

Free Marwan Barghouti

Free all Palestinian Political Prisoners

Marwan Barghouti is a leading Palestinian figure. He has to be let out of jail.

During the Gaza ceasefire talks, the Palestinian resistance demanded Israel release high-profile prisoners.

Marwan Barghouti headed the list. He is a member and former leader of Fatah (not Hamas or Islamic Jihad). He is widely seen as the person with the greatest chance to unify the Palestinian movement, divided since the Oslo Accords in 1993. He is one of 10,000 Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli jails. South African anti-apartheid Archbishop Desmond Tutu declared in 2014 *"When we call for Marwan Barghouti's freedom, we are calling for the freedom of all political prisoners and resolution of all injustice in Palestine and Israel."*

Marwan Barghouti

Back in 2002, Barghouti told the Washington Post: "Israelis must abandon the myth that peaceful coexistence is possible between slave and master. The lack of Israeli security is born of the lack of Palestinian freedom. Israel will have security only after the end of occupation, not before..."

I am advocating only what every other oppressed person has advocated — the right to help myself in the absence of help from anywhere else."



Illegally held by Israel for 23 years 7 months 16 days

Barghouti was seized by the Israeli military from Ramallah in 2002 during the 2nd Intifada (uprising) against the occupation and accused of planning five civilian murders. He refused to accept the jurisdiction of the court and has been imprisoned in Israel for 23 years. He denied any involvement and has always claimed to be opposed to attacks on civilians. The Inter-Parliamentary Union representing over 181 national parliaments concluded it was *"impossible to say that Mr. Barghouti received a fair trial."*

He has been subjected to solitary confinement, severe torture and starvation conditions. In September, he was beaten unconscious by eight guards in the weeks after far-right minister Itmar Ben-Gvir threatened him publicly on TV.

Torture in Israeli Prisons

In November, the UN Committee Against Torture was "deeply troubled" at reports indicating a *de facto* State policy of organized and widespread torture and ill-treatment that has gravely intensified since 7 October 2023, and which, according to the findings of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, amounts to **war crimes** and **crimes against humanity**, and forms part of the [conduct] of **genocide**.

The Committee expressed deep concern over allegations of repeated severe beatings, dog attacks, electrocution, waterboarding, sexual violence, threats against detainees and their family members... [actions] against Palestinians for purposes including the extraction of information or confessions and as a means of exacting punishment, including collective punishment.