# Palestinian Prisoner Martyrs 1967–1987 | Full List of Those Killed in Occupation Prisons

In the first twenty years of the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, between the June 1967 war and the outbreak of the First Intifada in December 1987, the Zionist occupation threw thousands of Palestinians into prison and turned its interrogation cellars into slaughterhouses. The list of martyrs of the prisoner movement records **73 martyrs** in this period: 39 died under torture, 15 were killed after arrest, and 18 died of medical neglect, 3 of them during hunger strikes. [1][2][3]

This article is part of Palestinuna's series on "The martyrs of the prisoner movement" and includes a table of all the martyrs of this period, as listed by the WAFA national information centre and the researcher Abdel Naser Farwana.

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# In numbers

| Item | Details |
|---|---|
| Martyrs | 73 |
| Under torture | 39 |
| Killed after arrest | 15 |
| Medical neglect | 15, plus 3 during hunger strikes |
| Assassinated in prison | 1 |
| First martyrs after the occupation | 8 June 1967: three men from Nuseirat camp killed right after arrest |
| Prison with most martyrs | Ashkelon: 11 |
| Arab and foreign martyrs | From Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and al-Arish, and one Greek |

[1][2]

# Killed right after arrest

The list of martyrs began in the first days of the occupation: on 8 June 1967 occupation soldiers killed **Ahmad al-Nuweiri**, **Khalil Siam** and **Zaki Siam** of Nuseirat camp right after arresting them. The pattern repeated in the camps of the Gaza Strip in the years that followed: on a single day, 30 March 1970, three men from Jabalia – Ahmad Abu Diya, Yusuf Asaliya and Ahmad Afana – were killed as they were arrested. [1]

On 27 May 1969 occupation soldiers threw **Qasem al-Jaabari** of Hebron from an aircraft after arresting him, and in October 1969 they shot dead the Lebanese **Muhammad Khreizat** of Aitaroun two days after capturing him. [1]

On 13 April 1984 **Jamal Qablan** and **Muhammad Abu Jame'** of Khan Younis were killed after being captured alive, in what is known as the "Bus 300" affair. [1]

## The interrogation cellars

Torture was the leading cause of prisoners' deaths in this period. The first to die under it was **Yusuf al-Jabali**, in Nablus prison on 4 January 1968. The martyrs fell across interrogation centres and prisons: Sarafand, al-Moscobiya in Jerusalem, the prisons of Gaza, Nablus, Hebron, Ramallah and Tulkarm, and Ashkelon prison, where 11 died. [1][2]

Death did not always come inside the cell: **Jamil Barakat** of Rafah in 1975 and **Salama al-Hassouni** of Sa'ir in 1981 died days after their release, from the effects of torture. [1]

## Medical neglect and the battles of empty stomachs

In 1970 **Abd al-Qader Abu al-Fahm** of Jabalia died in the Ashkelon prison hunger strike, the prisoner movement's first hunger-strike martyr. In July 1980 **Rasem Halawa** and **Ali al-Jaafari** died in the Nafha prison strike, followed by **Anis Dawla** of Qalqilya in Ashkelon in August of the same year. [4][1]

The martyrs of medical neglect include **Ajjaj Alawneh** of Jaba, whose treatment for a brain haemorrhage was delayed in Jenin prison in 1976; **Salim Abu Sbeih** of Hebron, a prisoner since 1970, who died in Junaid prison in 1982; and **Ishaq al-Maragha** of Silwan, in Beersheba prison in 1983. [1][5]

## Arab martyrs in the occupation's prisons

The martyrs were not only Palestinians. Arab prisoners also died in the occupation's prisons in this period: the Syrian **Omar Shalabi** of Aleppo under torture in Ashkelon in 1973, the Jordanian **Nassar al-Huweitat** in 1977, the Syrian **Nasser al-Heib** in 1978, the Iraqi **Salah Abbas** in Ashkelon in 1981, the Lebanese Muhammad Khreizat, and Hasan al-Sawarka of al-Arish. The Greek **Mikhail Papa Lazaro** also died, in the Ramla prison hospital in 1983. [1][2]

# The full list

The table lists the martyrs of the prisoner movement between 1967 and 1987 in order of date of martyrdom (day/month/year), as given in Abdel Naser Farwana's list and checked against the WAFA information centre's list. [1][2]

| # | Name | Hometown | Date | Prison/place | Cause |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ahmad Muhammad Salama al-Nuweiri | Nuseirat camp | 8/6/1967 | – | Killed after arrest |
| 2 | Khalil Kamel Hussein Siam | Nuseirat camp | 8/6/1967 | – | Killed after arrest |
| 3 | Zaki Hashem Muhammad Siam | Nuseirat camp | 8/6/1967 | – | Killed after arrest |
| 4 | Yusuf al-Jabali | Nablus | 4/1/1968 | Nablus prison | Torture |
| 5 | Khalil Salama Qreinat al-Rashayda | Bethlehem | 28/4/1968 | – | Medical neglect |
| 6 | Mustafa Muhammad Hafez Harb | Shujaiyya, Gaza | 2/7/1968 | – | Torture |
| 7 | Fathi Abd al-Fattah al-Natsheh | Hebron | 28/7/1968 | Sarafand | Torture |
| 8 | Younis Mubarak Hussein Abu Sbeitan | Deir al-Balah | 11/10/1968 | Sarafand | Torture |
| 9 | Qasem Abdullah Abu Akar | Beit Hanina, Jerusalem | 23/3/1969 | al-Moscobiya | Torture |

| # | Name | Hometown | Date | Prison/place | Cause |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | Qasem Ahmad al-Jaabari | Hebron | 27/5/1969 | – | Killed after arrest |
| 11 | Ahmad Musallam Abu Omeira | Gaza | 15/8/1969 | Gaza prison | Torture |
| 12 | Muhammad Khreizat | Aitaroun, south Lebanon | 14/10/1969 | – | Killed after arrest |
| 13 | Qasem Abu Khadra | Acre | 4/11/1969 | – | Torture |
| 14 | Awn Saeed Hussein al-Arair | Shujaiyya, Gaza | 10/3/1970 | al-Majdal | Torture |
| 15 | Ahmad Khamis Ahmad Abu Diya | Jabalia camp | 30/3/1970 | – | Killed after arrest |
| 16 | Yusuf Muhammad Mustafa Asaliya | Jabalia | 30/3/1970 | – | Killed after arrest |
| 17 | Ahmad Afana | Jabalia | 30/3/1970 | – | Killed after arrest |
| 18 | Abd al-Qader Jabr Ahmad Abu al-Fahm | Jabalia | 11/7/1970 | Ashkelon | Medical neglect during a hunger strike |
| 19 | Harees Ali Abu Hayya (Abu al-Layl) | Deir al-Balah | 21/7/1970 | – | Killed after arrest |
| 20 | Othman Badawi Othman al-Bahsh | Nablus | 28/8/1970 | Nablus prison | Torture |
| 21 | Ali Ibrahim Ahmad Abu Sultan | Nuseirat camp | 1/10/1970 | – | Killed after arrest |

| # | Name | Hometown | Date | Prison/place | Cause |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22 | Sameeh Saeed Abu Hasballah | Nuseirat camp | 12/10/1970 | – | Killed after arrest |
| 23 | Deeb Musa Nassif Shtayyeh | Salfit | 25/10/1970 | – | Torture |
| 24 | Hashem Ibrahim Hashem Karim | al-Shati camp | 22/12/1970 | Ramla | Torture |
| 25 | Salem al-Hajj Mahmoud Hasan Safi | Dura | 6/1/1971 | Hebron prison | Torture |
| 26 | Mustafa Muhammad Aqeel al-Darabee | Dura | 22/2/1971 | Beersheba | Torture |
| 27 | Muhyi al-Din Suleiman al-Ouri | Ramallah | 2/3/1971 | Ramallah prison | Torture |
| 28 | al-Hajj Ramadan Ashour al-Banna | Jerusalem | 18/6/1971 | Ramla | Medical neglect |
| 29 | Muhammad Hassan Mahmoud Washah | al-Bureij camp | 1/9/1971 | Gaza prison | Torture |
| 30 | Hasan Ibrahim Mahmoud Abu Rukba | Jabalia camp | 21/9/1971 | – | Killed after arrest |
| 31 | Hasan al-Sawarka | al-Arish | 27/3/1972 | Ashkelon | Torture |
| 32 | Issa Mutlaq Abd al-Hamid | Qabalan | 9/6/1972 | – | Torture |

| # | Name | Hometown | Date | Prison/place | Cause |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 33 | Mustafa al-Awawdeh | Hebron | 27/7/1972 | Hebron prison | Torture |
| 34 | Nasr al-Din Fahmi Muhammad al-Shakhshir | Nablus | 2/5/1973 | Ashkelon | Torture |
| 35 | Fareez Husni Asaad Tashtoush | Nablus | 27/9/1973 | Nablus prison | Torture |
| 36 | Omar Shalabi | Aleppo, Syria | 22/10/1973 | Ashkelon | Torture |
| 37 | Salem Muhammad Mustafa Abu Sitta | Khan Younis | 13/10/1974 | Gaza prison | Torture |
| 38 | Omar Ahmad Awadallah (Abu Ahmad) | Jabalia camp | 20/1/1975 | Ashkelon | Medical neglect |
| 39 | Jamil Diab Ali Barakat | Rafah | 25/10/1975 | – | Torture |
| 40 | Fuad Muhammad Salama Hmeid (Abu Hadid) | Jabalia camp | 19/1/1976 | Ashkelon | Torture |
| 41 | Ahmad Deeb Ahmad Dahdoul | Salfit | 21/3/1976 | – | Torture |
| 42 | Muhammad Yusuf al-Khawaja | Ni’lin, Ramallah | 2/6/1976 | Ramallah prison | Torture |
| 43 | Omran Radwan Qurei Abu Khalaf | Hebron | 5/6/1976 | Hebron prison | Medical neglect |
| 44 | Khader Issa Nimr Hilani | Ramallah | 14/6/1976 | Nablus prison | Assassinated in prison |

| # | Name | Hometown | Date | Prison/place | Cause |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 45 | Ajjaj Yasin Jaber Alawneh | Jaba | 16/10/1976 | Jenin prison | Medical neglect |
| 46 | Nassar Sweilem al-Huweitat (Abu Ali) | Jordan | 2/8/1977 | Ramla hospital | Medical neglect |
| 47 | Farid Hafez Ghannam | al-Jab’a | 28/5/1978 | Nablus prison | Medical neglect |
| 48 | Yusuf Ahmad Hasan Karim | Khan Younis | 13/7/1978 | Gaza prison | Torture |
| 49 | Nasser al-Heib | Syria | 16/7/1978 | Ramla hospital | Torture |
| 50 | Saeed Abu Sitta | Khan Younis | 18/1/1979 | Gaza prison | Torture |
| 51 | Idris Ibrahim Muhammad Nofal | Gaza | 21/8/1979 | Gaza prison | Medical neglect |
| 52 | Rasem Muhammad Halawa | Jabalia | 20/7/1980 | Nafha | Medical neglect during a hunger strike |
| 53 | Ali Shehadeh Muhammad al-Jaafari | Dheisheh camp | 24/7/1980 | Nafha | Medical neglect during a hunger strike |
| 54 | Anis Mahmoud Dawla | Qalqilya | 31/8/1980 | Ashkelon | Medical neglect |
| 55 | Fayez Abd al-Fattah Muhammad al-Tarayreh | Bani Naim, Hebron | 25/1/1981 | Tel HaShomer hospital | Torture |
| 56 | Salah Muhammad Ali Abbas | Iraq | 29/9/1981 | Ashkelon | Medical neglect |

| # | Name | Hometown | Date | Prison/place | Cause |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 57 | Ali Ibrahim al-Shatrit (Abu Issa) | Halhul | 17/10/1981 | Ashkelon | Medical neglect |
| 58 | Salama Muhammad Salman al-Hassouni | Sa’ir, Hebron | 22/11/1981 | – | Torture |
| 59 | Salim Ahmad Yahya Abu Sbeih | Hebron | 7/4/1982 | Junaid | Medical neglect |
| 60 | Yaqoub Muhammad Dababesh | al-Nasr, Gaza | 28/10/1982 | Ashkelon | Torture |
| 61 | Hamza Omar Othman Abu Shuaib | Jamma’in | 25/2/1983 | Tulkarm prison | Torture |
| 62 | Mikhail Papa Lazaro | Greece | 12/3/1983 | Ramla hospital | Medical neglect |
| 63 | Khalil Ibrahim Abu Khadija | Ramallah | 5/4/1983 | Ramallah prison | Torture |
| 64 | Ishaq Musa al-Maragha (Abu Jamal) | Silwan, Jerusalem | 16/11/1983 | Beersheba | Medical neglect |
| 65 | Bilal Jamil Hamdan al-Najjar al-Burini | Burin, Nablus | 28/3/1984 | – | Killed after arrest |
| 66 | Jamal Mahmoud Qablan | Khan Younis | 13/4/1984 | – | Killed after arrest |
| 67 | Muhammad Abu Jame’ | Khan Younis | 13/4/1984 | – | Killed after arrest |
| 68 | Mahmoud Arabi Freitekh | Nablus | 16/4/1985 | Junaid | Torture |

| # | Name | Hometown | Date | Prison/place | Cause |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 69 | Mahmoud Salim Rabah Najajreh | Nahhalin | 23/9/1985 | St Joseph’s hospital | Medical neglect |
| 70 | Ghassan Ishaq Yusuf al-Laham | Dheisheh camp | 2/10/1985 | Ramla | Torture |
| 71 | Tareq al-Hindi | Jerusalem | 2/2/1986 | Ashkelon | Torture |
| 72 | Tareq Yasin Hashem al-Hamouri | Hebron | 3/4/1987 | Junaid | Torture |
| 73 | Awwad Abd al-Salam Hamdan | Tulkarm | 22/7/1987 | Sourasky hospital | Torture |

## Between the accounts

**Abd al-Qader Abu al-Fahm:** sources differ on the date of his martyrdom in 1970: 11 May in the WAFA list, 11 June in Noon Post, 11 July in Farwana’s list, and 5 November in Diwan al-Arab. [2][4][1][5]

**Mahmoud Freitekh:** Noon Post says he died after the Junaid prison hunger strike of 1984, while the WAFA and Farwana lists say he died under torture in Junaid prison on 16 April 1985. [4][2][1]

**Zaki Siam:** Farwana’s list dates his martyrdom to 8 June 1967 with his two comrades from Nuseirat, while in the WAFA list he appears under 4 January 1968. [1][2]

**Awn al-Arair:** 10 March 1970 in the WAFA and Farwana lists, and 3 October 1970 in Diwan al-Arab. [1][5]

**Cause of death:** lists may classify causes differently; Ishaq al-Maragha, for example, is listed under medical neglect, while Diwan al-Arab describes him as denied adequate treatment. [1][5]

# Timeline

| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| 8 June 1967 | Three men from Nuseirat camp killed right after arrest [1] |
| 4 January 1968 | Yusuf al-Jabali dies under torture in Nablus prison [1] |
| 27 May 1969 | Qasem al-Jaabari thrown from an aircraft after arrest [1] |
| 30 March 1970 | Three men from Jabalia killed as they were arrested [1] |
| 1970 | Abd al-Qader Abu al-Fahm dies in the Ashkelon hunger strike [4] |
| 22 October 1973 | The Syrian Omar Shalabi dies under torture in Ashkelon [1] |
| July 1980 | Rasem Halawa and Ali al-Jaafari die in the Nafha strike [1] |
| 16 November 1983 | Ishaq al-Maragha dies in Beersheba prison [1] |
| 13 April 1984 | Jamal Qablan and Muhammad Abu Jame’ killed after capture (Bus 300) [1] |
| 22 July 1987 | Awwad Hamdan of Tulkarm dies under torture, the last martyr of the period [1] |

# Frequently asked questions about prisoner martyrs 1967–1987

## How many prisoners died between 1967 and 1987?

73 martyrs according to the WAFA and Abdel Naser Farwana lists. [1][2]

## Who was the first prisoner to die under torture after 1967?

Yusuf al-Jabali of Nablus, in Nablus prison on 4 January 1968. [1]

## What was the most common cause of death in this period?

Torture, under which 39 of the 73 died. [1]

### Did Arab prisoners die in the occupation’s prisons?

Yes, from Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. [1]

## Sources and references


1. Abdel Naser Awni Farwana, “List of martyrs of the national prisoner movement,” Palestine Behind Bars, updated to 15 May 2023 (in Arabic).
2. Palestinian News & Info Agency (WAFA) Info Centre, “Martyrs of the national prisoner movement in Israeli prisons and detention camps” (in Arabic).
3. Al Jazeera Encyclopedia, “The Palestinian prisoner movement: structures uniting prisoners against the occupation’s jailer,” 25 January 2025 (in Arabic).
4. Noon Post, on the hunger-strike martyrs of the occupation’s prisons (in Arabic).
5. Diwan al-Arab, “From the martyrs of the national prisoner movement,” 11 April 2003 (in Arabic).