

Calls for Independent Investigations and Accountability for Perpetrators of Israeli Crimes

Complicity of the Israeli Judicial System Signals an Increase in Deaths inside Israeli Prisons

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■ Day by day, further evidence continues to emerge of the atrocities committed as part of the ongoing genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. These crimes have not been confined to Gaza itself but have also extended to Israeli prisons inside the occupying State, which have been transformed into sites of death and systematic, brutal torture. Even more alarming is Israel's continued policy of withholding information and obstructing international oversight of the conditions of Palestinian detainees in its prisons, raising serious concerns that grave violations of international law are being deliberately concealed.

■ Reports of deaths inside Israeli detention facilities continue to surface, often without any official explanation. However, testimonies collected by Al Mezan's lawyers during visits to a number of detainees reveal unprecedented and extremely brutal patterns of torture, reinforcing suspicions that many of these deaths resulted from direct killing or torture leading to death.

■ According to Al Mezan Center for Human Rights' monitoring of the conditions of detainees and released prisoners, as well as an investigation published by the Israeli newspaper Haaretz on 17 July 2026, the Israeli military opened dozens of investigations into the deaths of Palestinian detainees while in custody. None of these investigations resulted in criminal indictments against those responsible, despite the fact that most of the deaths occurred inside military detention facilities equipped with permanent surveillance cameras and where numerous detainees were present as potential witnesses.

■ Data obtained through freedom of information requests submitted by Israeli public interest organizations indicate that 57 criminal investigations were opened into deaths in custody—56 involving Palestinians from Gaza and one involving a Lebanese detainee. Seven of these investigations concerned fatal shootings. In two of those seven cases, the military reportedly could not even determine when the shooting had occurred. Moreover, in the majority of the criminal investigations, the military stated that it had been unable to identify any suspects.

■ In a separate but related matter, the Israeli authorities continue to refuse the release of 43 Palestinian detainees from the Gaza Strip whose prison sentences have already expired, some of whom had completed sentences of up to ten years. Instead of releasing them, Israel has continued to detain them under the Unlawful Combatants Law, legislation that openly violates the right to fair trial guarantees by allowing detention without legal justification, without filing criminal charges, and without providing detainees with a meaningful opportunity to defend themselves. Under the law, detention orders may be renewed every six months for an indefinite period.