



Prisoners in Israeli custody

**Firing rubber bullets
at prisoners is “becoming
another routine form of
violence in Israeli prisons.”**

– Muhannad Abu Ghosh,
Physicians for Human Rights Israel,
to The Associated Press

When Repression Becomes Routine

Issue 05

A former prisoner at Naqab (Ketziot) prison

**"What were we
punished for? We were
wounded for no reason
at all. We don't know
why they shot at us."**

– to Haaretz, Oct. 14, 2026

In April, an Israel Prison Service unit entered a crowded cell he was in. His back was to the door when the rubber bullets were fired from two meters away or less, by his estimate, and he was hit in the leg. He says he went 15 days without proper treatment.

**Documented by Physicians for Human Rights Israel and the
Public Committee Against Torture in Israel**

More than

twenty

**rubber-bullet shootings of
prisoners since the start of the war,
most of them from late 2025 and
the first half of 2026.**

Physicians for Human Rights Israel and the Public Committee
Against Torture in Israel documented them at Ofer, Ganot, Naqab
(Ketziot), Gilboa and Nitzan prisons.

Prison Service rules as read by Physicians for Human Rights Israel and the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, and where the shots were fired

What the rules permit

A few cases, such as:

an escape or attempted escape

violence against a guard or another person

a prisoner trying to break through doors

Where the shots were fired

From the two organizations'

August letter:

cells

isolation wings

the yard

the waiting room for lawyer visits

In the letter, the two organizations called for an end to firing rubber bullets at prisoners, especially at close range and in enclosed spaces.

Sources: PHRI 2026, PCATI 2026, Israel Prison Service 2026, Haaretz 2026

Complaints of guard violence

**“In the complaints filed in recent years,
we have not seen any
case in which anyone
was brought to trial.”**

– Merav Ben Ze'ev, head of the legal department at the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, to Haaretz

Prisoners are “very afraid of filing complaints about guard violence,” Ben Ze'ev says, and no one has an incentive to complain.

The Israel Prison Service's answers

To the letter from Physicians for Human Rights Israel and the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, two months later

No grounds for a blanket halt.

To their request for details of the weapons and ammunition in use, their characteristics and rules of operation

No justification for the request.

To the Associated Press, on the rules for rubber bullets and whether they were fired at close range

No response.

“The allegations described are part of the smear campaign against the State of Israel and its legal institutions around the world...”

– Israel Prison Service, in its response to Haaretz

Sources: Israel Prison Service 2026, Haaretz 2026, Associated Press 2026

Also this week**Minors in isolation**

Of 635 minors held by the Israel Prison Service in 2025, 351 were put in isolation at least once. The figure is from the Prison Service's own reply to a freedom-of-information request, published by Haaretz.

Bushra al-Tawil

A journalist, 33, held in administrative detention since February. Palestinian Prisoners' Society: she remains in isolation at Ohalei Oz prison in Beersheba and is being beaten.

Rasem Obeidat

A writer from East Jerusalem, 67. A judge signaled he would have to be freed within two days unless new evidence came; the next day Defense Minister Israel Katz signed a six-month administrative detention order. A Jerusalem court upheld it on Oct. 13.

Sources: Haaretz 2026, Palestinian Prisoners' Society 2026, Arab48 2026

And the shackle must break.

ولا بدّ للقيد
أن ينكسر

Not an order, a request.

**Send this to
one person
you know.**

Share it on your page too, if you can.