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The State of Palestine's Compliance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: The Death Penalty

Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights

a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1996

Human Rights and Democratic Participation Center (SHAMS)

and

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

for the 74th Session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

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The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based nongovernmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law. Established in 1983, The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publications. In 1991, The Advocates adopted a formal commitment to oppose the death penalty worldwide and organized a death penalty project to provide pro bono assistance on post-conviction appeals, as well as education and advocacy to end capital punishment. The Advocates currently holds a seat on the Steering Committee of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty is a volunteer-based non-government organization committed to strengthen the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Established in 2002, its ultimate objective is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty. To achieve its goal, the World Coalition advocates for a definitive end to death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force. In some countries, it is seeking to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition.

Human Rights and Democratic Participation Center (SHAMS) is a Palestinian NGO, founded in 2003 that operates in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. SHAMS holds consultative membership with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); is a member of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty; and is a member of many local, regional, and international coalitions. SHAMS is active in opposing the death penalty, in addition to its ongoing work on promoting and defending human rights and democracy within the Palestinian community; promoting good governance and human rights within the Palestinian security sector; enhancing women's access to justice; advocating for children's rights and community safety; defending the right to peaceful assembly; and providing legal aid to women and children.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The State of Palestine acceded to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on 1 April 2014. The State is now working to fulfill its international obligations under the Covenant by drafting laws pertaining to family protection, cybercrimes, labor, and the criminal code. The State is considering removing the death penalty in its military code and recently informed the Human Rights Committee that it plans on “regulat[ing] the death penalty rather than abolish[ing] it for lack of political will.”¹
2. The State of Palestine retains the death penalty, and authorities in Gaza continue to carry out executions. As of August 2023, courts in Gaza had reportedly handed down at least 20 death sentences in 2023.² Authorities in the West Bank have observed a moratorium on executions since 2005. The law stipulates that executions can be carried out only if the President ratifies the death sentence, and the President has not ratified a death sentence since 2005.³
3. Palestine has failed to fulfill its obligation to ensure the equal rights of men and women in their enjoyment of all economic, social, and cultural rights (Arts. 2 & 3). Palestinian women are subject to gender-based violence and lack economic resources and legal resources.⁴ The courts’ failure to recognize a history of domestic violence as a mitigating factor during sentencing and the prevalence of honor killings in Palestinian society further perpetuate gender-based inequality and disrupt the family unit (Art. 10). individuals held in Palestinian prisons have been deprived of necessary health care.⁵

The State of Palestine fails to uphold its obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

I. Non-Discrimination, Especially Non-Discrimination Against Women (Arts. 2.2 & 3, List of Issues paras. 10-12)

The Committee requested that Palestine indicate its progress in addressing discriminatory stereotypes, de-facto inequalities, and ensuring non-discriminatory enjoyment of economic, social, and cultural rights.⁶ In its response to the List of Issues, the State Party report does not

¹ *In Dialogue with the State of Palestine, Experts of the Human Rights Committee Commend the Creation of an Observatory to Combat Gender-Based Violence, Raise Issues Concerning the Death Penalty, and Reported Targeting of Persons Exercising Freedom of Expression*, UN Human Rights (July, 6, 2023), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2023/07/dialogue-state-palestine-experts-human-rights-committee-commend-creation-observatory>.

² The Office of the European Representative (West Bank and Gaza Strip, UNRWA). *The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn the death sentences issued in Gaza*, Press release, (18 August 2023), available online at: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/palestine-occupied-palestinian-territory-west-bank-and-gaza-strip/eu-missions-jerusalem-and-ramallah-condemn-death-sentences-issued-gaza_en

³ Information provided by Palestine on Human Rights Committee, Initial report submitted by the State of Palestine under article 40 of the Covenant, due in 2015, (August 26, 2021), U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/PSE/1, ¶127.

⁴ Testimony in email on file with the author.

⁵ *Experts of the Committee against Torture Praise the State of Palestine for Supporting Female Victims of Violence, Ask about Conditions in Detention Centres and Torture Legislation*, United Nations, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/07/experts-committee-against-torture-praise-state-palestine-supporting-female>.

⁶ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, List of issues in relation to the initial report of the State of Palestine, UN.Doc E/C.12/PSE/Q/1, (16 November 2021) ¶10.

address the prevalence of stereotypes and discrimination in the judicial system even though capital trials can aggravate pre-existing gender-based inequality.⁷ Further, Palestine states, “[w]ith a view to enhancing the gender-sensitivity of providers of services in the security and justice sector, a unified gender training programme has been adopted by the Ministry of the Interior and the security establishment.”⁸ In its State Party Report, Palestine concedes that social stigma may lead to placing blame on the victims of violence against women.⁹ It is unclear how Palestine plans to address these harmful practices. At a global level, women tend to receive harsher sentences when perceived as deviating from their stereotypic roles as peaceful caregivers and caring mothers.¹⁰

Overall status the death penalty in Palestine.

4. The State of Palestine retains the death penalty, and authorities in Gaza continue to carry out executions. As of August 2023, courts in Gaza had reportedly handed down at least 20 death sentences in 2023.¹¹ Courts in Gaza issued 27 new death sentences in 2022; 11 more than in 2021.¹² Authorities in the West Bank have observed a moratorium on executions since 2005. The law stipulates that executions can be carried out only if the President ratifies the death sentence, and the President has not ratified a death sentence since 2005.¹³ West Bank courts last issued death sentences in 2015, when they sentenced two people to death.¹⁴
5. Since the split in power on 14 June 2007 between the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank under President Abbas, and the Hamas movement in Gaza, Hamas has carried out executions in Gaza without the President’s requisite signature. Gazan military courts have also conducted trials of civilians, and those courts may sentence civilians to death.

Women in Palestine are at a greater risk of being sentenced to death

6. According to the Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, women globally are most likely to be sentenced to death for murdering a family member, often in an environment of domestic violence,¹⁵ and conditions suggest that women are similarly at risk in Palestine.

⁷ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Replies of the State of Palestine to the list of issues in relation to its initial report, UN Doc. E/C.12/PSE/RQ/1 (1 May 2023).

⁸ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Replies of the State of Palestine to the list of issues in relation to its initial report, UN Doc. E/C.12/PSE/RQ/1 (1 May 2023).

⁹ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Replies of the State of Palestine to the list of issues in relation to its initial report, UN Doc. E/C.12/PSE/1 (3 February 2021).

¹⁰ *Judged for More Than Her Crime: A Global Overview of Women Facing the Death Penalty*, Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, 6 (Sept. 2018), <https://www.deathpenaltyworldwide.org/wpcontent/uploads/2019/12/Judged-More-Than-Her-Crime.pdf>

¹¹ The Office of the European Representative (West Bank and Gaza Strip, UNRWA). *The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn the death sentences issued in Gaza*, Press release, (18 August 2023), available online at: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/palestine-occupied-palestinian-territory-west-bank-and-gaza-strip/eu-missions-jerusalem-and-ramallah-condemn-death-sentences-issued-gaza_en

¹² *Palestine (State of) 2022*, Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/palestine-state-of/report-palestine-state-of/> (last assessed July 13, 2023).

¹³ Information provided by Palestine on Human Rights Committee, Initial report submitted by the State of Palestine under article 40 of the Covenant, due in 2015, (August 26, 2021), U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/PSE/1, ¶127.

¹⁴ Information in file with the author.

¹⁵ *Judged for More Than Her Crime: A Global Overview of Women Facing the Death Penalty*, Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, 4 (Sept. 2018), <https://www.deathpenaltyworldwide.org/wpcontent/uploads/2019/12/Judged-More-Than-Her-Crime.pdf>.

Violence in households and communities is a “deep-rooted phenomenon in the Palestinian society.”¹⁶ It is reported that Palestinian women are particularly vulnerable to physical and psychological abuse because the country’s patriarchal and traditional societal structure leads to women having less autonomy.¹⁷

7. In 2019, 29% of currently married or previously married Palestinian women experienced some form of violence by their husbands.¹⁸ This number jumps to 38% for women residing in the Gaza Strip, where UN Women reported that gender-based violence has been increasing.¹⁹ As a specific example involving the death penalty, on October 5, 2016, the Khanyounis Court of First Instance convicted 26-year-old Nahla Abu Anza of premediated murder of her husband and sentenced her to death by hanging. Nahla reported that she was forced into marriage against her will, and her husband insulted and beat her daily.²⁰ Unless a woman files a case raising domestic violence accusations against her husband—which victims rarely do—courts will not take domestic violence into account in her sentencing if she later kills her abusive husband, even she acts in self-defense.²¹
8. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased incidents of domestic violence.²² Economic discrimination and exclusion from the labor market have also increased as the pandemic pushed Palestinian women into extreme poverty and financial insecurity.²³ Further, homemakers and women with low levels of education have been exposed to gender-based violence more than others during the pandemic.²⁴

Access to Justice

9. Palestine reported the constitution of the National Committee against Violence against Women, which it is reported to implemented strategies for prevention of violence and ensuring

¹⁶ *Preliminary Results of the Violence Survey in the Palestinian Society*, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 9 (Nov. 2019). Available online at: https://palestine.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/violence_survey_preliminary_results_2019.pdf

¹⁷ Ensherah Khoury E & Michal Krumer-Nevo, *Poverty in Arab-Palestinian society in Israel: Social work perspectives before and during COVID-19*. 66 Int’l Soc Work 117, 125 (Jan. 2023).

¹⁸ *Preliminary Results of the Violence Survey in the Palestinian Society*, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 20 (Nov. 2019).

¹⁹ *Preliminary Results of the Violence Survey in the Palestinian Society*, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 20 (Nov. 2019); *2021 Gender Alert: A Multisectoral Gender Analysis to Inform the 2022 Humanitarian Programme Cycle in the oPt*, UN Women, 9 (2021).

²⁰ Testimony in Email on file with the author.

²¹ Email on file with the author.

²² *2021 Gender Alert: A Multisectoral Gender Analysis to Inform the 2022 Humanitarian Programme Cycle in the oPt*, UN Women, 9 (2021). Available online at: https://palestine.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/un%20women%20gender%20alert%20analysis-111121_compressed.pdf

²³ Fayez Mahamid, Guido Veronese, & Dana Bdier, *Gender-based violence experiences among Palestinian women during the COVID-19 pandemic: mental health professionals’ perceptions and concerns*, 16 Conflict and Health 2 (2022).

²⁴ Fayez Mahamid, Guido Veronese, & Dana Bdier, *Gender-based violence experiences among Palestinian women during the COVID-19 pandemic: mental health professionals’ perceptions and concerns*, 16 Conflict and Health 5 (2022).

equality of women.²⁵ In 2019, however, only 28% of married women living in the Gaza Strip were aware of centers or institutions near them for protection against violence.²⁶

10. Women who report enduring violence are perceived negatively among their communities.²⁷ As a consequence, 61% of women who experienced violence by their spouses remain silent, and only 1% of women went to the police.²⁸ Underreporting signals that services are not survivor-centered and that survivors do not trust existing services.²⁹
11. Many factors prevent women's access to justice. According to one report, some religious groups misuse Sharia principles to prevent women from accessing legal channels.³⁰ The informal judicial system and the power of tribes also hinder women's access to justice.³¹ The long duration of litigation and low success rate further deter women.³²
12. According to the findings of a 2018 UN Women case study in the Jordan Valley, Tubas, and H2 areas of Palestine, only 2% of women experiencing gender-based violence had knowledge of and access to legal services.³³

Feminization of poverty increases the risk of being sentenced to death.

13. Women in poverty are at a severe disadvantage when faced with the risk of a death sentence.³⁴ 1.4 million Palestinians live in poverty, and Palestinian women living in poverty are a "particularly vulnerable group."³⁵ The State Party report provides raw numbers on the number of "economic empowerment projects" awarded to women.³⁶ It is difficult to assess the impact of these projects, however, without knowing the percentage of women receiving them. Further, it is unclear whether these projects are effective in reducing poverty and generating long-term income.
14. Indeed, on a global scale many women sentenced to death have disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.³⁷ Palestinian women have a low rate of participation in the labor force (17%) and a high rate of unemployment (43%).³⁸ According to the 2019 Violence in Palestinian

²⁵ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Initial report submitted by the State of Palestine under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant, due in 2016, UN Doc. E/C.12/PSE/1, (3 February 2021),¶51

²⁶ *Preliminary Results of the Violence Survey in the Palestinian Society*, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 23 (Nov. 2019).

²⁷ Email on file with the author.

²⁸ *Preliminary Results of the Violence Survey in the Palestinian Society*, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 22 (Nov. 2019).

²⁹ *2021 Gender Alert: A Multisectoral Gender Analysis to Inform the 2022 Humanitarian Programme Cycle in the oPt*, UN Women, 9 (2021).

³⁰ Testimony in email on file with the author.

³¹ Testimony in email on file with the author.

³² Testimony in email on file with the author.

³³ *Caught Up Between a Rock & a Hard Place: Occupation, Patriarchy and Gender Relations: A UN Women Case Study of Palestinian Women in Area C & H2*, UN Women, 60 (2018).

³⁴ *Death penalty disproportionately affects the poor, UN rights experts warn*, UN Human Rights (Oct. 6, 2017).

³⁵ *2021 Gender Alert: A Multisectoral Gender Analysis to Inform the 2022 Humanitarian Programme Cycle in the oPt*, UN Women, 8 (2021).

³⁶ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Initial report submitted by the State of Palestine under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant, due in 2016, UN Doc. E/C.12/PSE/1, (3 February 2021),¶131

³⁷ *Judged for More Than Her Crime: A Global Overview of Women Facing the Death Penalty*, Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, 4 (Sept. 2018).

³⁸ M.K., *While female enrollment in education is higher than males, their labor participation remains highly inferior*, WAFA News Agency (March 7, 2022, 1:17 PM), <https://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/128313>.

Society Survey conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, beyond the physical domestic violence discussed above, 41% of Palestinian women experienced economic violence by their husbands in 2019.³⁹ The lack of economic resources makes it difficult for women to retain qualified legal counsel during capital trials.⁴⁰

15. Because Palestinian women frequently lack property or money of their own, they are at increased risk of facing the death penalty. In Palestine, financial restitution can reduce the accused's sentence or settle the case.⁴¹ For example, the family of Nahla Abu Anza, discussed in paragraph _ above, refused to pay "blood money" to her husband's family after she killed her husband. Compensating the husband's family would have settled the case.⁴² Instead, the court appointed her a lawyer who provided substandard representation, and ultimately, she was sentenced to death.⁴³
16. Fair trial principles dictate that courts should consider all relevant mitigating circumstances.⁴⁴ Sentencing courts often fail to consider a woman's history as a survivor of gender-based violence or a psychologically abusive relationship as mitigating factors.⁴⁵ Further, as discussed above, except under limited circumstances, Palestine does not recognize self-defense, even for women like Nahla Abu Anza who have experienced prolonged domestic violence.⁴⁶
17. Lack of education makes it difficult for women to be fully engaged in their defense and to read and interpret legal documents.⁴⁷ The Israeli occupation has disrupted the educational infrastructure of Palestine.⁴⁸ Palestine did not report efforts to address the adverse effects of the armed conflict on access to educational opportunities. The Israeli occupation has particularly undermined the rights of Palestinian refugees to education, employment, and

³⁹ *Preliminary Results of the Violence Survey in the Palestinian Society*, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 20 (Nov. 2019).

⁴⁰ Lydia Cardwell, *The State of Girls' Education in Palestine*, The Borgen Project (June 21, 2018), <https://borgenproject.org/the-state-of-girls-education-in-palestine/#:~:text=Girls%27%20education%20in%20Palestine%20can,as%20often%20as%20boys%20do.>

⁴¹ *Judged for More Than Her Crime: A Global Overview of Women Facing the Death Penalty*, Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, 8 (Sept. 2018).

⁴² Rasha Abou Jalal, *Gaza to hear appeal of women's death sentence*, Al-Monitor (Dec. 23, 2016), <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2016/12/palestine-execution-women-first-time-death-penalty-nahla.html>.

⁴³ Rasha Abou Jalal, *Gaza to hear appeal of women's death sentence*, Al-Monitor (Dec. 23, 2016), <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2016/12/palestine-execution-women-first-time-death-penalty-nahla.html>.

⁴⁴ *"No One Believed Me": A Global Overview of Women Facing the Death Penalty for Drug Offenses*, Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, (Sept. 6, 2021), <https://deathpenaltyworldwide.org/publication/no-one-believed-me-a-global-overview-of-women-facing-the-death-penalty-for-drug-offenses/>.

⁴⁵ *Judged for More Than Her Crime: A Global Overview of Women Facing the Death Penalty*, Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, 19, 22 (Sept. 2018), <https://www.deathpenaltyworldwide.org/wpcontent/uploads/2019/12/Judged-More-Than-Her-Crime.pdf>.

⁴⁶ Email on file with the author.

⁴⁷ *Judged for More Than Her Crime: A Global Overview of Women Facing the Death Penalty*, Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, 8 (Sept. 2018), <https://www.deathpenaltyworldwide.org/wpcontent/uploads/2019/12/Judged-More-Than-Her-Crime.pdf>.

⁴⁸ Lydia Cardwell, *The State of Girls' Education in Palestine*, The Borgen Project (June 21, 2018), <https://borgenproject.org/the-state-of-girls-education-in-palestine/#:~:text=Girls%27%20education%20in%20Palestine%20can,as%20often%20as%20boys%20do.>

property.⁴⁹ In general, living under military occupation increases women's risk of discrimination and victimization.⁵⁰

18. Suggested recommendations relating to women and the death penalty:

- Abolish the death penalty and replace it with a penalty that is fair, proportionate, and consistent with international human rights standards.
- In the interim, eliminate the death penalty as a possible sentence for non-violent offenses.
- Prevent the application of the death penalty to women and girls who have survived gender-based violence, including early and forced marriages as well as rape and sexual assault, and who subsequently engage in criminal conduct against their abusers.
- Conduct the Violence in Palestinian Society Survey every five years.
- Disseminate information to women about local centers or institutions for protection against violence, focusing on women in the Gaza Strip.
- Collaborate with civil society organizations that specialize in gender-based violence to provide judges who have sentencing authority with comprehensive gender-sensitization training, including with respect to women and girls accused of crimes who have experienced gender-based violence, focusing on gender-based discrimination, domestic violence, and coercive control that may lead women to commit capital offenses.
- Ensure that all women accused of capital crimes have access to free and effective legal representation by attorneys who specialize in death penalty cases, ensure access to counsel at all times in the litigation, and ensure that the defense team has sufficient funding to conduct a thorough investigation and secure relevant expert witnesses, particularly regarding gender-specific defenses.
- Commute the sentences of women sentenced to death for killing people who perpetrated gender-based violence against them.
- Track the impact and effectiveness of the economic empowerment projects on generating long-term income and eradicating poverty.

II. The right to physical and mental health (Art. 12, List of Issues para. 25)

19. The Committee requested information about accessibility of health-care services.⁵¹ Palestine in its Replies to the List of Issues report stated, “[h]ealth insurance services have been provided to 132 Palestinian prisoners, and the insurance is regularly renewed on an

⁴⁹ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Replies of the State of Palestine to the list of issues in relation to its initial report, UN Doc. E/C.12/PSE/1 (3 February 2021).

⁵⁰ Fayez Mahamid, Guido Veronese, & Dana Bdier, *Gender-based violence experiences among Palestinian women during the COVID-19 pandemic: mental health professionals' perceptions and concerns*, 16 Conflict and Health 7 (2022).

⁵¹ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, List of issues in relation to the initial report of the State of Palestine, UN. Doc.E/C.12/PSE/Q/1, ¶25

annual basis for persons who remain in detention for more than a year.”⁵² It is unclear from the information provided by Palestine which criteria are used to select people receiving health insurance while in detention or where are detained.

20. People detained in Palestinian jails are deprived of adequate medical treatment.⁵³ Up to 12 individuals may be housed in one cell, leading to hygiene and ventilation concerns.⁵⁴ According to the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, several people in Palestinian prisons have suffered declining health conditions leading to death while in custody. Two people have died in police custody in 2023 alone. One of these individuals who died in detention, M.S., died on April 20 while in police detention after officers allegedly beat him during an interrogation.⁵⁵ M.S.’s son, who was also in detention, overheard the interrogation, his father’s whines of pain, and eventually the police officers calling M.S. to wake up.⁵⁶
21. The second individual, A.L., died on May 1 in military police detention, after his asthma condition had continued to worsen.⁵⁷ While A.L.’s family had personally been delivering his medication to the prison, A.L.’s son had informed his mother that A.L.’s condition was bad the day before the death.⁵⁸
22. A 2019 report issued by the Independent Commission for Human Rights titled “Report on the Assessment of the Compliance of the Correction and Rehabilitation Centers in Palestine with International Prison Standards,” confirms that there is a shortage of primary health care services available for persons in custody. According to the report, there is no specialized doctor in each center, and women in rehabilitation centers experience shortages

⁵² Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Replies of the State of Palestine to the list of issues in relation to its initial report [sic]. UN. Doc E/C.12/PSE/RQ/1

⁵³ *Annual Report 2021: Human Rights in the occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt)* (Gaza City: 2022), 27,103-08, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, <https://pchrgaza.org/en/annual-report-2021/>.

⁵⁴ *Experts of the Committee against Torture Praise the State of Palestine for Supporting Female Victims of Violence, Ask about Conditions in Detention Centres and Torture Legislation*, United Nations, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/07/experts-committee-against-torture-praise-state-palestine-supporting-female>.

⁵⁵ *PCHR Demands Investigation into Death Circumstances of Detainee in Police Custody in Rafah*, Press Release, (April 20, 2023), Palestinian Center for Human Rights, <https://pchrgaza.org/en/pchr-demands-investigation-into-death-circumstances-of-detainee-in-police-custody-in-ra-fah/>.

⁵⁶ *PCHR Demands Investigation into Death Circumstances of Detainee in Police Custody in Rafah*, Press Release, (April 20, 2023), Palestinian Center for Human Rights, <https://pchrgaza.org/en/pchr-demands-investigation-into-death-circumstances-of-detainee-in-police-custody-in-ra-fah/>.

⁵⁷ *Second Case of This Year: Palestinian Detainee Died at Military Police Detention*, Press Release, (May 1, 2023), Palestinian Center for Human Rights, <https://pchrgaza.org/en/second-case-of-this-year-palestinian-detainee-died-at-military-police-detention/>.

⁵⁸ *Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Second Case of This Year: Palestinian Detainee Died at Military Police Detention*, Press Release, (May 1, 2023), Palestinian Center for Human Rights, <https://pchrgaza.org/en/second-case-of-this-year-palestinian-detainee-died-at-military-police-detention/>.

in available health care services. Further, there is no special clinic for women nor is there an obstetrician-gynecologist in these centers.⁵⁹

23. **Suggested recommendations** relating to health conditions in Palestinian prisons:

- On at least an annual basis, publish transparent information on the number of men, women, transgender persons, and nonbinary persons sentenced to death and on death row, disaggregated by age, age of dependent children (if any), nationality, race / ethnic group, relationship to the victim, relationship to any codefendants, date of arrest, date of notification of the right to consular notification (if applicable), crime of conviction, date of conviction, and date of execution (if applicable), to facilitate analysis of the demographics of women on death row.
- Develop a system in which individuals in Palestinian prisons are permitted to contact external nongovernmental organizations or legal aid services in relation to access to medical care.
- Develop regular healthcare services for individuals in Palestinian prisons, allowing medication to be housed internally for people with chronic conditions.
- Allow people in detention facilities to have annual health checkups to ensure their physical wellbeing and permit doctors to check in with individuals post-checkups if additional examination and monitoring is needed.

⁵⁹*Report on the Assessment of the Compliance of the Correction and Rehabilitation Centers in Palestine with International Prison Standards*, Independent Commission for Human Rights (Oct. 2019), [تقييم مواءمة مراكز الإصلاح - الإصدار 2 - النسخة الانجليزية 1675322629.pdf \(ichr.ps\)](#); see also email on file with the author.