

Five Palestinians abducted from Gaza die in Israeli custody in 24 hours



Mohamed Rashid Said al-Akka is purportedly one of the Palestinian abductees shown in this

Gaza City, January 1 (RHC)-- Five Palestinians Israel abducted from the besieged Gaza Strip have died in prison in 24 hours. According to the Palestinian Prisoners' Society (PPS) and the Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs, the five Palestinian prisoners are Ashraf Abu Warda, Mohamed Rashid Said al-Akka, Samir al-Kahlout, Zuhair al-Sharif and Mohammed Labad.

Media reports citing Akka's family members said he died under torture in the Negev prison on Sunday. Akka was kidnapped on November 15, 2023 while fleeing south from Israeli attacks in northern Gaza. He was the father of 10 and had no underlying disease.

Kahlout was abducted from Kamal Adwan Hospital on October 25, 2024. He had undergone a liver and kidney removal operation and was in critical need of intensive care, but he could not receive it due to a severe shortage of medical supplies and resources. Kahlout, the father of 3, died in an Israeli jail on November 3, 2024.

Sharif, father of six, was abducted on October 7, 2023. He died in Israeli detention on October 18, 2023. His family said he did not have any prior health problems.

Labad, the father of eight, was detained on November 18, 2024, while fleeing south with his family from Israeli attacks on the north. Labad died in Israeli custody on November 27. Before his death, he suffered from liver cirrhosis and diabetes.

Abu Warda died in inscrutable circumstances at the Israeli Soroka Hospital on Sunday.

The PPS and the Commission said the rise in the number of Palestinians killed in Israeli jails amounts to a humanitarian disaster and confirms previous warnings that the regime is systematically working to exterminate Palestinian prisoners.

The prisoners' rights groups said the factor of time was crucial in determining the fate of detainees.

The PPS and the Commission stressed in the statement that the death of detainees constitutes a new crime in the record of Israel's ever-expanding system of brutality. The prisoners' rights groups reiterated a demand for the international human rights system to take effective measures to hold the Israeli leaders responsible for the atrocities against the Palestinians.

The number of Palestinians who have died in Israeli custody since October 7, 2023, has reached 54, according to the PPS and the Commission. The toll represents the highest number in the history of the prisoner movement. Thousands of Palestinians in Israeli jails are subject to systematic crimes, most notably torture, starvation, physical and sexual assaults, and medical neglect, among other forms of abuse.

As of the beginning of December 2024, more than 10,300 Palestinians are being held in Israeli jails, including 90 women, at least 345 children, and 3,428 administrative detainees.

Many Palestinians in Gaza are still unaware of the fate of their family members abducted by the Israeli occupation army. In recent months, Palestinians and human rights organizations have submitted more than two dozen petitions to Israeli authorities seeking information about the fate of missing individuals from Gaza, with most of them rejected.

However, investigations by independent bodies and media have revealed that individuals previously claimed as unaccounted for were often either detained in Israeli facilities or deceased.

[SOURCE: PRESS TV and NEWS AGENCIES]

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