**Arafat Jaradat and the Torture of Palestinian Prisoners the Media Won’t Report**

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In late February, the Guardian devoted six separate news items (three stories and three photo posts) to the death of a Palestinian – named Arafat Jaradat – in an Israeli jail.  The stories, which all portrayed Jaradat and his ’cause’ in a sympathetic light, focused on baseless allegations by the PA that Jaradat, an Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade member [who was arrested](http://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-prisoner-dies-in-israeli-prison/) for terror activity, died as the result of torture – claims which were contradicted by the[autopsy](http://embassies.gov.il/UnGeneva/NewsAndEvents/Pages/Autopsy-on-Palestinian-detainee-Arafat-Jaradat.aspx) performed by [Israel’s top forensic pathologists.](http://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-prisoner-dies-in-israeli-prison/)

Here are the Guardian’s reports:

…

Though the PA’s claims of torture received significant coverage, subsequent[reports](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/01/world/middleeast/israel-autopsy-of-detainee-shows-signs-of-resuscitation-attempts.html?_r=0) (only a few days later) by Israeli pathologists – that the hemorrhages and fractured ribs found during the autopsy were caused by resuscitation attempts performed by medical staff, and not due to physical abuse – received no coverage in the Guardian.

Indeed, such myopic and at times obsessive focus on Israeli culpability is part of a pattern at the Guardian.

Similarly unreported by the paper are the myriad of credible charges of torture by Palestinian Authority security and prison personnel against Palestinian prisoners.  As Khaled Abu Toameh recently [reported](http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/3727/eu-palestinian-torture):

As a [report](http://www.ichr.ps/en/2/6/1041/ICHR-18th-Annual-Report.htm) [by Palestinian [Independent Commission for Human Rights](http://www.ichr.ps/en) (ICHR)] shows, there has been a 10% increase in the number of complaints of torture and mistreatment by Hamas and the Palestinian Authority during 2012 compared with the year before.

More than half of the 306 complaints about torture that were received last year came from Palestinians who had been detained or imprisoned by Abbas’s security forces in the West Bank, the report revealed.

**Altogether, 11 detainees died in Palestinian Authority and Hamas prisons last year, according to the report.**

One recent example of torture by PA security personnel was detailed in an April ICHR [report](http://www.ichr.ps/en/2/5/1046/April-2013-Report-of-Human-Rights-Violations-April-2013-Report-of-Human-Rights-Violations.htm).

The complaint of torture filed by Muhammad Abdelkareem Dar Muhammad, from Hebron, was one of the major complaints ICHR received in this regard. He claimed that he was subjected to torture and ill-treatment while detained by the [Palestinian] Preventive Security Agency in Hebron. On [April 28] 2013, he was rushed to the Public Hospital of Hebron for the second time after suffering speech impairment and injuries due to being subjected to beating on the head while hand-cuffed in solitary confinement throughout the period of his detention.

Yet, in contrast to the Guardian’s intense focus on one unsubstantiated accusation of torture in an Israeli jail, we were unable to find any mention at all by Guardian reporters or ‘CiF’ contributors of Muhammad Abdelkareem Dar Muhammad’s case, nor any of the other instances of torture and abuse of Palestinian prisoners in PA jails.

Though we have often charged the Guardian with consistently engaging in ‘activist journalism’ – their continual search for evidence to buttress preconceived pro-Palestinian conclusions – this observation is likely only half correct. The ubiquity of reporting alleging Israeli mistreatment of Palestinians stands in contrast to the dearth of stories in the paper focusing on Palestinian mistreatment of fellow Palestinians, suggesting that advancing a narrative ofIsraeli oppression is of much greater concern to their reporters than genuine advocacy on behalf of the human rights of Palestinians.