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BREAKING: The Palestinian Authority tortures human rights activists, women, LGBT persons, political opponents, so-called “collaborators,” and Palestinians who sell land to Jews, UN Watch charged today, ahead of the UN's first-ever review of the PA record.



Rights Group Exposes Palestinian Torture Ahead of First UN Review - ...

GENEVA, July 14, 2022 — The Palestinian Authority and Hamas routinely torture human rights activists, women, LGBT persons, political opponents, so-called “collaborators,” and Palestinians who sell la...

<https://unwatch.org/rights-group-exposes-palestinian-torture-ahead-of-first-un-review/>

2/ The Geneva-based human rights organization made its criticism in a report to the UN Committee Against Torture, which meets on July 19-20 to consider Palestinian compliance with the UN convention against torture and other cruel forms of punishment.

<http://unwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Torturing-Palestinians.pdf>



3/ Evidence continues to emerge of widespread torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of detainees held in Palestinian custody in the West Bank and Gaza.

4/ UN Watch representatives will present the report to the 10-member committee in a private briefing with human rights groups on July 18, the day before UN experts are set to grill a delegation from the Palestinian Authority for the first time since it signed the treaty in 2014.

5/ While the PA is expected to tout how it has fulfilled its promises, the PA's response (undocs.org/CAT/C/PSE/1) — submitted to the committee four years late — tries to absolve Palestinian actors of responsibility for complying with the treaty's prohibitions against torture.

6/ Instead, the PA report repeatedly points the finger at Israel in an attempt to deflect attention from the PA's own record, which is the actual subject of the UN review.

7/ The PA report has no data on the pervasiveness of torture under the PA & Hamas or on any practical measures implemented to prevent torture by their forces during interrogation, individual cases of torture, justice for victims, or actions to address underlying causes of abuses.

8/ [#LGBTQ](#): According to UN Watch's report, LGBTQ persons living under the Palestinian Authority and Hamas control suffer "severe persecution and ostracism."

9/ Gay Palestinians who managed to escape recount harrowing torture by PA and Hamas forces, including often successful attempts to coerce them to inform on others, forced marriages, and death threats.

10/ "They arrested me, hanged me from the ceiling, beat me up and interrogated me for five days," said a gay Gazan Palestinian now living in exile in Turkey.

11/ "Everyone is afraid of everyone. Some have been punished, some have been killed. Others killed themselves," said another gay man from Gaza.

12/ [#Activists](#): Routine Palestinian Authority torture includes beatings, solitary confinement, feet whipping, threats and taunts, and forcing detainees into various painful positions for extended periods.

13/ In May 2021, PA security forces arrested dozens of activists and students considered critical of the PA. Taken to an infamous Jericho prison known as the "slaughterhouse," they were accused of "stirring up sectarian and racial strife" and subjected to torture.

14/ The June 24, 2021 death in PA custody of Nizar Banat, a prominent critic of President Mahmoud Abbas, sparked a wave of protests in the West Bank. The PA police responded by arresting and beating the protesters, along with journalists, civil society activists and lawyers.

15/ "Never in my life have I seen such brutality. The sounds of people screaming inside the police station, to this day I still hear it," said Palestinian radio journalist Akil Awadah, who was beaten and detained on July 5, 2021 with several other protesters.

16/ Hamas in Gaza also routinely employs torture. Gaza peace activist Rami Aman, who was held by Hamas for more than six months in 2020, spoke publicly about being tortured by Hamas.

17/ In March 2019, Hamas security forces severely beat protesters with batons and clubs and arrested more than 1,000, including journalists and human rights defenders. Many were subjected to torture.

18/ Palestinians accused of "collaborating" with Israel are routinely tortured by both the PA and Hamas.

Torture included beatings, putting out cigarettes on their bodies, pulling out teeth, forcing them into painful positions and abusing their genitals.

19/ In June 2018, an Israeli court ordered the PA to pay \$3.5 million in compensation to 51 victims and family members of Palestinians who were arrested and tortured by the PA between 1990 and 2003 for assisting Israeli security forces to prevent terror attacks.

20/ Yet the practice continues. In March 2022, Palestinian-American Suha Jbara testified that PA agents tortured her in late 2018 for “collaboration” with Israel.



Palestinian Activist Testifies On Abuse At PA Jericho Prison - I24NEWS

“The interrogator told me that if I open my mouth, he will make me disappear” -

Click the link for more details.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/middle-east/palestinian-territories/1647163186-palesti...>



21/ “The interrogator also threatened me with rape and started beating me. He said he knows how to beat me without leaving signs on my body. The interrogation and beating lasted all night,” she said. Hamas in Gaza is also known for torturing & executing suspected “collaborators.”

22/ [#Antisemitism](#): Palestinians who sell land to Jews are routinely tortured and killed. In December 2018, American-Palestinian Isaam Akel was sentenced to life in prison with hard labor for violating the Palestinian law prohibiting land sales to Israelis.

23/ Both Akel’s wife and a U.S. official who visited Akel in prison confirmed that he had been put in isolation and tortured.

Akel’s case is one example of how the PA has failed to live up to its obligations to comply with the torture treaty, as documented by UN Watch’s report.

24/ We trust that our submission of evidence and harrowing testimonies will assist the UN committee experts next week when they review whether Mahmoud Abbas's Palestinian Authority has followed through on its promises to eradicate the use of torture.

25/ We call on the Palestinian representative to the UN in Geneva [@ibrahimkhraishi](#) and the entire [@Palestine_UN](#) delegation coming from Ramallah to be open about the PA's routine use of torture at next week's review.

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