign Military Financing (FMF) sits at a guaranteed floor of \$3.3 billion, supplemented by \$500 million for missile defense, and in April 2025 was supplemented by Washington to the tune of \$14.1 billion to underwrite Israel's genocide in Gaza.

The U.S. provides weapons to Israel largely through the FMF program, the program enables Israel to procure American-made defense articles and services. Funds are transferred in a lump sum into an interest-bearing U.S. bank account within 30 days of appropriation, uniquely allowing Israel to accrue interest benefits rather than American taxpayers. From here, Israel directly engages with American arms manufacturers through the Direct Commercial Sales (DCS) process, bypassing typical government-to-government sales channels, significantly reducing oversight and transparency.

Cumulative U.S. Military Aid to Israel: Nominal vs Inflation-Adjusted (1949-2024)



The State Department is tasked with reviewing proposed weapons transfers to ensure compliance with U.S. laws that prohibit arming countries demonstrating a clear risk of violating international humanitarian law. Local embassies, such as the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem, initially assess and report via cables called “country team assessments” that evaluate whether Israel can be trusted to responsibly use the weapons. These assessments are then reviewed by the State Department’s Bureau of Political-Military Affairs and, for larger sales, undergo additional scrutiny by Congress.

Despite mechanisms intended to prevent abuses, officials within the State Department have consistently raised concerns regarding Israel’s use of American weapons in violating Palestinian human rights only to be routinely dismissed by senior political appointees. State Department experts have documented repeated instances of Israel employing precision-guided munitions, like the American-made GBU-39 bombs, on civilian targets in Gaza, while human rights organizations have presented the State Department with evidence of American made weapons used to enforce Israel’s carceral system.



LOOKING FORWARD

Israel's recent legislative actions, its ongoing genocide in Gaza, its escalating repression of their own Palestinian citizens, and advancement of the occupation of the West Bank, and East Jerusalem, indicates that Israel has no intention of altering its carceral system. While this report has documented high rates of detention and imprisonment, in order to fully comprehend the scale of these systems, it is critical to recognize that while not every Palestinian has experienced detention formally, every Palestinian living under Israeli occupation has been subject to the occupation's carceral program in some capacity. Whether through military curfews, movement restrictions, police violence, or more.

These restrictions, which consist of checkpoints, roadblocks, gates, and various physical barriers are continuing to severely constrain Palestinian movement. Concurrently, Israeli authorities have accelerated their construction of checkpoints and barriers. Since the launch of Israel's genocide on [Gaza in October 2023](#), at least 119 new "iron gates" have been installed, many of them since January 2024. These gates sever villages and towns from major transport routes, effectively isolating entire Palestinian communities. According to the Palestinian Authority, the [total number of barriers](#), including temporary or "flying" roadblocks, approached 900 in the first half of 2025—a significant increase from the 645 documented in 2023. Meanwhile, an NGO survey found that 93 percent said roadblocks, permit denials and checkpoint delays hindered aid delivery in the West Bank.

In November 2024, the Israeli Knesset passed [Amendment No. 25](#) to the Youth Law, allowing life imprisonment for Palestinian children as young as 12 years old convicted of offenses classified as “terrorist acts,” and authorizing their transfer from juvenile facilities to adult prisons starting at age 14. Previously, Israeli civil law exempted minors under 12 from criminal responsibility, and minors under 14 could only be held in juvenile facilities regardless of their alleged crimes. This amendment, however, explicitly discards age-appropriate protections for Palestinian children, under the pretense of deterrence and retribution, in direct violation of Israel’s obligations under the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), ratified by Israel in 1991.

In December 2024, Israel enacted [Amendment No. 251](#) to the National Insurance Law, permitting the revocation of all child-related social welfare benefits—such as child allowances, educational support, and income supplements—from families of minors convicted of “terror offenses,” including broadly defined acts like throwing stones. This amendment imposes collective economic punishment on Palestinian families, stripping them of crucial support without due consideration of individual circumstances or the disproportionate impact on children and families.

CONCLUSION

Israel’s carceral regime is not incidental, nor is it unique—it is the infrastructure of occupation, and other colonial regimes alike. From mass arrests to administrative detention, from torture to deportation, Israel has constructed a punitive system that is designed to dominate, fragment, and suppress Palestinian life. It is a system that operates with impunity, underwritten by billions in U.S. military and economic aid, shielded by diplomatic protection, and bolstered by laws that treat Palestinian existence as a threat to be managed, not a people to be protected.

This regime has evolved over decades, adapting its tools—military courts, surveillance, movement restrictions, prison labor, and settler violence—into a coherent apparatus of domination. Each layer of repression is mutually reinforcing, extending the logic of Zionist demographic control through physical confinement and legal erasure. The use of incarceration, especially of children, the expansion of administrative detention, the new amendments that criminalize youth and impoverish their families, and the metastasizing of physical checkpoints throughout Palestinian land, all reveal a single aim: to exhaust, deter, and displace.

As the data in this report shows, the carceral state is not reactive but foundational. It is calibrated not to end violence but to sustain occupation. It is a mechanism of apartheid. And the U.S. is complicit—not just through rhetorical cover, but through material support, weapons transfers, and policy design. It must be entirely abolished.



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