WARNING: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS GRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

Gender-Based Violence in Israel: Fact Sheet on Hamas' War Crimes

September 2024

HADASSAH

In this fact sheet, Hadassah collects and summarizes evidence from **seven organizations' reports and five news outlets' investigative articles** highlighting the systematic and brutal weaponization of sexual violence and rape by Hamas on October 7, 2023 and beyond as reports continue to come forward from hostages.

Multiple sources provide first-hand accounts and evidence that Hamas committed acts of sexual violence in multiple locations as a weapon of war.

Girls were found dead, stripped naked, genitals mutilated, legs spread open and covered with blood and semen.

Women were shot in their vaginas and breasts. Men were found with their genitals removed or mutilated.

Firsthand witness accounts describe rape and gang rape with as many as 10 men gang raping women at one time.

Women were found with nails driven into their thighs and groins. One male survivor recounted being gang raped.

Hostages kidnapped by Hamas reported sexual violence, rape, sexualized torture and more during captivity. One hostage told her story of being forced to perform sexual acts at gunpoint.

Hamas is still holding over 120 hostages, who are likely being violently and sexually abused.

This evidence has been gathered from survivors of the Nova music festival, released hostages, emergency personnel, forensic experts, health care professionals, soldiers, rape counselors, eyewitnesses, law enforcement and legal scholars. These testimonies are bolstered further by first-hand photo and video evidence.

Global Leaders, Organizations and Countries are speaking out to hold Hamas accountable.

- A **United Nations** (UN) fact-finding mission by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and report by the **Commission of Inquiry** (COI) confirmed patterns of sexual violence on October 7, 2023 and against the hostages still being held. They found that further investigation is needed.
- The European Union (EU) **sanctioned** three terrorist designated organizations, including Hamas, for widespread sexual and gender-based violence in a systemic manner on October 7, 2023. The EU was the first group to call these actions weapons of war.
- Many US officials including **President Biden**, **Secretary of State Antony Blinken**, and members of **Congress**, condemned Hamas' horrific use of sexual violence and have called for an unbiased and thorough investigation to hold Hamas accountable.
- The US Department of Justice (DOJ) **charged** Hamas leaders with committing acts of terrorism on October 7, 2023, including for the use of sexual violence as a weapon of brutality and the rape and genital mutilation of Israeli women.

Here's what you can do:

The world needs to know the truth. Yet, there have been efforts to bury this evidence, cast doubt, deny and rewrite history. We must end the silence and continue to pressure international organizations to use this evidence to build a case and hold Hamas accountable for war crimes. This evidence must meet international standards.

1. Speak out about what really happened on October 7, 2023.
2. Use the facts to dispel antisemitic misinformation.
3. Call on the UN and other global leaders to pursue an unbiased and trauma-informed investigation into Hamas' weaponization of rape and seek justice for the victims.
4. Join Hadassah's **End The Silence** campaign. Sign the petition at **hadassah.org/endthesilence**. Read the **updates** and **learn more** about the campaign.

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Evidence of Hamas' Gender-Based Violence in Israel:

The Times of Israel: Footage of Hamas Assault on Civilians Shows Likely War Crimes, Experts Say

In the days following Hamas' terrorist invasion, *The Times of Israel* and many other outlets published initial evidence and reports that Israeli women and girls were raped and sexually abused by Hamas on October 7, 2023.

- One video showed a woman apparently bleeding into her shorts being taken out of a vehicle in Gaza.
- Another video, which was widely shared, showed a woman stripped down to her underwear lying face down in a truck. Sources later confirmed to **CNN** that her death was announced after forensic examiners found a bone fragment from her skull.

Physicians for Human Rights-Israel: Sexual & Gender-Based Violence as a Weapon Of War

Physicians for Human Rights — Israel published a paper on November 26, 2023 that compiled the various reports of gender-based violence by Hamas into one source.

- A male survivor reported seeing Hamas rape and then murder women with knives.
- Israel's Lahav police gathered dozens of accounts of sexual violence.
- Another report detailed the gang rape and murder of a woman, saying "I realized he was raping her and passing her onto another man in uniform." The woman was later shot in the head and mutilated.
- ZAKA volunteers reported finding victims' bodies in different locations where signs of violence indicated rape occurred. Many victims were found with their clothes removed — including one woman who was found with her legs spread open and semen on her back.
- Testimonies from the Shura military base where most of the remains were brought supported ZAKA volunteers' testimony. One female reserves officer, Ma'ayan, who was assigned to the forensic medical team observed signs of abuse in groins and blood-stained underwear. Another reserves officer, Sarai, stated that the victims ranged from young girls to elderly women.

New York Times: Accounts of Sexual Violence by Hamas Are Aired Amid Criticism of U.N.

On December 4, Hadassah co-sponsored a special session hosted by the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations to bear witness to testimony about Hamas' acts of gender-based violence.

- Israeli Ambassador to the UN, Gilad Erdan, told the audience that Hamas' use of rape and sexual violence was a premeditated strategy to defile and mutilate Israeli women and girls.
- First responders, IDF morgue staff, human rights activists and Yael Richert, a superintendent with the Israeli National Police, were among those who testified with firsthand accounts of Hamas' horrific acts of gender-based violence.
- Yael Richert stated that shooting was targeted at sexual organs.
- Shari Mendes, a member of an Israeli military reserve unit, said her team saw several who were killed on October 7, 2023 "who were shot in the crotch, intimate parts, vagina, or were shot in the breast."
- Various attendees, including State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller, raised concerns over the women still being held hostage by Hamas.

New York Times: 'Screams Without Words': How Hamas Weaponized Sexual Violence on Oct. 7

On December 28, 2023, *The New York Times* released an investigative report titled "'Screams Without Words': How Hamas Weaponized Sexual Violence on Oct. 7."

- The NYT used video footage, GPS data and interviews with more than 150 witnesses, including medical personnel, soldiers and rape counselors, to identify at least seven locations where Israeli women and girls appear to have been sexually assaulted or mutilated.
- Emergency responders discovered one woman's corpse in the rubble of a besieged kibbutz with dozens of nails driven into her thighs and groin.
- Two dead Israeli soldiers were found shot directly in their vaginas at a base near Gaza.
- Survivors of the Nova music festival reported terrorists passing women around like an "assembly point."
- Sapir, a survivor of the Nova music festival, saw one woman pulled by her hair made to bend over by one man, while another penetrated her. Every time she flinched; a knife was plunged into her back.

- Terrorists cut off one woman's breasts with a box cutter and then tossed them around like a toy.
- Raz Cohen, another survivor of the Nova music festival, who hid along Route 232, described how he saw five men pull a woman out of a van, rape her, then slaughter her as she screamed.
- Jamal Waraki, a volunteer medic with ZAKA, recalled seeing one young woman found with her hands tied behind her back, bent over, half-naked, her underwear rolled down below her knees.
- Yinon Rivlin, a member of the Nova music festival's production team, described finding a woman along Route 232 lying on her stomach with no pants or underwear, legs spread apart. Her vagina appeared to have been sliced open, "as if someone tore her apart."
- Eight volunteer medics reported discovering the bodies of at least 24 women and girls who were naked, half-naked, mutilated, and tied up.
- A paramedic in an Israeli commando unit said he found the bodies of two teenage girls in Be'eri. One was found with her shorts ripped and bruises by her groin. The other was face down on the ground with her pajama pants pulled down and semen on her back.
- *The New York Times* reported at least three women and one man who were sexually assaulted and survived.

Association of Rape Crisis Centers in Israel: Sexual Crimes in the October 7 War

On February 21, 2024, the Association of Rape Crisis Centers in Israel released a special report titled "Silent Cry: Sexual Crimes in the October 7 War."

- The report identified identical patterns of sexual violence in three primary locations, Nova music festival, private homes in the Gaza envelope kibbutzim, and IDF bases. The report concludes that the pattern of attacks represents a "clear operational strategy" of sexual violence.
- The attacks included violent acts of rape, accompanied by threats with weapons, targeting women, girls and men.
- Many of the rapes were carried out as a group, often in front of partners, family, or friends, to inflict as much pain, humiliation and terror as possible.
- Many of the bodies of the victims were found bound and shackled.
- The genitals of both women and men were found mutilated, and sometimes weapons were inserted into them. The terrorists cut and mutilated sexual organs, and other body parts.
- One survivor of the Nova music festival described seeing an "apocalypse of bodies, girls

without clothes, some missing their upper, some missing their lower parts." Another survivor, Sapir, provided a detailed eyewitness reporting of five different rape cases, including one "where one terrorist was raping a woman, another was cutting her and mutilating her body."

- Yoni Saadon, another survivor, reported hearing a victim screaming "stop it already, I'm going to die anyway from what you are doing, just kill me!" A Hamas terrorist later laughed as he shot her dead.
- Nira Shpak, a resident of Kfar Aza, recounted "several bodies found with exposed intimate organs."
- A surviving IDF soldier reported being threatened with a weapon to take off her clothes by a Hamas terrorist. Several reports indicate that at least four bodies of female IDF soldiers were found with extensive evidence of sexual violence, including extensive bleeding in the pelvic area.
- The report also included interviews of released hostages, Chen and Agam Goldstein who knew of at least three women experiencing sexual abuse and assault while being held captive by Hamas..
- Chaim Otmazgin from ZAKA noted that "even when there was no time to complete a rape, there was an intentional attempt to destroy the sexual organs." Sapir, a survivor of the Nova music festival, reported seeing terrorists brutally cut one woman's breasts off with a box cutter.
- Bodies of women and men were found with their genitalia shot and mutilated.
- Chaim Otmazgin from ZAKA described how he saw a woman's body "stabbed in the genitalia with a serrated knife that was used to remove the woman's internal organs, leaving them between her legs."
- The report found that the terrorists' actions matched patterns of wartime sexual violence documented in literature, and that the practices described illustrate the brutality and sadistic characteristics of the way the attacks were carried out.

Office of Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict: Official Visit of the Office of the SRSG-SVC to Israel and the Occupied West Bank

On March 4, 2024, Pramila Patten, the United Nations Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, released a report from her fact-finding mission to Israel. The report determined that there was reasonable evidence to believe that multiple incidents of rape — including gang rape — occurred in and around the Nova music festival site.

- The report also found clear and convincing information, based on first-hand reports of released hostages, that hostages were subjected to sexual violence, rape and sexualized torture. They found reasonable grounds to believe that this behavior is ongoing.

- While in Israel the team conducted 33 meetings with Israeli national institutions, the Israeli National Police, President Issac Herzog and more. The team also conducted 34 interviews with survivors, witnesses, first responders and more.
- The team also reviewed over 5,000 photos and 50 hours of video footage.
- There were at least two reported incidents of rape of corpses of women.
- Credible sources reported seeing multiple murdered civilians, mainly women, whose bodies were found naked from the waist down, some totally naked, with some gunshots in the head and/or tied including with their hands behind their backs and tied to structures.
- Along Route 232, which was used as an escape route from the Nova music festival, numerous bodies with severe injuries, including those consistent with sexual violence, rape and gang rape, were found. Several bodies were found with genital injuries.
- Kibbutz Re'im was also used as an escape route from the Nova music festival. The team found reasonable grounds to believe rape took place there, including the rape of one woman outside of a bomb shelter.
- The team also found a pattern of women found naked, and/or tied up. First responders reported finding women naked with their hands tied behind their backs and gunshot wounds to their heads in Kibbutz Kfar Aza.
- The team verified photos of seven soldiers (four men and three women) with multiple gunshot wounds around their genitalia.
- The team reviewed photos of at least 20 victims with exposed breasts or genitalia as a result of torn or missing clothing.
- The reviewed photos and videos revealed widespread mutilation of bodies, including to the genitals.

The New York Times: Israeli Hostage Says She Was Sexually Assaulted and Tortured in Gaza

On March 26, 2024, Amit Sousanna bravely came forward in *The New York Times* to share details of the sexual abuse she endured during the nearly two months she was illegally held captive by Hamas.

- Amit was abducted from her home, beaten and dragged into Gaza on the night of October 7, 2023.
- She was held in a children's bedroom and chained by her left ankle. The guard watching over her would enter into the room, lift her shirt and touch her.
- The guard would repeatedly ask her when her period was due.
- On October 24, 2023, the guard attacked her. He held a gun to her forehead, told her

to remove her towel, groped her and then hit her with the pistol. He then dragged her back to the bedroom she was being held in and forced her to perform a sexual act on him at gunpoint.

- Amit was allowed no privacy during her time in captivity — not even to use the bathroom.

Haaretz: 15 Witnesses, Three Confessions, a Pattern of Naked Dead Bodies. All the Evidence of Hamas Rape on October 7

On April 18, 2024, *Haaretz* published a report gathering evidence of Hamas' systematic pattern of sexual assault on October 7, 2023.

- *Haaretz* reporters spoke with sources in the defense establishment, therapists who spoke with survivors, individuals who are involved in the investigation, rescue personnel and specialists tasked with collecting evidence.
- *Haaretz* identified at least 15 survivors of the Nova music festival who witnessed acts of individual or gang rape by Hamas terrorists on October 7, 2023.
- The *Haaretz* report identified at least 10 survivors who have not yet spoken publicly about what they witnessed during Hamas' attack. Several of these survivors have gone to the SafeHeart organization for support.
    - SafeHeart's CEO said he knew of eyewitness testimony of an armed man raping a woman and shooting her to death, two accounts of gang rape where up to 10 terrorists participated and one account of gang rape where five assailants took part. All attacks ended in the victims' deaths.
    - Dr. Demian Halperin, SafeHeart's head of psychiatry, is personally treating six male survivors. Dr. Halperin spoke about these male survivors who witnessed rapes on October 7, 2023 in the fields surrounding the Nova music festival site. Halperin also heard stories of naked bodies tied to trees along Route 232.
- One witness, Rami Davidian, reported seeing more than five bodies that had been mutilated in intimate places with blood coming from their groins and bullets in their breasts.
- The Secret Forest project in Cyprus told Hamas that they have supported 13 witnesses to Hamas' sexual violence.
- The *Haaretz* article references a brief interview published in a French newspaper in November 2023, in which a survivor tells of her experience being raped and mutilated by Hamas. The relative she was with at the Nova music festival was raped and her corpse subjected to rape.
- Professor Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, former VP of the UN Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Founding Director of the Rackman Center for

the Advancement of the Status of Women at Bar-Ilan University Law, shared testimony from a female IDF officer who recounted hearing a rape being committed outside the structure where she was hiding. When she went outside, she found the naked body of another female soldier who had been raped and murdered. She also reported finding a male with his genitalia cut off.

- The report references a confession made by Manar Qassem, from Islamic Jihad, in March 2024 in which he confessed to raping a woman in her home in one of the kibbutzim on October 7, 2023. This is the first time a name and individual was identified for their role in gender-based violence on October 7, 2023.
- With only five forensic pathologists working in the days following October 7, 2023, at least 75% of the bodies were buried without thorough examination. The article chronicles a variety of challenges investigators are confronting in recording the full extent of Hamas' sexual violence.

The United Nations: Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. Report of the Secretary General

On April 23, 2024, the UN released its annual report on conflict-related sexual violence. The report contains a brief statement on gender-based violence that occurred in Israel.

- The report largely quotes the results of the UN's fact-finding mission to Israel from March 2024 and reaffirmed that a pattern of sexual violence occurred on October 7, 2023.
- The report quoted that "there are reasonable grounds to believe that conflict-related sexual violence occurred during the 7 October attacks in multiple locations across Gaza periphery, including rape and gang rape, in at least three locations: the Nova music festival site and its surroundings, Road 232 and kibbutz Re'im."
    - At all three locations, there was credible evidence of rape.
- The report also quoted that "the mission team received clear and convincing information that sexual violence, including rape, sexualized torture, and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment occurred against some women and children during their time in captivity and has reasonable grounds to believe that this violence may be ongoing."

Kastina Communications: Screams Before Silence: Documentary featuring Sheryl Sandberg

On April 26, 2024, Sheryl Sandberg released her documentary, *Screams Before Silence*, in which she interviews eyewitnesses, released hostages, first responders, medical and forensic experts, and survivors of Hamas' attack about their experiences.

- Tali Binner, a survivor of the Nova music festival recalled hearing women begging terrorists to stop, stop, stop until there was only silence. She recalled women screaming

for 15 or 20 minutes at a time. She recalled a man begging terrorists to leave a woman alone. All of these incidents resulted in the women and men being shot.

    - Once Tali finally came out of hiding, she recalled seeing the bodies of women with their clothes ripped off and their legs spread open.

- The documentary includes footage of naked women being held or taken into Gaza by Hamas on October 7, 2023.
- Agam Goldstein Almog, a teenage girl who was held hostage by Hamas for 51 days, recalled her breasts being touched by her captor.
    - She said half of the women and girls who were held hostage were sexually and physically abused.
- Elad Avraham, security supervisor at the Nova music festival, recalled seeing the bodies of girls whose clothes were ripped, lying on their backs with their legs spread open.
    - He came across one woman whose body parts were mutilated and ripped off.
- Raz Cohen, survivor of the Nova music festival, recalled seeing a woman being raped by a semi-circle of Hamas terrorists. He said the men did whatever they wanted to the woman. The men continued to rape her, ever after stabbing her to death.
- Amit Soussana, a hostage held captive by Hamas for 55 days, recalled being asked about sex repeatedly by her kidnapper.
    - Amit recalls how her kidnapper touched her and how she was forced to commit a sexual act on him.
- Simcha Greiniman, a ZAKA volunteer, recalled that most of the bodies he came across in the aftermath of October 7, 2023 were completely naked.
    - One woman was found under a mattress with nails in her groin.
- Eran Mass, a Lieutenant Colonel who went to the scene of the Nova music festival looking for survivors, recalled coming across a body of woman whose tights were covered in blood, even though she was shot in the neck.
- The documentary recalled that approximately 30 women were tied to trees and raped in the woods surrounding the Nova music festival site.
- ZAKA volunteers shared photos of the bodies of the women that they encountered following October 7, 2023. The bodies were often naked, shot in intimate areas, mutilated and with pieces of metal stuck in their vaginas.
- Shari Mendes, IDF Reservist who worked to identify the bodies of the victims, recalled that many of the bodies were naked or had bloody underwear.
- The documentary included footage of captured terrorists who were interrogated by Israel. One terrorist recalls raping a young Israeli girl himself.
- Mirit Ben Mayor, Chief Superintendent of the Israel Police, says that the force has collected over 2,000 pieces of visual evidence and 2,000 testimonies, many of which speak to the sexual violence that occurred on October 7, 2023.

- Professor Ruth Halperin-Kaddari recalled a survivor's testimony describing seeing the attacker cut off a woman's breasts.
    - Dr. Halperin-Kaddari confirms that there were bodies found with their breasts cut off in several other locations, depicting a pattern of violence.
- Professor Itai Pessach, head of the medical team attending to the released hostages, recalled that many of the hostages were sedated and branded and that many of the women are concerned about what happened when they were sedated.



The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel (COI): Detailed findings on attacks carried out on and after 7 October 2023 in Israel

On June 12, 2024, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel (COI) released its annual report to the UN Human Rights Council. This year's report focused on Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack and the aftermath.

- The COI analyzed open-source items, including reports by international and national NGOs, media articles, social media, photographic and video material, eyewitness testimony and data released by the authorities of Israel. Of note, the COI did not visit Israel and did not speak to any Israeli victims or witnesses.
- The COI identified a pattern of sexual violence on October 7, 2023.
- Witness accounts described bodies that had been undressed, sometimes with exposed genitals and other indications of abuse including bound hands and/or feet. This indicates

that they had been detained prior to their deaths with their legs spread or bent over, and signs of struggle or violence on the body.

    - Victims had stab wounds, burns, lacerations and abrasions.

- Many bodies taken to the Shura camp showed signs indicative of sexual violence. Some bodies were completely or partially undressed with signs of considerable violence and struggle. One witness described to the COI receiving a body of a girl around 13 years old who was naked with signs of violence to the stomach and broken legs.

- Bodies of women were found completely or partially burnt in several locations. One witness reported bodies of both women and men with burns on their genital areas.

    - The COI analyzed one video where a woman was set on fire with gasoline from the waist down.

- The COI documented cases of sexual violence perpetrated against women and men in several kibbutzim, including in Kfar Aza, Re'im and Nir Oz.

    - Witnesses described seeing corpses with signs of sexual violence in Kfar Aza. One of the victims, a woman in her early twenties was positioned lying face down on a bed, naked from the waist down, with her knees on the floor and her upper body bent over the bed.

- An independent evaluation carried out by a forensic pathologist found evidence suggesting a pair of scissors was inserted in the groin area after death of a naked decomposed body.

- The COI analyzed video and photo footage of several bodies along road 232 whose clothes were pulled down and their genitals were exposed.

    - One of the women also had blood on her exposed genitals.

- The COI declared that one woman who was kidnapped and taken into Gaza on October 7, 2023, for two months was subjected to gender-based violence after being degraded and denied protection to which she was entitled under international law.

- The COI verified evidence of two women who were killed in Israel and whose body were displayed online while male perpetrators are seen taking selfies with the women's bodies.

    - Several bodies of women and men were taken into Gaza and paraded around by militants.

- One video published to the Telegram group of Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades shows perpetrators standing on the victim's back. The victim is then seen almost entirely undressed, lying on his stomach with his jeans pulled down and his underwear torn.

    - There are wounds on the right gluteal area, which are most likely from a gunshot wound, and the body has multiple cut and stab wounds, as well as gunshot wounds to the lower legs which appear to have been broken.

    - In another video, the man's body is seen being taken to Gaza, with men in the background screaming in Arabic, "Here's the dog. Here's the dog. Here's the Jew."

- The COI documented five cases at the Nova festival where the bodies of victims showed signs of sexual abuse. In all cases the victims were partially undressed. Multiple witnesses collaborated seeing women within the festival grounds and surrounding areas, who were partially undressed and showed signs of sexual abuse.
- Testimonies and video footage reviewed by the COI showed a "distinct gendered element in the form, implementation and impact" of the abduction of Israeli women.
- One video posted online shows a woman in a vulnerable position being degraded and humiliated by male perpetrators during the process of her abduction to Gaza.
    - In the video, she is subjected to degrading language and threats to her person. The woman was held in Gaza for 50 days.
- Several abductees were placed on the back of trucks and motorbikes in between two men, forcing the women into unwanted intimacy.
- The COI documented and verified information and digital footage of sexual and gender-based violence against female soldiers who were killed while unarmed or taken into Gaza as hostages.
    - In one video an abducted female soldier is pulled out of the back of a truck by an armed militant in Gaza. She is seen with multiple injuries and blood stains on her clothes near her genital area.
- Women at the military outpost were found partially undressed and isolated in different rooms. Witnesses said it was clear that the women were isolated, stripped and abused when they were found in positions of surrender.

Human Rights Watch: "I Can't Erase All the Blood from My Mind" Palestinian Armed Groups' October 7 Assault on Israel

On July 17, 2024, Human Rights Watch released a report on the crimes against humanity committed by Hamas-led groups on October 7, 2023.

- Human Rights Watch conducted research in October and November 2023 in Israel, and remote research through June 2024 about the atrocities of October 7.
    - The research included interviews in person and remotely with 144 people including survivors and their family members, released hostages, first responders, forensics experts and more.
- Human Rights Watch found evidence of acts of sexual and gender-based violence by fighters including forced nudity, and the posting without consent of sexualized images on social media.
- In the report, Human Rights Watch calls for an investigation of further crimes against humanity — including rape or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity.
- One video analyzed by Human Rights Watch shows a 22-year-old dual Israeli and German citizen stripped to her underwear in the back of a pickup truck surrounded by

terrorists. The images and videos of the woman's naked body were shared widely on social media.

  - The woman was later confirmed dead.

- Human Rights Watch reviewed photographs of the bodies of several women surrounding the Nova festival site with blood stains surrounding the women's genitals.
- Several witnesses described witnessing gang rapes and mutilation at the Nova festival location.
- In one interview, ZAKA member Nachman Dyksztejn recalled finding the body of one woman with a knife lodged into her genital area near her vagina.
- The Human Rights Watch report quoted much of Special Representative Pramila Patten's March report and the COI's June report when analyzing the gender-based violence which occurred on October 7, 2023.
- Human Rights Watch verified photos and videos of men and women, alive and dead, who are displayed in the nude, in public places, by Hamas fighters.
- One verified video shows a hostage being forced by his captors to remove his clothing and until he is only in his underwear. He is then beaten.
- One hostage, released in November 2023, told an Israeli parliamentary committee that while in captivity she comforted a younger female hostage who told her she had been sexually assaulted by a captor.

The Times of Israel: In first, male October 7 survivor recounts rape at hands of Hamas terrorists

On July 24, 2024, *The Times of Israel* published portions of an interview from a survivor of the Nova music festival who was the first male victim to publicly recount the sexual abuse he experienced on October 7, 2023. The interview which was originally given in Hebrew to Channel 12 news in Israel was translated and republished by *The Times of Israel*.

- The victim whose identity was hidden, described being pinned to ground, undressed, humiliated and spit on by Hamas terrorists. He went on to say that his genitals were touched, and he was raped.
- The man described being raped by a group of terrorists who only stopped when other fighters called to them.
  - He said the rapists were drunk, celebrating and laughing with pistols and knives.

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