

Freed Palestinian Prisoner Recounts Ordeal at Israeli 'Guantanamo'



'Negev prison is like Guantanamo. I saw prisoners killed and trampled on with boots, Moazzaz Abayat tells Anadolu.'

BETHLEHEM (Dispatches) – Laying on a hospital bed in Beit Jala in the southern West Bank, Moazzaz Khalil Abayat cannot believe he was released from the Negev prison in southern parts of the Israeli-occupied territories. Abayat, 37, from the West Bank city of Bethlehem, was released in a "shocking" health condition after a nine-month detention without charge under the Zionist regime's notorious policy of 'administrative detention'.

"Negev prison is like Guantanamo. I saw prisoners killed and trampled on with boots," Abayat told Anadolu. "Every night, we were severely beaten. Only last night, I wasn't hit," he said. Despite being surrounded by family and friends at the hospital, Abayat remains disoriented, believing he is still in detention. "After my arrest, I was subjected to military interrogation and accused of being a murderer. I have never killed anyone," he recalled. "I suffered fractures in my head and hand, I was beaten on sensitive and

injured areas. I was put in a black bag as if I was dead." Abayat said far-right minister Itamar Ben-Gvir participated in torture at Ofer military prison, west of Ramallah. "Prisoners are dying in jails. This is an appeal to everyone to take action to save them," he said. Abayat's speech was occasionally incoherent, indicating he still experiences severe psychological distress as if he were still imprisoned. Abayat's father, Khalil, was shocked

by the health condition of his son. "The family is in great shock. Moazzaz seems like a completely different person," he told Anadolu. "My son was a bodybuilder, worked in a butcher shop, was sociable, and a breadwinner of five. Today, he has almost lost his memory, is nearly paralyzed, thin, unable to walk, and does not recognize many family members," Khalil added. He noted that Moazzaz's weight dropped from around 110 kilograms to barely 50 kilograms. "Moazzaz was beaten throughout his detention, from the moment he was arrested until his release." Dr. Nizar Qumsiyeh, the medical director of the hospital, said, Abayat has various bruises and is in a severe psychological state. "We have begun medical tests and are awaiting the results, but it is clear he believes he is still in prison and surrounded by jailers," Qumsiyeh added.

"He needs further examination and follow-up to determine his dietary needs to regain his physical health and then begin potentially long-term psychological treatment." According to the Palestinian Prisoner Society, Abayat was brutally beaten during his arrest in late October 2023. "He was subjected to a series of vicious assaults, including torture and starvation," it said. "His health condition after his release today serves as a testament to what he endured during his detention."

Axis...

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he added, continuing, "Every sane Muslim will be asked about Gaza. Is the Arab and Islamic world really unable to do anything to support Gaza?" The secretary-general of Hezbollah said: "We believe that we are performing our duty... When we are threatened with war, we are not afraid, and we do not abandon our responsibility." Nasrallah stressed that "the resistance in Lebanon is continuing what it began on 8 October," in reference to strikes against Israel in support of Palestinians in Gaza, "until we reach the goal that we aspire to on all support fronts. We cannot back down from our position and our fight in this battle." Nasrallah said Muslims have a duty to speak out against injustice, and resist oppression. "Is it reasonable for this situation to persist?" Every Muslim needs to be questioned about their support for Gaza. Is it acceptable that Arab and Muslim nations are falling short on Gaza support?" Nasrallah said. "Where are the funds of Muslims being spent on while two million Muslims in Gaza are dying of hunger? For whom are battle tanks, warplanes, and other military gear being amassed?" He drew attention to the wicked nature of the Israeli military, stating that humanitarian aid supplies have not entered the Gaza Strip for weeks, which has led to a grave medical and humanitarian situation. Hezbollah and Israel have been exchanging deadly fire since early October last year, shortly after the regime launched a genocidal aggression against the Gaza Strip following a surprise operation by the Palestinian Hamas resistance group. The Lebanese resistance movement has vowed to keep up its retaliatory attacks as long as the Tel Aviv regime continues its Gaza war.

New...

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The population is now forecast to balloon to more than 100,000 by 2026. There is little new accommodation. The building of three new prisons has been thwarted by planning rejections and the closure of prisons built in the 19th century has been delayed. Wheatley, who has run several jails, said the prison estate in England and Wales was only built to house about 79,000 people, not the nearly 88,000 people it has now. He said switching to more tagging may require legislation, but he expects a government decision soon. The IfG said the previous Conservative government's program to build 20,000 prison spaces by the mid 2020s was significantly behind schedule, with fewer than 6,000 built. It was only likely to hit 10,000 by the end of 2025. Before the election, Labour pledged to deliver the remaining 14,000 new prison places. However, early intervention will be needed before prison building programs are completed. "They are going to have to take some further emergency steps in the short term to reduce demand on prisons," said Cassia Rowland, a senior researcher at the IfG.

Nasrallah ...

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He pointed out that successive Iranian governments have increased their support for resistance movements in the region, including Hezbollah in Lebanon. In another part of his speech, Nasrallah said Hezbollah's operations against the Israeli military were aimed at exhausting the occupying forces and preventing the regime from achieving its objectives in Gaza. The Hezbollah chief reiterated that Israel has achieved "no victory" in Gaza. He added that Israeli calls for a ceasefire have grown as it has become increasingly evident that the regime cannot defeat the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas. Nasrallah concluded that the Israeli enemy is currently experiencing the "worst days" in its fake history.

Strategic...

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for their commitment to democracy in the runoff vote that resulted in Pezeshkian's win. Maduro expressed his "absolute support" for the new Iranian chief executive in efforts to continue deepening the fraternal relations between the two allied countries. "Venezuela expresses its conviction that the decision made by the Iranian people will contribute to the prosperity of this nation, as well as its consolidation as an emerging power of the nascent multipolar world," he added. The veteran cardiac surgeon-cum-parliamentarian will be inaugurated on July 30 in the presence of top-ranking Iranian officials and international guests in the capital Tehran. Iran has close ties with several Latin American states, including Venezuela, in different fields and seeks to further deepen those relations.

Gen...

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Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said in August 2023 that the Navy's presence in remote waters such as the Pacific and Atlantic oceans contributes to national security. For the first time in Iran's naval history, the Navy's 86th flotilla, comprised of Dena and Makran warships, undertook a long voyage around the world in September 2022 and sailed in the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans without relying on aid from shores. The flotilla traveled some 63,000 kilometers and crossed the equator four times.

WHO Raises Alarm Over Escalating Healthcare Crisis in Gaza

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The World Health Organization (WHO) has raised the alarm over the escalating healthcare crisis in the Gaza Strip amid continuous US-Israeli genocidal war in the war-ravaged besieged territory. On Tuesday, the WHO director-general made the remarks in an online post following the new evacuation orders in Gaza City. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, "There is really no safe corner in Gaza." "The latest reports on evacuation orders in Gaza City will

further impede the delivery of very limited life-saving care," he wrote. Adhanom Ghebreyesus also underscored the severe impact these orders have on the already limited medical services in the region. "Al-Ahli and Patient Friendly hospitals are out of service. Patients either self-evacuated, were given early discharge or referred to Kamal Adwan and Indonesian hospitals, which are suffering shortage of fuel, beds and trauma medical supplies. Indonesian Hospital is triple

over its capacity," he wrote. "Al-Helou Hospital is within the blocks of the evacuation order but continues to be partially functional. as-Sahaba and al-Shifa hospitals are in close proximity to the areas under evacuation order but remain functional so far," he added. The WHO director-general pointed out that eight centers are within the evacuation zones, further straining the healthcare infrastructure. "These key hospitals and medical facilities could quickly become non-functional due to

hostilities in their vicinity or obstruction to access," he wrote. WHO has repeatedly reiterated the call for a ceasefire to ensure the delivery of medical aid to those in desperate pressing need. The Israeli military has launched a major assault on Rafah, the southernmost city in the Gaza Strip along the border with Egypt. The city is a refuge for more than 1.4 million Palestinians who have fled aggression farther north in the coastal sliver under the Israeli army's previous evacuation orders.

Dozens Sentenced to Life in Second Largest Trial in UAE History

DUBAI (Middle East Eye) – Forty-three Emiratis were sentenced to life imprisonment on Wednesday in the second largest trial in United Arab Emirates history, the state-run WAM news agency has reported. According to the Emirates Detainees Advocacy Centre (EDAC) among those who received life sentences are Sultan bin Kayed al-Qasimi, a senior member of the

ruling family in Ras Al-Khaimah, academic and activist Mohammed Abdul Razzaq al-Siddiq, human rights defender Abdulsalam Mohamed Darwish al-Marzooqi and economist Nasser Bin Ghaith. Another five men received 15 years and at least one man was acquitted, EDAC's executive director Hamad al-Shamsi told Middle East Eye, citing sources who were pres-

ent for the mid-morning hearing at Abu Dhabi Federal Appeal Court. "The decision lasted only seven minutes," al-Shamsi said. He said families who attended the court house were held in a separate room, watching from a television screen as their relatives, who were present in the courtroom, were sentenced. The trial, dubbed the 'UAE84'

after the 84 defendants who were tried, has been criticized by UN experts and rights groups as grossly unfair. In January, more than a dozen UN special rapporteurs said the trial violated international prohibitions on double jeopardy and retroactive criminal law and had been brought "on spurious terrorism charges".

Syria, Saudi Arabia Resume Regular Flights After 12-Year Hiatus

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Regular flights between the Syrian capital of Damascus and Saudi Arabia resumed Wednesday for the first time in more than a decade as part of a thaw in relations between the countries, Syrian state media reported. Syria and Saudi Arabia had severed ties in 2012. But most Arab countries have restored diplomatic ties with Damascus, which was readmitted to the 22-member Arab League last year. Syria's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Ayman Soussan, said the resumption of flights was "an additional step in the process of development in relations between the two broth-

erly countries," state news agency SANA reported. In May, Syrian pilgrims traveled on a direct flight to Saudi Arabia for the annual Islamic Hajj pilgrimage, but Wednesday's Syrian Airlines flight to Riyadh marked the return of regular commercial flights. Syria's 13-year foreign-backed war is now largely frozen, with the central government in Damascus having reasserted control over most of the territory, while much of the northwest is still controlled by a patchwork of U.S.-backed militant groups and the northeast by Kurdish forces. Saudi Arabia closed its embassy in Damas-

cus and withdrew all diplomats in March 2012. Back in May 2023, the two countries agreed to resume diplomatic relations and re-open embassies. In the same month, the Arab League, a 22-member intergovernmental organization of Arab states, agreed to welcome Syria back into the fold with immediate effect after more than a decade. Syria was one of the six founding members of the Arab League in 1945. The Arab League suspended Syria's membership in November 2011, citing an alleged crackdown by Damascus on opposition protests.