Palestinian Prisoner Martyrs 1987–2000 | Deaths in Occupation Prisons in the First Intifada and After Oslo

When the First Intifada erupted in December 1987, the Zionist occupation opened mass detention camps in the desert and in army bases, threw thousands of Palestinians into them, and gave interrogators and guards a free hand. The list of martyrs of the prisoner movement records **50 martyrs** between 1988 and 1998: 41 fell in the Intifada years before the Oslo accords, and 9 after. No martyrs are recorded for 1994 or 1999. [1][2]

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.

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In numbers

Item	Details
Martyrs	50 (1988–1998)

Item	Details
Under torture	27, of whom 3 died after release
Medical neglect	12, plus one during a hunger strike
Shot by camp guards	6
Killed during or after arrest	4
Deadliest year	1988: 12 martyrs
Before / after Oslo	41 / 9
Main camps	Ansar 3 in the Negev, Ansar 2, al-Dhahiriya, Megiddo, Ofer, al-Moscobiya and Gaza prison

[1]

The Intifada camps and the bullets

1988 was the deadliest year, with 12 prisoners killed. On 16 August 1988 guards at the **Ansar 3** camp in the Negev desert opened fire on the prisoners, killing **Asaad al-Shawa** of Shujaiyya and **Bassam al-Samoudi** of al-Yamoun. Shootings inside the camps continued: **Nidal Deeb** in Megiddo in 1989, **Abdullah Abu Mahrouqa** in Ansar 2 the same year, **Sabri Abd Rabbo** of al-Jib in Ofer in 1990, and **Musa Abd al-Rahman** of Nuba in 1992. [1]

In Ansar 3 itself **Hussam Qar'an** of Qalqilya died in 1990 after a gas attack and torture, and **Muhammad al-Reefi** died of medical neglect; in Kfar Yona prison **Muhammad Hammad** of Silwad died after inhaling gas and being left untreated. [1]

Torture: the leading cause

Twenty-seven of this period's martyrs – more than half – died of torture. Many fell in the cells of Gaza prison, such as **Jamal Abu Sharkh** and **Khaled al-Sheikh Ali** in December 1989 and **Atiyya al-Za'anin** in 1990, and in the cells of al-Moscobiya in Jerusalem, such as **Nabil Ibdah** of Beit Hanina in 1988. [1][3]

On 4 February 1992 **Mustafa al-Akkawi** of Jerusalem died under torture in Hebron

prison, where 3 martyrs fell in this period. Death did not always come inside the cell: **Abdullah Alawneh** of Jenin died three days after his release in 1990, and **Samir Omar** of al-Shati camp died days after being moved from prison to hospital in 1992. [1][3]

Medical neglect and the 1992 strike

Among the most prominent martyrs of medical neglect in this period was **Omar al-Qasim** of Jerusalem, who died in Ashkelon prison on 4 June 1989, a prisoner since 1969. [1][3]

On 27 September 1992 the first open-ended hunger strike joined by all the occupation's prisons began, lasting 15 days. During it **Hussein Obeidat** of Jerusalem died in Ashkelon prison. [4][5][1]

After Oslo: the torture goes on

The Oslo accords did not stop the killing of prisoners. Of the 9 martyrs who fell after them up to 1998, 6 died of torture or its effects. On 25 April 1995 **Abd al-Samad Hreizat** of Yatta died in al-Moscobiya and **Ma'zouz Dallal** of Nablus in Assaf Harofeh hospital, both of torture. In 1996 **Walid al-Sarouji** of Tulkarm was killed by torture after his arrest, and **Majed Daghlas** of Burqin died right after his release. [1]

Al-Moscobiya went on claiming prisoners: **Khaled Abu Diya** of Bethlehem in 1997 and **Nidal Abu Srour** of Aida camp in January 1998. The last martyr of the period was **Yusuf al-Arair** of Shujaiyya, who died in Ramla prison in June 1998 after medical neglect despite suffering from several illnesses. [1][3]

The full list

The table lists the martyrs of the prisoner movement between 1988 and 1998 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	Khader Elias Fuad al-Tarazi	al-Sabra, Gaza	9/2/1988	Soroka hospital	Torture
2	Qandil Kamel Abd al-Rahman Alwan	Jabalia	24/2/1988	Ashkelon prison	Medical neglect
3	Ibrahim Mahmoud al-Ra’i (Abu al-Muntaser)	Qalqilya	11/4/1988	Ramla isolation cells	Torture
4	Iyad Muhammad Aql	al-Bureij camp	2/8/1988	–	Killed during or after arrest
5	Nabil Mustafa Jamil Ibdah	Beit Hanina, Jerusalem	10/8/1988	al-Moscobiya	Torture
6	Hani Deeb Salem al-Shami	Jabalia camp	11/8/1988	Jabalia military post	Killed during or after arrest
7	Ata Yusuf Ahmad Ayyad	al-Dhahiriya, Hebron	14/8/1988	al-Dhahiriya camp	Medical neglect
8	Asaad Jabra Zaki al-Shawa	Shujaiyya, Gaza	16/8/1988	Ansar 3, Negev	Shot by camp guards
9	Bassam Ibrahim Ali al-Samoudi	al-Yamoun	16/8/1988	Ansar 3, Negev	Shot by camp guards
10	Muhammad Musa Muhammad Hammad	Silwad, Ramallah	24/8/1988	Kfar Yona prison	Medical neglect
11	Abd al-Mun’im Abdullah Hasan Kulak	Khan Younis	14/10/1988	Ramla prison	Medical neglect
12	Ibrahim Yasser al-Mitwar	Hebron	21/10/1988	al-Dhahiriya camp	Torture

#	Name	Hometown	Date	Prison/place	Cause
13	Nidal Zuhdi Omar Deeb	Ramallah	8/2/1989	Megiddo camp	Shot by camp guards
14	Mahmoud Yusuf Alyan al-Masri	Rafah	7/3/1989	Gaza prison	Torture
15	Omar Mahmoud al-Qasim	Jerusalem	4/6/1989	Ashkelon prison	Medical neglect
16	Muhammad Saleh Hasan al-Reefi	al-Tuffah, Gaza	10/8/1989	Ansar 3, Negev	Medical neglect
17	Abdullah Muhammad Ibrahim Abu Mahrouqa	Deir al-Balah	12/9/1989	Ansar 2	Shot by camp guards
18	Jamal Muhammad Abd al-Ati Abu Sharkh	al-Shati camp	3/12/1989	Gaza prison cells	Torture
19	Khaled Kamel al-Sheikh Ali	al-Rimal, Gaza	12/12/1989	Gaza prison	Torture
20	Badr Muhammad Saeed Karadeh	Nablus	18/12/1989	–	Killed during or after arrest
21	Ra’iq Hussein Musa Suleiman	Ramin	13/2/1990	Megiddo camp	Medical neglect
22	Sabri Mansour Abdullah Abd Rabbo	al-Jib	7/7/1990	Ofer camp	Shot by camp guards
23	Hussam Salim Hani Qar’an	Qalqilya	28/8/1990	Ansar 3, Negev	Torture
24	Abdullah Yusuf Alawneh (Abu al-Amjad)	Jenin	11/11/1990	–	Torture; died after release

#	Name	Hometown	Date	Prison/place	Cause
25	Atiyya Abd al-Ati al-Za’anin	Beit Hanoun	13/11/1990	Gaza prison cells	Torture
26	Ali Hasan Abd al-Halim al-Shahed	Tulkarm	8/6/1991	Civil Administration HQ	Torture
27	Sami Nu’man Suleiman Zu’rob	Khan Younis	22/8/1991	Gaza prison	Torture
28	Jaser Ahmad Saad Abu Rmeileh	Tulkarm	20/10/1991	Junaid prison	Medical neglect
29	Musa Abd al-Rahman	Nuba	18/1/1992	–	Shot by camp guards
30	Mustafa Abdullah al-Akkawi	Jerusalem	4/2/1992	Hebron prison	Torture
31	Ahmad Ibrahim Barakat	Nablus	5/5/1992	Ansar 3, Negev	Torture
32	Samir Omar Khamis Omar	al-Shati camp	31/5/1992	–	Torture; died after release
33	Muhammad Suleiman Hussein Bareis	Khan Younis camp	29/6/1992	Ramla prison	Torture
34	Hazem Muhammad Abd al-Rahim Eid	al-Am’ari camp	9/7/1992	Hebron prison	Torture
35	Mustafa Mahmoud Mustafa Barakat	Anabta	4/8/1992	Tulkarm prison	Torture

#	Name	Hometown	Date	Prison/place	Cause
36	Hussein Asaad Obeidat	Jerusalem	4/10/1992	Ashkelon prison	Medical neglect during a hunger strike
37	Ayman Ibrahim Barhoum	Rafah	27/1/1993	Ansar 3, Negev	Torture
38	Samir Muhammad Khamis Salameh	Rafah	15/2/1993	Beersheba isolation cells	Torture
39	Ayman Saeed Hasan Nassar	Deir al-Balah	2/4/1993	Gaza prison	Torture
40	Muhammad Salameh al-Jundi	al-Arroub	10/5/1993	Hebron prison	Torture
41	Yahya Abd al-Latif Ali al-Natour	Tulkarm	10/9/1993	Junaid prison	Medical neglect
42	Ahmad Adel Hasan Ismail (Abu Imad)	al-Naqoura	7/10/1993	Nablus prison	Medical neglect
43	Abd al-Samad Salman Hreizat	Yatta	25/4/1995	al-Moscobiya	Torture
44	Ma’zouz Ahmad Muhammad Dallal	Nablus	25/4/1995	Assaf Harofeh hospital	Torture
45	Walid Abd al-Rahim al-Sarouji	Tulkarm	4/3/1996	–	Killed during or after arrest
46	Majed Abdullah Daghlas	Burqin, Nablus	29/6/1996	–	Torture; died after release

#	Name	Hometown	Date	Prison/place	Cause
47	Riyad Mahmoud Hammouda Adwan	Rafah	12/1/1997	Beersheba prison	Medical neglect
48	Khaled Ali Ayesh Abu Diya	Bethlehem	21/5/1997	al-Moscobiya	Torture
49	Nidal Zakariya Abu Srour	Aida camp, Bethlehem	29/1/1998	al-Moscobiya	Torture
50	Yusuf Diab al-Arair	Shujaiyya, Gaza	20/6/1998	Ramla prison	Medical neglect

Between the accounts

Hussein Obeidat: Farwana's list dates his martyrdom to 4 October 1992, Noon Post to 14 October 1992. [1][5]

Ibrahim al-Ra'i: 11 April 1988 in Farwana's list, and 4 November 1988 in Diwan al-Arab. Farwana's list says he was tortured in the Ramla isolation cells and then executed. [1][3]

Number and order: the order of names and dates differs between the WAFA and Farwana lists in places; we have followed Farwana's, which clearly ties each name to its date and cause. [1][2]

Timeline

Date	Event
9 February 1988	Khader al-Tarazi dies under torture, the first prisoner martyr of the First Intifada on the list [1]
16 August 1988	Ansar 3 guards shoot dead Asaad al-Shawa and Bassam al-Samoudi [1]
4 June 1989	Omar al-Qasim dies in Ashkelon, a prisoner since 1969 [1]

Date	Event
December 1989	Jamal Abu Sharkh and Khaled al-Sheikh Ali die in the cells of Gaza prison [1]
4 February 1992	Mustafa al-Akkawi dies under torture in Hebron prison [1]
27 September 1992	The first open-ended hunger strike across all prisons begins [4]
October 1992	Hussein Obeidat dies during the strike in Ashkelon [1]
25 April 1995	Abd al-Samad Hreizat and Ma’zouz Dallal die of torture [1]
20 June 1998	Yusuf al-Arair dies in Ramla prison, the last martyr of the period [1]

Frequently asked questions about prisoner martyrs 1987–2000

How many prisoners died between 1988 and 1998?

50 martyrs, 41 before the Oslo accords and 9 after. [1]

What was the most common cause?

Torture, which killed 27 prisoners. [1]

What was the Ansar 3 camp?

A mass detention camp in the Negev desert, where guards opened fire on prisoners on 16 August 1988, killing two. [1]

Did the killing of prisoners stop after Oslo?

No: 9 prisoners died after it up to 1998, 6 of them from torture or its effects. [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. Diwan al-Arab, "From the martyrs of the national prisoner movement," 11 April 2003 (in Arabic).
4. Al Jazeera Encyclopedia, "The Palestinian prisoner movement: structures uniting prisoners against the occupation's jailer," 25 January 2025 (in Arabic).
5. Noon Post, on the hunger-strike martyrs of the occupation's prisons (in Arabic).